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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, March 19, 2019

<p>HB 41 By: Metcalf Phelan Rodriguez Holland Hernandez SP: SB 1344, Alvarado</p>	<p>Relating to paid leave for a state employee who is a search and rescue volunteer.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, only volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers, who are also state employees, are entitled to a leave of absence without there being a deduction in their salary. State employees who are search and rescue volunteers, however, do not receive time off when responding to emergencies. This exclusionary policy became apparent during Hurricane Harvey.</p> <p>HB 41 will make it possible for state agencies and universities to create leave policies for state employees who serve as search and rescue volunteers. The paid time off can be used toward training, conducted by a state agency or institution of higher education, or to respond to a search and rescue situation if there is an established policy for granting such leave at their agency or institution of work.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 92 By: Rodriguez VanDeaver Bernal Bell, Keith</p>	<p>Relating to a public school campus's election under a campus turnaround plan to operate as a community school.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Schools that have not been meeting TEA standards for 2 consecutive years are required to submit a turnaround plan. A turnaround plan sets forth how they will meet TEA standards. Those schools must meet TEA standards within 2 years of the implementation of their turnaround plan. If they do not they risk facing consequences such as closure of their school or a takeover by a third-party board.</p> <p>HB 92 permits a campus' turnaround plan to include a transition to a community school. The plan must be approved by the district school board and three-fourths of the school's staff and students' parents. The new plan must include the involvement of an organization that has already implemented the transition to a community school and has been successful.</p> <p>HB 92 identifies the evidence-based standards expected of a community school within a turnaround plan. HB 92 also requires that TEA cannot otherwise close a school that has been failing without providing the opportunity for that school to transition to a community school. The community school must adopt relative services that support the students – for example, after school programs, early childhood education, activities to encourage parent engagement, college and career preparation, parenting classes, and/or internship opportunities.</p> <p>Community schools utilize community support to achieve appropriate education for the whole child. Community schools have historically been implemented in underserved neighborhoods and been successful in closing the education gap.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 234 By: Krause Middleton Guillen Phelan Price</p>	<p>Relating to the local regulation of the sale of lemonade or other beverages by children.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Local regulations currently prohibit children from setting up a lemonade stand even though the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) itself has encouraged local public health authorities to not require permits for them.</p> <p>HB 234 prohibits a municipality, county, or other local public health authority from enforcing the prohibition of children, individuals under the age of 18, from selling lemonade or nonalcoholic beverages from a stand on private property. The language to include “nonalcoholic beverages” was added in the committee substitute.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>SP: SB 824, Nelson</p>		<p>o Absent</p>	<p>The concerns with HB 234 stem from the possibility that this legislation could potentially expand the sale of unpasteurized — or raw — milk in the state. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) officials and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) insist that unpasteurized milk poses a health risk because of its susceptibility to contamination from cow manure, a source of E. coli. Currently, Texans are only allowed to buy raw/unpasteurized milk from the farms where it is produced. It cannot be sold at farmers markets or in stores, a person’s place of business, or a person’s home. HB 234 could allow a scenario in which raw milk will unlawfully be sold at farmer’s markets by children also selling lemonade because the selling of nonalcoholic beverages is allowed under this bill.</p>	
<p>HB 403 By: S. Thompson SP: SB 458, Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to training requirements for a member of the board of trustees and the superintendent of an independent school district regarding sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 403 expands the trainings for school board officials to include trainings to identify and report potential victims of child abuse, neglect, and human trafficking curriculum to the list of trainings school board officials must complete. The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and the TEA created a human trafficking training curriculum for school administrators in the state. Under current State Board of Education (SBOE) training requirements, school board officials must take a specific amount of training and education to fulfill their leadership position. The training would include 1 additional hour of training to identify and report potential victims of child abuse, neglect, and human trafficking every 2 years for a school board trustee position. It would also add an additional 2 and 1/2 hour of the same training every 5 years for a superintendent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 111 By: M. Gonzalez Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to public school policy and training for public school employees addressing the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of certain children.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>In the current Texas Education Code, there is existing child abuse identification training outlined for employees of school districts, but there is no information regarding the identification of abuse for students who have significant cognitive disabilities. Students and persons with disabilities are disproportionately victimized on a larger scale than people without disabilities and typically are unable to report abuse. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime 1 in 4 disabled children will be victims of violence, which includes physical and sexual violence. HB 111 addresses this issue by providing training for employees of school districts, in both public schools and open-enrollment charter schools, to identify abuse in students with significant cognitive disabilities.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 330 By: VanDeaver Guillen SP: SB 1983, Hughes</p>	<p>Relating to excluding certain students from the computation of dropout and completion rates for purposes of public school accountability.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Education Code currently allows for several exemptions when calculating the dropout rate for a school. Some exemptions include court ordered attendance for high school equivalency programs, unschooled asylees or refugees, or students who have been incarcerated. Such exemptions exist for schools who have students that drop out and can no longer attend due to medical reasons. HB 330 adds another exemption in the Education Code that would account for students who need to drop out due to a condition, injury, or illness that requires substantial medical care and leaves them unable to attend school. Additionally, HB 330 would aid in protecting the smaller districts public school accountability rating where even one dropout of a student in this unfortunate circumstance could otherwise severely impact the rating.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 277 By: Oliverson Button Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays,</p>	<p>The job market in the state of Texas has some gaps to fill that are in high demand, but Texas high school students are sometimes unaware of fields of study that could help them attain a full-time job based on the market in Texas. While applying to college as a high school student, navigating which high-demand fields of study to pursue to secure job placement upon graduation from a Texas public institution of higher education can be an overwhelming process. There are websites available, but public institutions of higher education are not currently required to provide prospective students with the information regarding fields of study that could lead to full-time employment upon graduation based</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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	certain comparative gainful employment data.	0 PNV, 1 Absent	on the Texas job market. HB 277 amends the Education Code to require a website link for an employment site built upon data from the Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission on the online application form for Texas higher education institutions for students to enhance students' awareness of which field of study to pursue to improve their chances of attaining a job in Texas upon graduation.	
HB 1244 By: Ashby Allison Huberty VanDeaver King, Ken	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.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	HB 1244 aims to replace the U.S. History secondary-level end-of-course exam requirement with the multiple-choice civic test that is used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during the naturalization process. The U.S. History end-of-course exam for public school is currently not required to test on civics or civic engagement. This bill addresses the civics portion for students by replacing the U.S. History end-of-course exam with the USCIS civics exam which could save the state \$2 million per biennium. While the inclusion of a civics test to Texas curricula may help improve the civics knowledge of Texas students, the memorization required by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization test does not appropriately address the gap in civics education nor does it further civic engagement. Additionally, this bill would restrict a student from attaining their diploma if they have not received a 70% and above on the replacement civics test. The USCIS naturalization civics test was not intended to test secondary-level student's depth of civics knowledge and is not an adequate standard for Texas students. This exam would not need an official test date and can be administered at any time after the student enters the 9th grade.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
HB 109 By: Martinez	Relating to the operation of open-enrollment charter schools on Memorial Day.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	The state of Texas recognizes Memorial Day as an important holiday with the rest of the nation. In the Education Code, the last day of school for public schools is not to be before May 15 th . Memorial Day is held on the last Monday of May when classes in public schools are, by law, not allowed to provide student instructional time. If class must occur on Memorial Day due to lost minutes from disasters, floods, extreme weather conditions, or other calamities to fulfill student instructional time requirements, they need a waiver from the Commissioner of Education. HB 109 amends the Education Code by extending this to open-enrollment charter schools in order to hold open-enrollment charter schools to the same standards as public schools.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org

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