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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, March 25, 2019

<p>HB 76 By: Huberty Cain Ashby González, M. SP: SB 1921, Alvarado</p>	<p>Relating to cardiac assessments of high school participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Many children participate in organized sports at the middle school level and go on to continue at the high school level. However, there are some instances on the field where a student is faced with Sudden Cardiac Arrest Syndrome that can result in death. Proponents believe that if the student is screened with an ECG prior to participation in sports the Sudden Cardiac Arrest syndrome could be prevented or detected earlier.</p> <p>Currently, the UIL provides information to parents who are inquiring about their child receiving an ECG but does not state that receiving an ECG will prevent their student from Sudden Cardiac Arrest syndrome. HB 76 requires a public school district to provide information about sudden cardiac arrest and ECG testing to students required to receive a physical under UIL rules.</p> <p>Peer reviewed studies conducted across the globe show there is no correlation between using an ECG to detect or identify the likelihood that a student will experience Sudden Cardiac Arrest syndrome. The Texas Chapter of American College of Cardiology have stated that there is no scientific evidence to support that an ECG will detect or prevent a student from experiencing Sudden Cardiac Arrest syndrome.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 123 By: White Klick Miller Minjarez Rose SP: SB 481, Watson</p>	<p>Relating to personal identification documents for foster children or youth, homeless children or youth, and unaccompanied youth.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Identification is needed to get a job, housing, open a bank account, and for critical services. Currently, homeless and foster youth can get their driver's license without a fee. HB 123 includes unaccompanied youth to the list of those who are eligible for that fee waiver. HB 123 will remove significant barriers to those services for youth in Texas, increasing their likelihood of stability and success.</p> <p>In addition, HB 123 allows homeless children/youth, foster youth, and unaccompanied youth to get a personal identification certificate without paying a fee. Previously, youth needed to present a letter from their school district documenting their lack of address in order to receive their identification certificate. HB 123 will expand that letter requirement to include a letter from the director of a shelter or housing program. Youth also have the option to state the address of the DFPS office responsible for their care as their own address.</p> <p>For clarity purposes, if a child or youth is in care, HB 123 directs the Department of Child Protective Services (DFPS) to request their birth certificate through the state and, if they are unable to access it, they will request the birth certificate from local entities. However, since this youth population moves around frequently, either through different shelters or different care facilities, HB 123 provides a process for homeless children/youth, foster youth, and unaccompanied youth to gain access to their own identification certificate without a parent or guardian present. For these youth, being able to access their own identification certificate can provide a sense of autonomy and stability when a parent or guardian isn't present in their lives.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon (515) 313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 155 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to notice provided to a court regarding a defendant confined in a state jail felony facility.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>State jails were created during the 73rd legislature as a substitute for state prisons to lower recidivism rates and cut costs. However, state jails have a recidivism rate about 30% higher than state prisons. Most state jail felony offenses are for relatively minor drug charges. Offenders are sent to state jail with no rehabilitation or treatment programs, then they are released with no community supervision or resources to keep them out of trouble.</p> <p>HB 155 requires state jails to email or electronically notify sentencing courts of the date that defendants will have been in jail for 75 days—a trigger date for a court’s consideration of community supervision. HB 155 is designed to facilitate consideration of community supervision, instead of holding offender’s for longer than their original sentence.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 165 By: Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to providing for endorsements for public high school students enrolled in special education programs.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>During the 2013 legislative session, the Foundation High School Program was implemented through HB 5. In this program high school students could opt-in to earn endorsements by taking a coherent sequence of courses in a subject area, similar to declaring a major in college. An endorsement can allow a student to narrow in on their interest in a certain subject area and can jump start their academic career. For students to attain an endorsement, they must take the courses as implemented without any teacher modifications to the instruction material. Currently, students enrolled in special education (SPED) programs are not allowed to gain an endorsement if they need modification through an accommodation in the endorsement courses. This is discriminatory against students with disabilities who need modification in the classroom through accommodations.</p> <p>HB 165 removes the barrier for students who are enrolled in SPED programs to attain the endorsement they need with modification as long as they demonstrate proficiency in that subject area. HB 165 also requires the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee for a student in SPED to determine whether the student is required to earn satisfactory performance on an EOC test as a condition before an endorsement to be on their transcript.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 337 By: Larson SP: SB 210, Campbell</p>	<p>Relating to the use of emergency engine cutoff switches on motorboats.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 337 prohibits the operation of a motorboat (<26 ft in length) without utilization of an engine cutoff switch, if the vehicle is equipped with such feature (as of this year, federal legislation now requires dealers, manufacturers and distributors to ensure boats are outfitted with this safety feature). HB 337 defines an engine cutoff switch and specifies that the operator must ensure full functionality and secure attachment of either the lanyard or wireless transmitter mechanism. Such safety features prevent scenarios in which the operator is knocked out of a running boat and/or the propeller forces the vehicle into a spin, posing risk of injury or death to anyone thrown overboard.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eli Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 364 By: Tinderholt Moody SP: SB 558, Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to required alcohol monitoring and ignition interlock devices ordered by a court and a central database of those orders; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>An interlock system in a vehicle is a device used to prevent someone who was convicted with a DUI from driving while intoxicated again. Usually, the person blows into their device and the interlock system will lock if the driver has any alcohol in their system. Currently, there is no central database to let a police officer making a traffic stop know if the driver has an interlock system installed in their car.</p> <p>House Bill 364 would create a database similar to the concealed handgun carry database that would notify officers upon running the driver’s information through their system if the driver has an interlock device in their vehicle. This database would allow police officers to know if someone has been recently convicted of a DUI and prompt the officer to run a proper screening of the vehicle to look for the interlock device. If the driver is driving someone else’s car, it will allow the officer to make a proper screening of the driver to ensure he is not driving intoxicated.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p>HB 659 By: White</p>	<p>Relating to the collection of information regarding the parental status of inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>H.B. 659 requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to maintain and annually update statistical information on the number of inmates who are parents of a child and are confined in a facility operated by or under contract with TDCJ. Texas has begun investing in programs aimed at youth with incarcerated parents, however it is unclear how many children have incarcerated parents or where these children live. Having an incarcerated parent is a significant risk factor for committing later criminal offenses. TDCJ states that this information will be self-reported by offenders.</p> <p>This data will be submitted to the Texas Education Agency and Department of Family and Protective Services. It's especially beneficial to send it to the Texas Education Agency because there are currently 13 indicators for risk factors in children, but there is support for a 14th indicator (HB 2116). The added 14th indicator would be whether a child has incarcerated parent or parents.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 747 By: Stucky SP: SB 235, Nelson</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to propose a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The City of Corinth currently utilizes the Lake Cities Fire Department which serves not only Corinth, but also several smaller surrounding cities and the unincorporated parts of Denton County. In total, the Lake Cities Fire Department serves over 37,000 people. Because the area has seen significant population growth, roughly 15% since the last census, the city is experiencing a higher strain on their fire department. In February of 2019, Corinth built a third fire station to address this need. This resulted in a 30% increase in operation costs for the fire department.</p> <p>HB 747 allows for a creation of a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district for the City of Corinth. Doing so would allow the city to put forth a ballot proposition to redistribute the city's current sales tax to allot .25 cents of every penny to go to the special district. This would produce an additional \$410,000-820,000 of funding annually. No state funds will be solicited, nor will the city's residents suffer a tax increase.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1218 By: Klick SP: SB 582, Perry</p>	<p>Relating to the distribution of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1218 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to establish a schedule for the distribution of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits evenly over a 28-day monthly period. Currently, SNAP benefits are released on designated days throughout the first 15 days of the month based on the last digit of the recipient's eligibility determination group number. Lengthening the release schedule gives providers the ability to keep popular items in stock, maintain a regular delivery schedule, retain staff for the whole month, and give more attention to customers receiving benefits while they are shopping. Staggering benefit release over the month gives a better experience to both the SNAP providers and recipients, in addition to other shoppers.</p> <p>Federal statute requires that state implementation cannot allow recipients to go 40 days or more between benefit releases. If HB 1218 is enacted, the commission is aware of the federal statute and states that their computer system can accommodate the new release schedule to ensure Texas' federal dollars are not at risk.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon (515) 313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1389 By: Thompson, S. White Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the placement on community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision, of a defendant who is the primary caretaker of a child.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>81% of women in prison are mothers and most women are in prison for non-violent crimes connected to poverty and substance abuse. HB 1389 encourages community-based solutions for people who are not a threat to public safety by allowing the judge an opportunity to consider the impact on children and issue a written finding on whether the use of community alternatives is more appropriate than incarceration. This extra step would improve the lives of affected families, save tax dollars, and provide support for the children impacted by their parents' incarceration.</p> <p>HB 1389 only requires judges to consider community supervision over jailtime if the defendant proves they are a primary caregiver <u>and</u> if the crime is eligible for deferred adjudication community supervision. HB 1389 does not force judges to sentence a certain way but rather empowers judges to use discretion in these cases.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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