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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, April 1, 2019

<p>HB 1418 By: Phelan SP: SB 829, Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to disease prevention and preparedness information for emergency medical services personnel on certification or recertification.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>When emergency medical services personnel, or first responders, respond to emergency situations and natural disasters, they often are put in situations that may expose them to infectious diseases. If they are not up-to-date on their vaccinations, first responders may be at risk for contracting dangerous diseases.</p> <p>HB 1418 aims to ensure that the first responders have the most up-to-date information about their immunization status and about potential risks at the time of the emergency. To do so, HB 1418 requires HHSC to provide immunization information from the DSHS' immunization registry, ImmTrac2, to personnel when they apply for certification or recertification as emergency medical services personnel. If the individual's information is not in the ImmTrac2, HHSC must inform the certification or recertification applicant about the registry and the benefits of being included in the registry.</p> <p>The requirements of HHS agencies numerated in HB 1418 will not only help prevent the duplication of vaccinations, but, more importantly, ensure that first responders are protected from communicable diseases that they may be exposed to during their work. No significant fiscal impact to local or state governments is anticipated.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 sharon@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 101 By: Canales Rose González, Jessica Zedler Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of false caller identification information display.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 101 would make what is known as spoofing, when individuals use technology to make it appear that a call is coming from a number or business other than that of the actual caller, a Class A misdemeanor if there was an intent to defraud, harass or cause harm. There is currently no punishment for spoofing.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 88 By: Swanson</p>	<p>Relating to the order of candidate names on an election ballot.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, if an election results in a tie or if a special election is sent to a run off, election officials must post notice to the candidates of a drawing for ballot names 24hrs before conducting the drawing. Then, election officials must draw ballot names to set the order of the ballot. Doing so is inefficient, costly, and creates a delay in creating the ballots. Last session, HB 1735 changed this process in primary election runoffs, but the change was not made for special elections or elections ending in a tie.</p> <p>HB 88 would require the names on the ballot to remain in the same order as the original ballot and will eliminate the name drawing process in run off and tied elections. HB 88 will save Counties, political parties, and candidates time and money.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 303 By: Paul SP: SB 1039, Paul</p>	<p>Relating to entities eligible to authorize the creation of a spaceport development corporation.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Spaceport development corporations are eligible to receive funds in the form of grants from the state to encourage space aviation in Texas. Currently, only counties or municipalities which partner with a county can create a spaceport development corporation. HB303 will allow municipalities with a population of at least 2 million to create a spaceport development corporation without needing to partner with a county. Currently, Houston is the only municipality in Texas which meets that population requirement. Houston is a large city and has the capability to develop and support a Spaceport Development Corporation without partnering with a county. The municipality will be responsible for establishing the corporation's board of directors.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 374 By: Allen Bowers SP: SB 1248, Miles</p>	<p>Relating to meetings or visits between a defendant on community supervision and a supervision officer.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Defendants placed on community supervision face challenges. Counties and judges vary when it comes to strictness. Most of the time if a defendant must miss a meeting, they are able to reschedule. However, it can be difficult when offices are only open 8am-5pm and a defendant is working an 8-5 job with no leave time. It can be difficult to find the means to travel across town while missing work, which is why video meetings would be a viable option. Complying with community supervision requirements should not make it difficult to secure and keep a job.</p> <p>HB 374 seeks to require officers supervising defendants who are placed on community supervision to consider accommodating work, treatment, and community service obligations when scheduling required meetings and visits. This could mean opening one night per week for meetings—which a lot of departments do already. HB 374 also allows departments to hold meetings/visits via video conference if department decides it's unnecessary to meet in person.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 440 By: Murphy Leach Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to general obligation bonds issued by political subdivisions.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 440 would create more transparency on the responsible spending of general obligation (GO) bonds issued by political subdivisions and school districts by limiting and setting requirements for the use of unspent proceeds once the project is completed.</p> <p>HB 440 changes the Election Code to reflect that local governments could only spend the unused proceeds of a GO bond for purposes other than those for which the bond was authorized if a majority of voters approves the expenditure of the bond proceeds in an election. Prior to the election, the local governing body would be required, at least 21 days before the election, to provide a sample ballot to tell voters the specific proposed purpose and use of the bond, the amount of the bond, and all financial terms regarding the bond. These requirements are intended to provide transparency and accurate information to taxpayers and voters.</p> <p>HB 440 changes the Education Code to reflect that school districts could only spend the unused proceeds of a GO bond for the purposes other than those for which was authorized if the district's board of trustees issue a public meeting notice stating the board will consider using those unspent funds for other purposes. The general public shall be allowed an opportunity to address the board on the question of using those unspent bond proceeds.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 678 By: Guillen González, M.</p>	<p>Relating to the public high school graduation credit requirements for a language other than English.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In High School, students can earn credits by taking a foreign language such as Spanish or French, but currently American Sign Language (ASL) does not qualify as part of the foreign language High School credit. High School students can attain the foreign language credit by completing a dual language immersion program at an elementary school as well.</p> <p>HB 678 would allow high school students to get their foreign language credit through an ASL course completion at elementary schools. HB 678 amends the Education Code by adding American Sign Language and Elementary Schools to the code in the section of 28.025(b-21).</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p>HB 785 By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the execution of a warrant issued for certain individuals who violate a condition of release on parole or to mandatory supervision.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Super Intensive Supervision Program (SISP) is a parole program for the most serious offenders who are placed under the strictest parole supervision after committing crimes such as murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault. A person is paroled under this program after being evaluated by the parole board rather than the parole division since the parole board is more stringent than the parole division.</p> <p>Under the SISP program, a person is tracked 24 hours a day by two monitors; a GPS monitor worn on the belt and an ankle monitor. The GPS monitor is used to allow the parolee to travel to and from work, home, school and anywhere else allowed by the parole officer. The ankle monitor is worn to keep track of the parolee while the GPS monitor is charging within their house.</p> <p>Under this monitoring, the parolee is also designated certain routes they can take to and from the allowed places they can visit. If they deviate from these routes or if they leave their house without the GPS monitor then a blue warrant is automatically issued for the parolee for a police officer to bring them in for violating their parole. A blue warrant marks the difference between a regular warrant and the parolee warrant.</p> <p>There have been concerns that police officers treat blue warrants the same way they treat regular warrants in some communities. House Bill 785 aims to address these concerns by allowing law enforcement agencies to prioritize these warrants and execute them as soon as they are issued. These would especially help sexual assault victims whose offenders are high risk offenders and are paroled under this program.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 807 By: Larson</p>	<p>Relating to the state and regional water planning process.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 807 seeks to establish an interregional council to help facilitate better dialogue between the current 16 regional water planning groups that produce the state water plan. The council will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consist of one member of each regional water planning and serve until a new state water plan is adopted, which happens every 5 years. • Hold at least one public meeting • Prepare and submit a report to the Texas Water Development Board on their work <p>The purpose of the council is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance coordination between regional planning groups • Facilitate dialogue for water management strategies for multiple planning areas • Share best practices for regional water planning processes <p>HB 807 also expands the scope for each regional water planning group to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unnecessary or counterproductive drought response efforts • Significant water needs and to provide an assessment for potential aquifer storage • How to meet specific goals on water usage per capita by decade • The progress of cooperation between each regional planning group and water users in the area to incentive plans that help the region as a whole 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p>HB 826 By: Zerwas Coleman SP: SB 650, Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the University of Houston College of Medicine at the University of Houston.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Houston has the largest tertiary/quaternary medical center in the world and yet there are still extreme health disparities in Houston. Texas ranks 41st out of 50 states in the number of physicians per person. The University of Houston seeks to create a Medical School at their campus in order to serve medically underserved areas.</p> <p>HB 826 amends the Education Code to allow for the UH College of Medicine to be under the management and control of the UH system board of regents. This bill classifies the UH College of Medicine as a medical and dental unit that would make the college a health-related institution of higher education that would be eligible for appropriations from the permeant health fund in Higher Education.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1264 By: Thompson, Senfronia Zerwas Davis, Sarah Howard Johnson, Julie SP: SB 759, Buckingham</p>	<p>Relating to pharmacist communications to prescribing practitioners regarding certain dispensed biological products.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Biologics are a category of pharmaceutical drug which includes a wide range of products that may be composed of biological substances, such as proteins, sugars, cells, and tissues. Unlike conventional drugs, biologics are not chemically synthesized, but isolated from living cells, such as those from animal, plant, or microorganisms. They can provide treatments for disease for which no others exist, such as Crohn's, arthritis, and cancer.</p> <p>HB 751 in the 84th session updated Texas code to match the national standard and set rules for the new class of pharmaceuticals, allowing them to be substituted for interchangeable biological products. (The equivalent of this for conventional chemically synthesized drugs would be "generics.") HB 751 also mandated that when such a substitution is made, the prescribing physician must be notified. This communication provision was set to sunset on September 1, 2019.</p> <p>HB 1264 repeals the sunset clause in HB 751 and ensures that communication is maintained between the prescribing physician and the pharmacist regarding the substitution of interchangeable biologics. No significant fiscal impact to local or state governments is anticipated.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 sharon@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1067 By: Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to the omission of a deceased candidate from the ballot in certain elections.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Current statues for local (non-partisan) elections only allow a candidate that passes away to be removed from the ballot if the candidate dies before midnight on the 3rd day before the filing deadline. If the candidate dies 48 hours before filing deadline they must be on ballot even if ballots have not been prepared yet. HB 1067 would allow, but not require, those responsible for preparing ballots to refrain from preparing ballots that include a deceased candidate who passed prior to ballots being printed.</p> <p>If the deceased candidate wins election, then the authorized official fills the vacant seat through appointment, or the county encounters the monetary burden of having another election. HB 1067 will resolve this issue, however, it does not include a filing deadline extension that would allow voters another choice in the election.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1588 By: Metcalf SP: SB 450, Powell</p>	<p>Relating to the deadline for certain economic development corporations to file a certain report with the comptroller.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Type A and Type B Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) are required to submit annual reports to the Comptroller's office by February 1st of each year. Subsequently, the Comptroller uses this information to compile a report for the Legislature in November. EDC annual reports must include the corporation's objectives, detailed revenues and expenditures, a list of the corporation's assets, and anything else the Comptroller might request. Oftentimes the administrative tasks to audit their finances and organize this detailed information is a burden to many EDC's; leading to noncompliance. According to the comptroller's office, only 51% of the EDC's had submitted their reports on time for 2019. To increase compliance and reduce burdensome rules on small businesses, HB1588 would move the deadline from February 1st to April 1st; allowing sufficient time to submit reports and allow comptroller staff to focus on other priorities.</p>	<p>Will of the House. Evaluated: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1849 By: Klick SP: SB 1735, Menendez</p>	<p>Relating to the possession and administration of epinephrine auto-injectors in day-care centers; limiting liability.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In the 84th Legislative Session, Texas allowed for school districts to opt to keep stock epinephrine auto-injectors – that is, auto-injectors that are unassigned to a particular individual – to be used by trained individuals for emergency use. Prior to this legislation, schools were only allowed to administer epinephrine only for students who had a prescribed auto-injector on the campus. Because over 20% of anaphylactic reactions at school involve those who previously had no known allergies, access to epinephrine for students who do not have a prescribed dose on campus can be life-saving.</p> <p>HB 1849 expands this option to day-care centers as well. It allows for a medical professional with prescriptive authority to prescribe stock epinephrine auto-injectors to a day-care center, rather than to an individual or child. The stock should be accompanied by documentation of the prescription and its intended use for non-patient-specific administration in case of an emergency. The prescribing physician should also periodically review the order and be available through direct telecommunication as necessary.</p> <p>Should a center opt-in, the center, not the state, is responsible for ensuring proper training and maintenance of training documentation. However, HB 1849 enumerates the information that must be covered under such training. It also requires that the day-care center inform the center's owner, epinephrine prescriber, HHSC, and DSHS within 10 days of administration of epinephrine from the stock. The information to be relayed to these entities is also enumerated within the proposed legislation.</p> <p>A significant reason for resistance to such legislation is fear of liability. To address this issue, HB 1849 puts into place a good-faith clause that grants immunity from liability to an individual who administers or does not administer the epinephrine auto-injector.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 sharon@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 405 By: Minjarez Howard Hinojosa Ortega Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to designating June as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness Month.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) occurs when a baby suffers from opioid withdrawal as a result of being born to an opioid-using pregnant woman. Opioids, including heroin and misused prescription drugs, can cross the placenta and affect the fetus. Consequently, when the baby is born, because it has been removed from the opioid-saturated environment of the mother's body, 60-94% of the time, baby will begin to experience withdrawal symptoms, or NAS. HB 405 aims help address these issues by designating June as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Awareness Month. In doing so, it requires HHSC agencies to encourage awareness of the dangers of opioid and substance abuse during pregnancy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 sharon@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2179 By: Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the grounds for imposing certain sanctions on certain persons for engaging in certain conduct in connection with the appointment of members of or the functions of appraisal review boards.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>This bill would remove the 'clear and convincing' evidentiary standard for removal of an Appraisal Review Board (ARB) member due to repeated bias or misconduct. Expanding the grounds for removal, to the basic standard of preponderance of evidence, allows for greater enforcement, accountability and oversight in the appraisal review process while also increasing the taxpayers' capacity relative to that of the ARB. The bill would also allow the communications between taxpayer and local administrative district judges to be permitted when regarding appointments to the ARB (for counties >120k in population).</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1385 By: King, Tracy</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of industrialized housing and buildings.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 10 Ayes</p>	<p>Industrialized buildings are buildings in which components are manufactured in a workshop but assembled on the final location in which the building will be located. Currently, industrialized buildings have height requirements that other buildings do not have although they must maintain the same safety standards. Maintaining the safety standards removes any concern that these buildings are not as safe as other buildings.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		<p>0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>House Bill 1385 aims to remove the height requirements and allow the industrialized buildings to be constructed at any height. The bill removes the 60 feet or 4 story height cap on these buildings. Texas is one of 2 states in the country who still have height restrictions on these types of buildings.</p> <p>These buildings are faster to build and they are more cost effective since they are built in a factory. Building inspectors are also able to inspect the buildings in the factory and expedite the process of building the infrastructure. In traditional buildings, the inspector would have to inspect everything on site before the construction can begin.</p>	
<p>HB 2223 By: Frullo SP: SB 581, Perry</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption of certain commercial weighing or measuring devices from registration and inspection requirements.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Last session, legislation was passed which no longer required food service establishments that sold immediately consumable food by weight to have their scales registered or certified by the Department of Agriculture. Requirements for registration include making the scale and its registration sticker clearly visible to the consumer. Many restaurants find it difficult to display the scale and face significant cost to rearrange their service areas or kitchens to accommodate this requirement. Restaurants are subject to the health department inspection as well as reviews by consumers which serve as accountability for accurate scale measurement. The legislation was interpreted in a way which “immediately consumed” meant the food must be consumed on the premises in order for this exemption to apply and did not implement the intended relief to the restaurant industry.</p> <p>The Attorney General determined this was not the intent of the legislation and therefore, HB2223 is clarifying the language to exempt these food establishments from registering their scales if they’re only used for food ready for immediate consumption (regardless of the food being eaten where it is sold) AND if it is not tax exempted food. Excluding tax exempt food is important so that larger establishments such as grocery stores will not be impacted by this legislation.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Ali Schoon (515) 313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2243 By: Oliverson SP: SB 1665, Buckingham</p>	<p>Relating to the use of prescription asthma medicine on public and private school campuses.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>10% of students in the US have asthma. Of these, 60% experience an exacerbation each year. Such a flare up can be quelled with an albuterol inhaler. Albuterol is a short-acting bronchodilator. When asthma constricts the tubes of the lungs, albuterol can quickly re-open them to allow the individual to regain the ability to breathe properly. Typically, students with asthma will carry a prescribed albuterol inhaler with them, keep one in the school nurses' office, or both. However, if a situation arises in which the student does not have either of those options, the school had to either call a parent to bring one or choose the far costlier option of calling EMS and sending the child to the ER for treatment.</p> <p>In Arizona, the legislature addressed this problem by allowing schools to keep a stock of albuterol medication on hand for instances such as when the student forgot their medication, couldn't afford it, or ran out. The law resulted in a 20% decrease in 911 calls and a 40% decrease in ambulance transports for an asthma flare up.</p> <p>Schools can currently keep a stock of non-patient-specific epinephrine on hand for similar situations involving anaphylactic reactions.</p> <p>HB 2243 allows for schools -- public school districts, charter schools, and private schools -- to keep a prescribed stock of non-patient-specific albuterol medication on hand for use, as well. The school nurse may administer the medication only at a school campus when needed, provided that the nurse has written documentation from the student's parent or guardian stating the student's diagnosis status and authorization for administration of the medication.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 2243 contains a good-faith clause which grants immunity from liability for any person who administers or does not administer the medication.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 sharon@texaslsg.org</p>

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