



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Yvonne Davis
 Co-Vice Chair, Senator Jose Rodriguez
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Ana Hernandez
 Treasurer, Rep. Armando Walle
 Secretary, Rep. Victoria Neave
 General Counsel, Rep. Lina Ortega
 Freshman Rep., Rep. Vikki Goodwin

Rep. Diego Bernal
 Rep. Abel Herrero
 Rep. Mando Martinez
 Rep. Eddie Rodriguez
 Rep. Toni Rose
 Sen. Jose Menendez
 Rep. Harold Dutton
 Rep. Chris Turner
 Rep. Rafael Anchia
 Rep. Jessica Farrar


Rep. Mary Gonzalez
 Rep. Gina Hinojosa
 Rep. Rhetta Bowers
 Rep. John Turner
 Rep. Ina Minjarez
 Rep. Sergio Munoz
 Rep. Carl Sherman
 Rep. Alex Dominguez
 Rep. Nicole Collier
 Rep. Julie Johnson

Representative


Desk

LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED Business – Monday, April 15, 2019

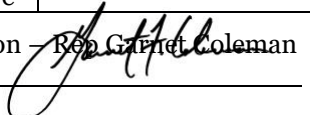
Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 1767 By: Murphy King, Phil Deshotel Hernandez Darby	Relating to the consideration of employee compensation and benefits in establishing the rates of gas utilities.	State Affairs Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>Gas utilities, like all other employers, compete to attract and retain knowledgeable employees. In order to do so, some companies use comparative market studies of similar job positions to be sure that they are providing appropriate total compensation (base salary pay + contingent pay). For utilities, contingent pay, which is often referred to as incentive compensation or bonuses, is tied to various performance metrics, such as safety, customer satisfaction, company earnings, and expense controls, and to the utility's financial performance. The Railroad Commission has decided in several rate cases, that incentive/contingent compensation that is tied to the utility's financial performance is not recoverable in rates from rate payers because an improvement in the utility's financial performance benefits shareholders and not ratepayers. To the extent the utility meets its burden of proof to show that incentive/contingent pay is tied to improvements, in for example, the safety and quality of service delivered to ratepayers, those expenses are recovered from ratepayers. This would set a bad precedent of passing on those costs to the rate-payers.</p> <p>Presently, cities as regulatory authorities and the Railroad Commission determine the reasonableness of the salaries, wages, bonuses, incentive/contingent pay that the utility may pass on to ratepayers. It is part of the rate setting process for regulated utilities to ensure rates paid by consumers are just and reasonable for the services provided. HB 1767 would remove that oversight. Because gas utilities are monopolies in the areas in which they provide service, regulation serves as a substitute for competition. That is why the cities as local regulators and the Railroad Commission, in reviewing a utility's request to increase rates, ensure that the salaries and benefits a utility pays its employees is consistent with market conditions for similar employees and ensure that only the utility's reasonable and necessary expenses are passed on to ratepayers.</p> <p>Instead, HB 1767 would eliminate from review by the regulatory authorities – cities and the Railroad Commission, consideration of compensation and benefit expenses, meaning base salaries, wages, incentive compensation, and benefits, in setting rates and would deem them reasonable simply on a showing that a study commissioned by the utility shows the utility's compensation package is comparable to a some market-compensation study. HB 1767 applies to all employees, from hourly workers to top level executives, including the CEO of the company.</p> <p>The utilities contend that HB 1767 would ensure that compensation is in line with the market, ensure the rate regulations of gas utilities are predictable and more efficient, and reduce litigation concerning compensation (as utility customers foot the bill for lawyers, including the utility's lawyers), and keep rates low for customers. However, issues of compensation, save for issues regarding incentive/contingent compensation related to financial goals – as opposed to improvements in the safety and quality of service – are seldom litigated and are typically not</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution  Rep. Garnet Coleman

			<p>controversial. So, it is unclear where the reduction in litigation/lawyers' fees, would occur.</p> <p>Currently, the utility bears the burden of proof to establish that its expenses, including salaries, wages, benefits, bonuses, incentive/contingent compensation, are reasonable and necessary. And currently, the cities as local regulatory authorities and the Railroad Commission undertake a review of a utility's base salaries, wages, <i>incentive compensation</i>, and benefits. HB 1767 not only eliminates that review, but also sets a bad precedent by increasing the city's and the Railroad Commission's burden by shifting the burden of proving up the necessity and reasonableness of expenses away from the utility. HB 1767 dictates that a city, as the regulatory authority, must overcome the presumption that the employee compensation is reasonable if the utility's compensation expenses are consistent with a recent market study. This would be counter to current precedent. Instead of the utility having to show that its salaries, wages, benefits, bonuses, incentive/contingent compensation, are reasonable and necessary, those expenses would be presumed reasonable and necessary, and cities and the Railroad Commission would bear the burden of proof. The proposed use of market-compensation studies as the sole standard for establishing recoverability of employee compensation and benefits expenses would change the regulatory paradigm that utilities bear the burden of proof to demonstrate that amounts included in rates are reasonable and necessary.</p>	
<p>HB 925 By: Springer Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the board of directors of the Gateway Groundwater Conservation District.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 5 Absent</p>	<p>The Gateway Groundwater Conversation District was created by Hardeman and Foard counties through election in 2001. The counties of Childress, Cottle, and Motley later joined in subsequent years. King County was recently annexed in 2018 yet does not have representation on the District's board due to current language in the Special District Local Laws Code.</p> <p>HB 925 would rectify this by requiring equal representation from all counties. HB 925 achieves this by changing the language from "not fewer than 5 and not more than 11 directors" to "not more than two directors for each county in the district." HB 925 would also authorize the board to change the total number of directors if the district were to annex territory in the future.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 747 By: Stucky</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to propose a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 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 1558 By: Paddie Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the severance tax exemption for oil and gas produced from certain inactive wells.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1558 clarifies eligibility criteria for the two-year inactive well exemption on oil and gas production taxes. These exemptions are intended to incentivize the use of orphaned wells and reduce the state's financial obligation and liability in addressing abandoned sites. The bill specifies that a well does not qualify if it is part of an enhanced oil recovery project; was drilled but not completed; or has no record of hydrocarbon production. The bill would also reduce the duration of the tax exemption from ten years to five years, as well as remove obsolete statutory provisions relating to the designation of three-year inactive wells.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 1514 By: Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Olive Oil Industry Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas ranks second in the nation for olive oil production, behind California. With olive cultivation being the fifth highest in acreage of any fruit crop in the state and accounting for \$53.3 millions of projected revenues by 2022, the industry sees a need for an advisory board to help ensure its growth.</p> <p>HB 1514 responds to the needs of the quickly-expanding olive and olive oil industries of Texas and aims to create a 9-member Texas Olive Oil Industry Advisory Board. This board will assess the olive and olive oil industries in Texas to identify potential avenues for improvement and methods by which to enhance their marketing strategies.</p> <p>Additionally, the board could work to help decrease the issue of products wrongly marketed as being from Texas, thus increasing the authenticity of the Texas olive industry.</p> <p>To do so, the bill language authorizes the board to accept any gifts and grants from any source deemed necessary by the board. All nine members of the board would be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and would serve staggered 6-year terms.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2 By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to ad valorem taxation; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2 would prohibit the ability of cities, counties and other local taxing units to raise total annual property tax revenue on existing structures by 2.5% or more. School districts, hospital districts, junior college districts, emergency services districts and local taxing units for which the Maintenance & Operations tax rate proposed for the year is 2.5 cents or less are exempt from HB2.</p> <p>Under current law, local jurisdictions' revenue growth is capped at 8% annually, and anything over that 8% "rollback rate" permits a petition to call for an election to roll back that spending level. This bill proposes a 2.5% cap on revenue growth, and rates greater or equal to 2.5% would trigger an <i>automatic</i> election to allow voters to consider the proposed rate.</p> <p>A bipartisan group of Texas Mayors has stated that a 2.5% cap would lead to budget cuts that threaten public safety and the quality of life that makes Texas attractive to the businesses and workers at the heart of our economic success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 10 mayors from North Texas/Dallas area were united in opposition. The Dallas News reports that the city of Dallas spends nearly 60% of the city's general fund budget on public safety, including 100% of the city's property tax revenue and nearly 30% of sales tax revenue. ➤ Former mayor Paul Harpole of Amarillo outlined the effect a \$3.8 Million deficit a 2.5% cap would cause for his city: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 7 fewer 'lane miles' of new streets ▪ 54 public safety jobs unfunded ▪ 100 fewer miles of residential street rehabilitation, and ▪ 10 fewer miles of arterial street overlay ➤ Houston provides a recent example of how a revenue cap can have bad consequences, and especially when it is coupled with mandatory elections. In 2004, voters approved cap that is the lower of either 4.5% of the combined rate of population growth and inflation. The cap was revised in 2006 to fund an additional \$90 Million for public safety. Since then, as property values increased, the city has had to decrease tax rates to adhere to the formula. Meanwhile, last year, voters approved a "pay parity" proposition that requires the city to pay firefighters and police at the same rate, which would require revenue not available under the revenue cap, a shortfall that is the equivalent of 1,152 police officers' jobs. <p>Although a 2.5% revenue cap could be harmful to public safety, street maintenance and other vital basic needs, CSHB 2 does contain a number of beneficial transparency measures:</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution —  Rep. Garrett Coleman


- Separates the appraisal notice process from the tax-setting process and requires increased communication and individualized tax notice forms for property owners.
- For counties with populations larger than one million, the Appraisal Review Board (ARB) would be required to establish special panels to consider protest hearings on higher-valued properties at the request of the property owner.
- Removes from the annual appraisal notice, the estimate of the taxes that might become due under the new appraisal.
- Requires the Comptroller to prescribe forms for use by the taxing units, indicating the rollback rate and the rate that would generate the same revenue as the prior year (established in statute as the “no-new-revenue rate”) for the most recent five years.
- It would additionally require the Comptroller to establish a reporting system for comment submission regarding the ARB.
- Requires each taxing unit to display tax, budget and contact information on a generally accessible website.

CSHB 2 provides some variations of the 2.5% formula aimed at smaller local government units to *partially* consider and account for growth.

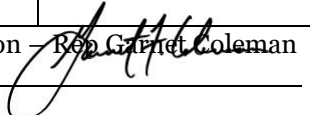
- The bill defines the "revenue enrichment amount" as the amount determined by the commissioner for the tax year accordingly: for the 2020 tax year, the amount would be \$250,000; and for each succeeding tax year, the revenue enrichment amount would be equal to the revenue enrichment amount for the preceding tax year as adjusted to reflect the inflation rate according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It defines the "revenue enrichment rate" as the rate that would impose an amount equal to the revenue enrichment amount.
- The "unused increment rate" is defined as the aggregate of the five recent years' (positive) differences between each rollback rate minus each adopted tax rate per year since 2020.
- CSHB 2 allows for some local consideration in that the rollback rate would allow for revenue enrichment amount (pegged to the CPI) and for the unused increment rate, on top of the 2.5% rollback.
- Limits the definition of debt to mean *that has been approved at an election*.
- Requires school districts to submit the rate to maintain the same amount of state and local revenue per weighted student that the district received in the school year in the preceding tax year.

CSHB 2 introduces several measures relating to **Administrative Procedures** and increasing taxpayer accessibility to the **Appraisal Review** process:

- Restricts the ARB's ability to appraise a contested property value greater than that reflected on appraisal roll.
- Eliminates challenges before an appraisal review board by local governments to protest the value of an entire category of properties.
- Prohibits the required concurrence of more than a majority of the members of the ARB or panel.
- Permits owner to request arbitrator from within or outside of county in which protested property is located.
- Prohibits the ARB from scheduling protest hearings after 7PM on weekdays and on Sundays
- Requires and makes recommendations regarding Property Tax Administration advisory board including specified stakeholders and person knowledgeable in ratio studies.
- Revises training requirements for Appraisal Review Board (ARB) members and requires specialized requirements and materials for arbitrators.
- Further requires that Central Appraisal Districts (CADs) appraise according to aforementioned training materials.

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Gerald Coleman

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entitles property owner to an injunction prohibiting the taxing unit from adopting a rate if the unit or calculation does not comply with computation requirements. • Specifies that property owner is not required to pay the taxes while “action to enjoin” the collection of taxes is pending and entitles property owner to a refund plus legal fees if owner does pay and prevails in the action. • The comptroller would also be required to conduct a value study of school districts and if found invalid for three consecutive years, the comptroller would provide additional review of, and recommendations to, the appraisal district (enforced by Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation). <p>Disaster Provisions: Contingent upon the governor’s declaration of any portion of the taxing unit’s area, an election is not required for following year in which the disaster occurs. It also allows a taxing unit to calculate its rollback tax rate as does a special taxing unit the tax year in which total values have recovered to their pre-disaster levels or five years, whichever comes first.</p> <p>Concerns: As discussed previously, a 2.5% revenue cap, absent exemptions for public safety, streets, disasters and other fixed costs, would not even keep up with current local spending when population growth and inflation are factored into a local budget. Revenue caps address the wrong half of a dual-variable equation; total tax revenue is the product of both the established tax rate as the bill attempts to address, and the property value. This constraint on local government will inevitably lead to crippling loss of funds for counties and municipalities and would only be partially offset by the proposed revenue enrichment rate and unused increment rate. So long as property values continue to increase and affordable options decrease comparatively, market value will grow, and the tax/revenue rate will have to be negatively adjusted in order to comply with the provisions of the bill. This will be done at the expense of critical public services that cannot be fully realized in a static fiscal note. This bill contains some reasonable provisions for improving transparency and accessibility to the process, but none are worth the potential harm that would likely be felt by local governments, their constituents and the Texas economy.</p> <p>Additional substantive concerns include the cost to local governments of conducting automatic elections and the time lost in addressing serious revenue needs while waiting for elections to be held. Given the multiple experimental variables in the formulas, and the lack of forecasting where voter behavior is concerned, it is impossible to accurately estimate the degree of negative financial impact related to the provisions of CSHB2.</p>	
<p>HB 1378 By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Lubbock County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the <i>Special District Local Laws Code</i> regarding Health and Hospital Districts within Chapter 1053 does not relinquish power solely to the Lubbock County Hospital District to employ any officer whose duties are centered around or correlate to public safety. HB 1378 amends the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will add an additional section under <i>Subchapter C of Chapter 1053</i> by granting the board the authority to employ peace officers; • Define the jurisdiction of peace officer which includes anything owned or controlled by the district • Grants peace officer’s the same Authority under Chapter 14 of the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> • Expand <i>Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2.12 (18)</i> by including Lubbock as a county authorize to commission peace Officers. <p>Presently, the county’s method of hiring armed security officers is done by third party with the oversight of the Texas Department of Public Safety. If this law becomes passed legislation, it will allow the county to have more control over the selection process of the armed officers.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>

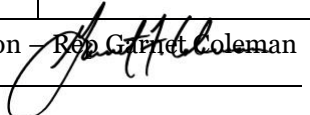
OK for Distribution  Rep. Garrett Coleman

Proponents of HB 1378, which include top decision makers of the UMC Health system, appear to believe that it gives the Hospital District a range options to tailor their security needs more specifically to address existing safety risks and future increased safety risk.

HB 1378 will allow the Lubbock Hospital District to follow suit with other Hospital Districts that reside in Texas such as Dallas County, Tarrant County, Bexar County, and El Paso County.

LSG Floor Report For MAJOR State Calendar – Monday, April 15, 2019


<p>HB 18 By: Price Huberty Thompson, Senfronia Coleman Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to consideration of the mental health of public-school students in training requirements for certain school employees, curriculum requirements, counseling programs, educational programs, state and regional programs and services, and health care services for students and to mental health first aid program training and reporting regarding local mental health authority and school district personnel.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 18 codifies important updates to the Education Code regarding mental health. The definition of "mental health condition" is updated and the definitions of "substance abuse" and "non-physician mental health professional" are added to reflect the most recent research and practices. Additionally, the code is amended to reflect the importance of evidence-based practices, positive behavior interventions, grief- and trauma-informed care, mental health training, the school counseling program, additional training requirements (which includes mental health symptom recognition, suicide prevention, and conflict resolution, among others), mental health education. It also includes formerly excluded populations in various mental health outreach programs such as elementary school students, students with IDD, and students with mental health conditions (including substance use disorder). HB 18 also mandates that mental health first aid training information is included on the public facing websites of the HHSC and the TEA. HB 18 also offers amendments that help ease the transition for the mental health programs outlined in HB 19 and the changes made in HB 1070. Additional clean up language is included in the changes made by HB 18.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 19 By: Price Huberty Thompson, Senfronia Coleman Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to mental health and substance use resources for certain school districts.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The House Select Committee on Mental Health released a report in 2016 which found that half of mental health conditions begin by the age of 14 and that one in five US school-age children have symptoms that meet criteria for mental illness. Children with untreated mental illness are likely to have negative academic, social, and health outcomes, even after becoming adults. Addressing these issues at a young age can help mitigate the risks for some of these negative outcomes. Because school is one place where such mental health issues may manifest in various ways, it's crucial that public school personnel have access to resources to help students in the most effective manner. Concerns have been raised that Texas public schools lack appropriate avenues through which to seek out mental health resources and solutions To remedy this, HB 19 requires the appropriate local mental health authorities (LMHAs) to employ a non-physician mental health professional in the 20 regional education service centers of Texas. These individuals will serve as mental health and substance use resources and training facilitators for public schools within their region as well as a link to mental health resources and services available in the community. The mental health professional is prohibited from treating a student, providing counseling to a student, or providing specific advice to personnel about a student. In addition, the bill permits, but explicitly refrains from mandating, districts to participate in trainings or use of the professional as a resource. The bill language specifies the duties of the supervising entity for the mental health professional which includes assisting in implementation, ensuring up-to-date lists of best practice-based programs and research-based practices, and enforcing timelines for the facilitation of training.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Garrett Coleman

			<p>Each authority overseeing such mental health professionals is required to submit to HHSC a report enumerating the outcomes of this program for districts and students. HHSC will then provide a report to the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the appropriate committees of the House and Senate.</p> <p>This program is estimated to cost the state \$2.3 million per fiscal year. Additional costs to the local government could accrue depending on the possibility of various program costs.</p>	
<p>HB 1070 By: Price Thompson, Senfronia Coleman Bonnen, Greg Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to the mental health first aid training program reporting requirements.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an eight-hour face-to face course that offers training on how to assist an individual who is undergoing a mental health crisis or developing a mental health problem. Currently, HHSC is required to collect mental health information from local mental health authorities (LMHAs) regarding Mental Health First Aid training attendance. The information is then compiled into a report that is made available to legislature. However, the report neglects to provide data regarding the types of school personnel, teachers, principals, counselors, etc., who have taken part in the MHFA training and their corresponding school campuses. Having this information would make it easier for the state to identify potential issues with access to MHFA training. It would also increase transparency regarding the reach and effectiveness of the MHFA program.</p> <p>HB 1070 requires the inclusion of more comprehensive data in the HHSC MHFA report. The additional data reported will include the numbers of trainers who left the MHFA training program, the active number of available MHFA trainers, the number of school employees trained at each campus (categorized by LMHA authority region), and the categorization of the school personnel who received training (whether teacher, counselor, principal, etc.). Additionally, LMHAs will also be required to submit comprehensive reporting of how the money allotted for the program was used.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 253 By: Farrar Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to a strategic plan to address postpartum depression.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The American Academy of Pediatrics states that up to 25% mothers experience postpartum depression (PPD). A 2017 report from HHS and DSHS stated that, not only do 17% of Texan mothers experience PPD, but suicide ranked among the top six reasons of death for mothers from 2012-2015 accounting for 9% of suicide in Texas mothers. Symptoms of PPD include anxiety, panic attacks, shame, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, and feelings of guilt. Though the term postpartum is used here, others use the term perinatal because the depression can occur during the pregnancy as well as after birth. Children of mothers with untreated postpartum depression are at higher risk for various other negative health outcomes such as behavioral, social, and emotional problems as well as a higher chance of developing mood disorders themselves. Women with untreated postpartum depression are 4 times more likely to visit the ER and have 90% higher health care costs which be in some part footed by the taxpayer. Addressing postpartum depression in mothers can help improve health outcomes for the entire family and the community.</p> <p>HB 253 amends the Health and Safety Code to establish a 5-year postpartum depression strategic plan for the state to improve access to postpartum depression screening, referral, treatment, and support services. Placed as a responsibility under HHSC, the bill mandates that this plan must include strategies to increase awareness of postpartum depression among state-administered program providers, establish a network of community-based mental health providers and support services, increase women's access to peer support services, raise public awareness of PPD, reduce the stigma of PPD, and identify and leverage sources of funding to support PPD services. The proposed strategic plan could increase coordination between providers and the various state agencies and programs.</p> <p>The commission must coordinate with various other state agencies, including DSHS, the Statewide Health Coordinating Council, the Office of Mental Health Coordination, and the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, in the creation as well eventual reviewing and necessary updating of the strategic plan. No significant fiscal</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

			<p>impact to the state or local governments as a result of this bill is anticipated.</p>	
<p>HB 10 By: Thompson, Senfronia Bonnen, Greg Coleman Phelan Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Mental and Behavioral Health Research Institute.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 10 aims to create the Texas Mental Health and Behavioral Health Research Institute, hereafter referred to as the Research Institute, under the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. It is hoped that the Institute will do for mental health research what the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) did for Cancer research. The Institute will seek out the root causes of mental health and behavioral disorders such as substance abuse disorder, depression, schizophrenia, and others. One of the impetuses for creating this Institute is the rise in school-related tragedies in the country, including the Santa Fe, Texas event. HB 10 aims to understand and subsequently address and prevent the root causes of such events.</p> <p>To do so, the Institute will work with various mental health-related institutions and organizations operating across the state and provide funding to higher education institutions for research efforts, dissemination of best practices, recruitment of researchers and clinicians, training, clinical trials, studies, and patient studies. The focus of the Institute will be on the causes of mental health and behavioral issues, public health trends, new solutions (whether treatments, therapies, pharmaceuticals, or medical interventions), child-adolescent psychiatry, and co-occurring mental and behavioral issues in children with an intellectual or developmental disability. In addition to these responsibilities, the Institute will also provide training, research-backed information on best practices for prescribing opioids, conduct research on substance use disorder, and identify and research any Institute-identified mental health issue. Any institution of higher education that is provided funding for research may partner with any necessary entity to carry out this directive. Every even numbered year, the Institute will provide a biennial report to the governor, Legislative Budget Board, and Institute's the public-facing website. The Institute may prioritize awarding funds to institutes of higher education which applies in partnership with a state agency or other institution.</p> <p>HB 10 also amends the Health and Safety Code to allow for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to share relevant prescription monitoring information with the Institute or any research institutions funded by the Institute for the purpose of compliance monitoring and research. The Institute will be comprised of 13 chairs of psychiatry from the various health-related academic institutions of Texas; one representative from three mental health non-profits designated by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker; one HHSC service expert appointed by the Executive Commissioner; one HHSC facilities expert appointed by the Executive Commissioner; and one Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board appointee.</p> <p>An executive committee will be appointed to approve any funding requests by the Institute. This committee will consist of three appointees by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker; one appointee representing the Institute as voted on by the membership; one Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council member appointed by the Governor.</p> <p>The original bill had the Institute administratively attached to HHSC, but this committee substitute version will have the Institute administratively attached to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The change was made as</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman


			<p>an accommodation to SB 10. Up to 3% of the Institute's funds may be used for funding the coordination between the housing agency, THECB, and the Institute. Should SB 10 be enacted, HB 10 allows for the two entities to coordinate.</p> <p>The provisions enumerated in HB 10 will be funded through a general obligation bond as described by HJR 5 and issued by the Texas Public Finance Authority, contingent on a constitutional amendment ballot in November of this year. This is the same mechanism by which CPRIT is funded. The fiscal note of this bill is currently unknown. However,</p> <p>HB 10 focuses funding and research incentives to the field of psychiatry. This is a concern because there are many professions which all work to address mental health in Texas. Social workers, psychologists, and counselors, for example, are all valuable resources and occupations. It would have been very beneficial to the goal of HB 10 to include these fields as well.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--

LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar – Monday, April 15, 2019


<p>HJR 5 By: Thompson, Senfronia Bonnen, Greg Coleman Phelan Moody</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of general obligation bonds by the Texas Public Finance Authority to fund research, treatment, and access to services in this state for behavioral health, mental health, and substance use and addiction issues.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow for the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue general obligation bonds for the funding of the Texas Mental Health and Behavioral Health Research Institute and other provisions proposed by HB 10. These bonds may not account for over \$3 billion total and not more than \$500 million per fiscal year. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds will be deposited into separate fund or accounts. The debt accumulated to finance the Texas Mental Health and Behavioral Health Research Institute will be subject to payment from the state's general fund.</p> <p>By using the general obligation bonds, the program will be more established and more difficult to defund.</p> <p>The exact fiscal impact on state and local resources is not yet known. This is contingent on the decisions of the legislature and the subsequent decision of the voters on the constitutional amendment election held on November 5, 2019, subject to the passage of this bill.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
---	--	--	---	---

LSG Floor Report For GENERAL State Calendar – Monday, April 15, 2019

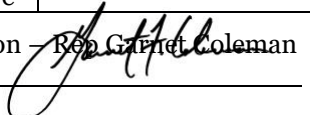
<p>HB 2675 By: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the repeal of the provisions providing for the suspension of the collection of certain fees when the balance in the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund exceeds a specified amount.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2675 repeals a section that currently suspends collection of oil-field cleanup regulatory fees when funds exceed the \$30 million amount specified in the Natural Resources code. This would allow the Railroad Commission of Texas greater capacity to invest and support projects including plugging wells, digitally archiving data and updating the mainframe. There is no forecasted financial impact to the state as the funds have yet to reach that threshold.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 800 By: Howard Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to covered benefits under the child health plan.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>In 2015, Texas had the 4th highest teen pregnancy rate in the state and the highest rate of repeat pregnancy rates in teenagers aged 15-19. Of all teen pregnancy births in 2017, Medicaid covered the costs for 88%. In addition, many teens have a need for contraceptives for non-contraceptive benefits such as for menstruation issues. Since 2007, births in teens aged 15-19 dropped over 50% and this drop is mostly attributed to improved access to contraception. Texas is the only state whose Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) does not cover contraception with parental consent. Because of this, teenagers on CHIP do not currently have any avenue by which to access contraceptives</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Garrett Coleman


		1 Absent	<p>through their own provider. However, Medicaid and Healthy Texas Women (HTW) do offer access with parental consent to the same population under their coverage. With this in mind, there is no reason that CHIP shouldn't as well. Individuals on CHIP are not enrolled in HTW since those with health insurance are not eligible for HTW. Additionally, CHIP coverage is limited to low-income uninsured children and adolescents with family incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level who do not qualify for Medicaid.</p> <p>HB 800 requires the CHIP federal-state partnership to cover prescription FDA approved contraceptive drugs or devices and stipulates that teenagers would only have access to these medical products with the consent of the teenager's acting parent, guardian, or conservator. This does not include abortion-inducing drugs, or drugs or devices that are intended to terminate a pregnancy. Should it pass, this bill would impact up to 50,000 Texans women, aged 14-19 years-old women.</p> <p>Due to the high rates and costs of teen births on of Medicaid and CHIP, the minimal costs of this mandate will be more than offset by savings through the prevention of teen pregnancy. CHIP services are also subject to federal match at 90%. Texas will only be accountable for 10% of the cost of this measure.</p>	
<p>HB 787 By: Davis, Sarah Gutierrez Bailes Sheffield Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to a study on the state certification of music therapists.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are 530 licensed music therapists, MT-BCs, in the state of Texas and five academic institutions offering nationally-approved music therapy training programs that graduate over 80 music therapy students per year. However, Texas does not currently recognize the clinical training or board certification of licensed music therapists. Music therapists currently provide services to over 53,200 Texans. With state recognition of their certification, far more Texans could benefit from music therapy services. Additionally, state recognition would protect Texans from misguidedly seeking music therapy services from non-licensed music therapists.</p> <p>HB 787 offers definitions of music therapy and music therapist and creates the Advisory Council on Music Therapy to conduct a study on the need for the state recognition of music therapists. HHSC will offer the needed administrative and staff support. The Council will consist of nine members: two music therapists, a Texas licensed music therapist who represents an institution of higher education, a Texas licensed social worker or professional counselor, a special education administrator for a school district, an employer of a music therapist, a client or representative of a client who has received music therapy services, and a Texas licensed speech pathologist, physical therapist, or occupational therapist. A list of diverse individuals will be submitted to the Governor for approval by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House. There will be no compensation for these individuals.</p> <p>The Advisory Council will study the necessary core competencies of a music therapist, consulting with the American Music Therapy Association, the Certification Board for Music Therapists, and other experts as needed. The recommendations of the Council regarding best practices, the need and impact of music therapist certification, procedures for state certification will be provided in a report to state leadership and appropriate Senate and House committee. It will also be posted on the commission's website. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to state or local governments.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 350 By: Blanco Capriglione Dean</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the cybersecurity council.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 350 would add an employee of the Elections Division of the Secretary of State to the Texas Cybersecurity Council for the purpose of addressing the state's election security issues. This is an important measure given that direct-recording electronic (DRE) voting machines, which 57% of Texas counties use, are difficult to audit as they do not generate any sort of backup evidence such as a paper trail that verifies that the vote was counted correctly. Lacking any sort of paper trail means there is no record to check the tally against. This sort of vulnerability is what has been the target of cyberattacks in recent years.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Gerald Coleman

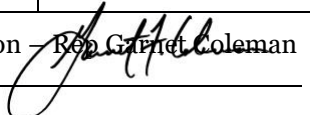
<p>HB 1894 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the imposition of an administrative penalty and the repeal of the criminal penalty for a violation of the interior designers licensing law.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Under current law, anyone can practice interior design but not every interior designer is registered through the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners (TBAE). The registration as a “Registered Interior Designer” is a voluntary registration but if an interior designer uses the title without actually being registered, they can be charged with a Class C misdemeanor. There are ongoing concerns</p> <p>There have been concerns since certain incentives are being offered to those who are registered as licensed interior designer that have a detrimental effect to interior designers who are not licensed. One “incentive” said that one could not claim to be an interior designer unless they were registered. This caused people from not going into the field since they did not want to register. This was overturned in a 2009 court case and allows anyone to be able to call themselves an interior designer.</p> <p>HB 1894 aims to further protect the unregistered interior designers by removing the class C misdemeanor charge from statute. The goal of the bill is to incentivize the voluntary aspect of the registration and keeps the industry working by removing the stigma of not being registered. The TBAE will still be able to regulate the interior designers who are registered, and the registration would continue to be voluntary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 448 By: Turner, Chris Thierry Zerwas Bernal Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of an offense for failing to secure certain children in a rear-facing child passenger safety seat system.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texan families are left devastated when children are seriously injured or killed in car wrecks. Children are better protected when rear-facing in their seats until they are two years old at minimum because the position allows the car seat to absorb a crash’s force. Young children have large heads relative to their bodies; an impact can cause extreme stress or injury to a child’s head, spinal cord, and neck. Current statute allows caregivers to rely on car seat manufacturer’s guidelines and because of this, children commonly switch to forward facing car seats too early.</p> <p>HB 448 strengthens child safety laws by simplifying car seat regulations. HB 448 would apply across the board as opposed to current statute which requires law enforcement officers to know each manufacturer’s guidelines. The rear-facing until 2 is added to current car seat code which is punishable by a fine of \$25-\$250 for an individual operating a passenger vehicle with a child not appropriately secured. This would not be treated as a primary offense; the goal of the legislation is to inform caregivers and keep children safe rather than imposing detrimental charges on caregivers.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 892 By: Kuempel Deshotel Bailes Dean Collier</p>	<p>Relating to county regulation of game rooms.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Gambling is currently illegal in Texas. However, playing on 8-liners is not illegal as long as the game does not generate a payout. In many game rooms over the state, however, owners of the 8-liners will pay the clients cash for their winnings while playing on these machines, making it an illegal game room operation.</p> <p>In the 83rd Legislature, House Bill 1127 passed which allowed Harris County to crack down on illegal game rooms by allowing the county to enforce certain regulations and making it easier for law enforcement to crack down on these game rooms. However, this statute only applied to counties with more than 4 million residents and there have been growing concerns by smaller counties that illegal game rooms have been generating within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>House Bill 892 would amend the statute to apply state wide and allow every county to have the capability to combat illegal gambling activity. The bill removes the population aspect of the statute and allows any county to be able to crack down on these illegal game rooms.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 387 By: Cortez</p>	<p>Relating to submission of reports by an advanced practice registered nurse under the workers' compensation system.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>The return-to-work process of the worker's compensation program includes a qualified healthcare provider's signature on the work status report (also known as the DWC Form-73). A qualified healthcare provider is described in the Labor Code as the treating doctor or a physician assistant who has been delegated by the treating doctor. The work status report communicates the restrictions and physical abilities of the injured worker to both the employer and insurance carrier.</p> <p>Currently, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are not part of this definition despite the fact that APRNs are</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Gerald Coleman


		0 PNV 2 Absent	allowed to assess and treat injured workers under the worker's compensation program. HB 387 amends the Labor Code to include APRNs who are licensed in Texas as one of the healthcare providers who is authorized to sign a worker status report under Texas law. Doing so will expediate the documentation process for worker's compensation and potentially eliminate bureaucratic delays for individuals in the worker's compensation program.	
HB 684 By: Clardy Middleton Klick	Relating to the development of a seizure action plan for certain students enrolled in public schools and training for certain school personnel regarding seizure disorders.	Public Education Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Epilepsy is the 4th most common neurological disorder, with about 3.4 million Americans suffering from this disorder. For children aged 0-17, it is estimated that 6 in every 1,000 will have active epilepsy and this does not account for those who suffer from any seizure related disorders. Currently in schools, there is a lack of training regarding the importance of seizure recognition for staff and this lack of awareness potentially puts those students who have seizure related disorders at risk. HB 684 aims to create "Sam's Law" that would amend the Education Code to provide free training and support from the Epilepsy Foundation for teachers and staff of local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools by providing a seizure action plan. This bill also would require the school nurse to complete a TEA approved online course of instruction for school nurses to manage students with seizures.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 455 By: Allen Cortez Beckley Bowers Talarico	Relating to policies on the recess period in public schools.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	There is a nationwide effort to get young children to participate in 60 minutes of daily activity as it is important to their development, health, and well-being. Physical activity can improve a child's memory, reduce the amount of potential disruptive behavior in the classroom, and has a strong correlation with reducing childhood obesity. HB 455 aims to combat the issue of childhood obesity by creating a model recess policy for school districts to use as a guide to implement on their campus. This bill allows for local control for school districts to implement recess policy on their campuses and promote outdoor physical activity with the resources they have. The current bill requests that the TEA create a model recess policy for school districts, but the author intends to amend the bill by allowing the Texas School Health Advisory Council (TSHAC) to create the model recess policy instead and adds that if the school withholds recess as a form of disciplinary action, it must be stated in their school district policy.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 663 By: King, Ken	Relating to a continuing review and revision of the essential knowledge and skills of the public-school foundation curriculum and proclamations for the production of instructional materials.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) currently requires students to master certain areas of TEKS within a one-year time frame and review and revision of TEKS is dependent on the students' level of mastery in the prior year to allow for future TEKS to have a narrower focus on concepts students are required to master. HB 663 requests that the State Board of Education (SBOE) conduct a review of TEKS at every grade level to narrow in on necessary items that students can learn and master in a one-year time frame. This bill also aims to allow schools to use 25% of their funding, through flexibility in the instructional materials allotment, to buy technology or educational materials, including materials that are not on the instructional materials list, to better serve their students because not every districts' needs are the same.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 306 By: Herrero Price Lozano Miller Blanco	Relating to the creation of an open burn pit registry for certain service members and veterans.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 306 would create a burn pit registry of service members who were exposed to open burn pit smoke or airborne hazards during their military service. The state registry would connect with a federal registry of members exposed to open burn pits while maintaining confidentiality of information. With no long-standing research, there is a lack of understanding of the long-term health effects related to burn pits. HB 306 would connect those affected with the full breadth of health services available to them, a connection system and ongoing outreach which is not available through the national registry. There would also be a voluntary collection of information from family members of deceased veterans, as to better educate those affected. A negative impact is noted, being \$2.592.235 through the biennium ending on August 31.2021.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 766 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, firefighters are not included in the disabled peace officer's tuition exemption and this bill addresses an oversight issue that would allow fire fighters to be included in the exemption. HB 766 extends the tuition and fee waivers for individuals who are permanently disabled because of an injury while on the job firefighter and want to obtain a degree from an institution of higher education. This bill would affect about 10 recipients according to the Higher Education Coordinating Board.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 128 By: Hinojosa Lucio III Lozano Thierry Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to school district notification to a parent of physical fitness assessment results of the parent's child.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, school districts are required to provide a copy of each student's physical fitness assessment results should a parent request those results at the end of the school year. Many parents are not aware those assessments exist or how to request said results. HB 128 requires all school districts to provide notice to the parents that they will receive their student's physical fitness results in addition to providing those results prior to the last day of school. This bill mirrors language that is in current statue.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 726 By: Larson</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of groundwater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>In an effort to rectify what is being called a violation of private property rights through the delay or denial of groundwater permits HB 726 will add additional conditions for consideration when issuing groundwater permits, as well as, modify certain regulations related to the transfer of groundwater outside the boundaries of a groundwater conservation district. HB 726 would require a groundwater district to take into consideration, when granting or denying a permit application if the proposed use of water unreasonably affects existing groundwater and surface water resources, existing permit holders, or registered well owners. Another requirement of consideration would be the "proposed production" of groundwater instead of the "use of water" as it is the production versus the use of water that can have an impact on the distribution and movement of groundwater. HB 726 adds a limitation on the applicability of district rules in effect on the date an application for a permit or a permit amendment is submitted to the district as the only district rules that may govern their decision to grant or deny the application. HB 726 would prohibit a district from requiring a separate permit for the export of groundwater for use outside of the district. HB 726 would also prohibit a district from adopting a moratorium on the issuance of a permit or permit amendment unless the district complies with applicable notice and hearing procedures and makes written findings supporting the district's determination regarding the issuance, including the district's justification for imposing the moratorium. A district may impose a moratorium only after the district conducts a public hearing in which residents of the district and other affected parties have an opportunity to be heard.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 105 By: Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to the inclusion of information about oversize and overweight vehicles in the curriculum of driver education and driving safety courses.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The amount of freight being carried by heavy trucks on state roads is increasing. Learning to drive around these oversize trucks and learning proper stopping distances from these trucks is crucial for the safety of drivers. HB 105 changes the education code to instruct the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to clearly teach and specify the safe ways to operate a vehicle around the overweight and oversized trucks. The bill would instruct the TDLR to change the driver's education curriculum in order to teach new drivers properly.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 1000 By: Paddie Price Phelan Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to rural and opportunity funds and insurance tax credits for certain investments in those funds; imposing a monetary penalty; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1000 aims to impact the lack of capital in rural or federal opportunity zones (chronically low-income communities) by incentivizing, through insurance tax credits, private entities to invest in small businesses within those areas. HB1000 would require the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) to create and implement a fund which allows entities to apply to participate in the program.</p> <p>Definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Closing date</i> is the date the fund has collected all of the capital to be invested after approval by TEDTO ● <i>Growth investment</i> means any capital or investment by an ROF in a small business or a loan with a maturity date of at least one year to a small business. ● <i>Credit-eligible capital contribution</i> means an investment of cash that equals the amount specified on the tax credit certificate made by the entity subject to the state insurance tax liability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the entity in exchange for the investment must receive interest in the fund or a repayment schedule no faster than 5 years ● <i>A small business or targeted small business</i> is defined as a business with fewer than 250 employees, which has its main operations located in qualified areas of Texas or a small business outside of Texas which agrees to relocate to a qualified area within 180 days of receiving the initial growth investment. ● Jobs are considered created under this program if the positions are created by the small business located in Texas, require at least 35 hours of work each week, and were not located in Texas at the time of initial investment in the targeted small business. Jobs are considered retained under this program if the positions would have been lost or moved out of Texas if the investment had not been made in that small business. <p>An investment entity qualifies to apply if they have previous experience investing at least \$100 million in rural areas and small businesses over 4 years. Applications submitted to the TEDTO must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the total investment authority applied for within their business plan ● estimate of the number of jobs to be created or retained as a result of the applicant's growth investments ● an estimated revenue impact assessment within their business plan which is prepared by a <i>third party</i> independent economic forecasting firm for up to 10 years including a projection of state and local revenue that might be generated from applicant's investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This third-party firm is supposed to serve as an external check of the applicant's anticipated job numbers and if their plan will produce the anticipated impact to the state. ● an affidavit from each investor whom has committed to contributing a certain amount ● an application fee of \$5,000 (nonrefundable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The application fee is dispersed to GR and shall be re-appropriated to the TEDTO for the purpose of the program. <p>The office shall review the applications in the order they are received and return a decision to the applicant within 30 days of receipt. TEDTO may deny the applicant for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the application fee is not paid in full ● the applicant's revenue impact assessment does not show sufficient positive impact to exceed the tax credits they received for participating in this fund ● if less than 65% of the investment is determined to not be credit-eligible capital contributions ● TEDTO has already approved the maximum amount of investment authority for that tax year <p>Once approved, TEDTO will give notice to the applicant that they have been approved as a rural and opportunity fund and how much investment authority they are approved to invest. The amount of tax credits available to the fund is</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
---	---	---	---	---

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

capped at \$35 million per year. As applicants are considered and approved, if their request for investment authority results in tax credits which would exceed the \$35 million cap for that tax year, TEDTO will decrease their requested investment authority to be within an amount not to exceed the tax credit cap. TEDTO will also give a tax credit certificate to each investor affiliated with the applicant to allow for their tax credits. This tax credit certificate will include the amount of credit the investor may receive.

The entity as part of the rural and opportunity fund is eligible to receive the tax credit for their state insurance tax liability in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th year since their closing date as long as their tax credit is not revoked for compliance issues. The amount of credit the entity may receive for each year is equal to 25% of the total tax credit. The credit claimed for a tax year cannot exceed the amount of state insurance tax liability due for that year. However, the entity may carry over tax credits that are not able to be used up to 20 years after their closing date. The entity cannot transfer their tax credit to another entity unless they are an affiliate which is also subject to state insurance tax liability.

Upon approval, the fund will collect the committed contributions from each investor and provide proof to TEDTO that they have collected the funds with at least 10% of their investment amount being from affiliates of the fund (employees, directors, etc.). Should the entity fail to collect the necessary capital from their private investors within 65 days of their approval, their investment authority shall be dispersed to other investors or new applicants.


There are claw-back provisions built into HB 1000. The fund may not exceed 20% of their investment authority per small business investment in an attempt to ensure the fund is indeed investing in small businesses. And at least 85% of those small business ventures need to be in a rural area. If the fund fails to invest 100% of their investment authority in small businesses in Texas by the 3rd year from their closing date, their tax credit certificate will be revoked. If the fund fails to keep 100% of their funds invested through the 6th year from their closing date, their tax credit certificate will be revoked. The fund will have 90 days to correct any violations which resulted in a pending revocation of their tax credit certificate. Should the fund's tax credit certificate be revoked, TEDOT will notify the comptroller and if necessary, provide the comptroller with all current and revoked tax credit certificates pertaining to the fund. The investment authority associated with that tax credit will be re-distributed to other funds or new applicants. The comptroller will recapture the credit for the revoked tax credit certificate.

On or after the 6th year anniversary, the fund may apply to exit the program and no longer be subject to regulation under the TEDOT. The fund is eligible to leave the program if their tax credit certificates have not been revoked. TEDOT may *not* revoke any tax credit certificates after the fund has successfully exited the program and must allow them to use the credit they've been given.


At the 6th year anniversary, the fund will be subject to penalties if the fund distributes profit to its holders more than the fund's investment authority *and* does not create or retain the amount of jobs estimated in their business plan from their application. The penalty will equal the difference in the actual jobs created or retained and the estimated jobs created or retained times the fund's authorized distribution. The penalty will be removed prior to the distribution to the fund's holders and be added to GR.

The fund, as a whole, shall submit an annual report to TEDOT including:

- a bank statement with their investments
- the name, location, and industry of each business receiving an investment


OK for Distribution 

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an estimation of the number of jobs created and retained in the previous year as a result of the fund’s growth investments • the average annual salary of the jobs • any other information TEDOT requires <p>HB 1000 has the capabilities to provide much needed capital for small businesses in Texas and create jobs which are limited in rural or low-income communities. However, in order to implement this program, tax credits will be given to these investors resulting in a decrease to the premium taxes collected by the state. The Foundation School Fund (FSF) removes 25% of those collected premium taxes to help fund education programs. Giving tax credits for this program will result in an \$8.75 million yearly decrease to the FSF (starting in 2023) and by extension funds for the Texas Education Agency and its programs. The intent of this legislation to create jobs and increase support for rural and low-income areas is good, but this will result in less funds for education programs; pitting funding for two policy needs against each other.</p> <p>This program does not include minimum job standards for these entities to meet and it is recommended that standards be in place such as a percentage of jobs created/retained in relation to the size of the venture, minimum wages set for their employees, etc. In addition, as written, TEDOT must go through the applications on a first come first serve basis, leaving no discretion as to which business plan would result in the most economic development in these rural or opportunity areas. The legislature should consider making the application process more competitive, allowing for many applicants to be considered at once, and provide TEDOT more discretion for approval or denial to ensure Texas receives the best deals. The legislature should also require that the annual report’s contents include more detailed information about jobs created, the specific area those jobs are located, etc. in regard to each investment in small businesses, rather than the whole of the fund, to further transparency and return on investment for Texas’ economy.</p> <p>As written, the provisions of this fund is would be permanent without any end date or review to ensure accountability. There should be consideration given to requiring a sunset review of this program to ensure its positive economic impact on the state of Texas and review the effectiveness of the program.</p>	
<p>HB 80 By: Ortega Button Howard Sheffield Stucky</p>	<p>Relating to a study and report regarding shortages in certain health professions.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Health Profession shortages can be seen across the state with Texas not participating in Medicaid expansion, there is an increasing number of people who are uninsured and unable to receive health-related care, and this can be especially detrimental to those residing in areas that are medically underserved.</p> <p>HB 80 aims to amend the Education Code by adding a section that requests a study be conducted for shortages in certain health professions, including dentistry, to address areas that are medically underserved. This bill would require THECB to work with the Health Professional Resource Center, the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies, and the Texas Demographic Center, to conduct a statewide study to identify regional shortages in health professions. With the data collected, THECB would be allowed to make recommendations for the establishment of future programs and address the increased need for certain existing programs based on the needs of the state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 218 By: Krause Oliverson Hernandez Blanco Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the abolition of student loan default or breach of a student loan repayment or scholarship contract as a ground for nonrenewal or other</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>Under current statue, a person who has a professional license who defaults on a student loan payment can have their license revoked. This practice is unethical and only leads to further barriers for that person to cross, especially trying to repay back their defaulted loans with a professional license that was taken away. Professional licenses can include professions ranging from dentists to teachers to social workers.</p> <p>HB 218 repels a portion of the Education Code that removes language relating to removing licenses from default</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

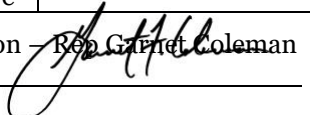
OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

	disciplinary action in relation to a professional or occupational license and to certain duties of state agencies and political subdivisions in relation to delinquent or defaulted student loans.	0 PNV 2 Absent	borrowers, and adds a section that would restrict revoking, denial, or nonrenewal, of a professional or occupational license for a person that has defaulted on a student loan and allows the default borrower to continue practicing professionally.	
HB 314 By: Howard Guillen Bucy Morrison	Relating to use of compensatory education allotment funding to provide assistance to students at risk of dropping out of school who are pregnant or who are parents and to reporting through the Public Education Information Management System.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) does not have a section relating to the use of compensatory education allotment funds by school districts for students who are deemed at risk of dropping out due to being pregnant or are currently parents. PEIMS currently does not include pregnancy as a reason that a student might withdraw, or drop out, from their school. HB 314 would amend the Education Code to address these issues and allow school districts to use their compensatory education allotment funds to provide child-care services, cover expenses associated for services offered through a life skills program, or child-care expenses assistance for students who are at risk of dropping out due to parenthood, if the school district chooses to do so.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 629 By: Landgraf	Relating to establishing a protective order registry and the duties of court personnel and other persons and entities in regard to the registry.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	There is not an official way for anyone to know who has a protective order issued against them. This raises concerns due to past cases in which victims are injured by their aggressor who had a protective order issued against them. It has been brought up that if there was a registry for protective orders, victims would have the choice to know if their significant other has one issued against them. HB 629, known as Monica's Law, aims to address this issue by creating an online registry that shows who has had a protective order issues against them after the due process of the law has been followed. Monica was a victim of domestic violence who was murdered by her aggressor who had a protective order issued against him by someone else. The concept of this registry is to let people know who their partner could potentially be and allow them to be safe. The registry would only register an offender after the protective order is issued, if the protective order is revoked or dissolved, the name of the offender would be taken off the registry. The victims also have the option to have their name in the registry.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 402 By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to the adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In Texas, there are concerns that regular citizens cannot access the law regularly and cannot access official state documents because the state does not publish the materials in an electronic database. HB 402 aims to address the concern by amending the government code to assign a publisher and upload the official laws of the state to an electronic database. This will allow regular citizens with inquiries to be able to access the law in an easier manner and it provides official state documents. There are current online versions of the law documents, however, none are considered official state documents.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org


<p>HB 852 By: Holland Shaheen Guillen Harris</p>	<p>Relating to information a municipality may consider in determining the amount of certain building permit and inspection fees.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Constitution stipulates that regulatory fees assessed by a municipality must be proportional to the operating costs of the program for which the fee is assessed. This means that fees which result in a significant net revenue for the municipality are unconstitutional. Currently, municipalities often base the fee for home inspection on the estimated value of the home. However, the operational cost of performing an inspection is not necessarily proportional to the estimated value of the home. This means that municipalities may use more highly valued homes as a source of revenue through higher inspection fees.</p> <p>HB 852 seeks to address this discrepancy between the Constitution and the practice of assessing inspection fees by prohibiting municipalities from using any valuation of a residential dwelling to determine the fees charged for permitting or inspection. Additionally, the bill also prevents municipalities from requiring the disclosure of the sales price, contract price, or estimated value or cost of a residential dwelling except as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.</p> <p>The Texas Municipal League states that if this method of determining permit fees were eliminated, as mandated by HB 852, it is uncertain what method would replace it. Due to this reason, it is also uncertain what the fiscal impact for cities and municipalities would be. For this reason, several major cities, including Houston, Austin, and Dallas, have shown their opposition to this proposition.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 548 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to reporting certain truancy information through the Public Education Information Management System.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Governor's Office has special allocated money that goes toward grants to aid with truancy. This allocated money is an estimated \$10 million that can be directed to helping with truancy, but currently there is no data to support where these grants can be directed to. In 2015, HB 2398 was a truancy reform bill that was passed, but an unintended and overlooked consequence that came from HB 2398 was the termination of TEA to collect data on grade-level truancy information from school districts.</p> <p>HB 548 amends the Education Code to help further assess truancy issues across the state by allowing the TEA to collect information for grade-level truancy through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 686 By: Clardy White Ashby Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to making permanent the former temporary increases in records archive fees and records management and preservation fees charged by district and county clerks.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>When filling a court document with the county district clerks, a fee of 10 dollars is charged to the person who filed the documents. The \$10 fee is used to preserve and maintain the court documents that can be decades old. In past sessions, the fee was increased from 5 dollars to 10 on a temporary basis to cover the costs of preserving the documents.</p> <p>House bill 686 aims to preserve the filling fee at 10 dollars permanently and not reduce it back to 5. This would allow the district clerks to maintain and preserve the court documents appropriately. The bill does not increase the fee, it just removes the temporary provision and keeps the fee at the current rate.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1995 By: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to the distribution to the Texas Racing Commission of certain money deducted from simulcast pari-mutuel pools.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Racing Commission agency is a state agency that is completely funded by fees it charges by regulating the racing field and has even managed to cut down their budget to be able to still regulate the racing and wagering field. However, due to the decreasing number of licenses being sought in the field, the agency has seen a shortage of influx of money.</p> <p>Currently, there is a tax revenue that is collected from certain horse and greyhound racing tracks that is being used for several different purposes. HB 1995 re allocates that tax towards the Texas Racing commission. The bill would stabilize the agencies fund and allow it to continue to regulate the racing field. The goal of the bill is to prevent the shutdown of the agency and allow for the racing field and wagering to continue to be regulated and kept safe.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

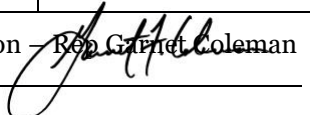
<p>HB 3366 By: Kacal Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to the deposit and distribution by the Texas Racing Commission of certain pari-mutuel wagering funds to benefit the Texas-bred program.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Bred program is an incentive program that provides monetary assistance to owners who breed certain types of horses. The program is completely funded by the Texas Racing Commission (TRC) and fees generated from licensing procedures from within the agency. Currently, there is a pass-through mandate that states how the money is funneled through the TRC until it gets to the program.</p> <p>HB 3366 aims to adjust the pass-through mandate by ensuring the money goes straight to a recognized bred organization. The bill does not create a new revenue stream it just adjusts the current process. In the current process, the money goes from licensed board race tracks to the TRC then to the recognized Bred organization. Under HB 3366 the TRC would create a new bred fund in which all of the revenues would go straight from the Licensed race tracks to the fund then to a recognized organization.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1421 By: Israel Capriglione Cain</p>	<p>Relating to cybersecurity of voter registration lists and other election-related documents, systems, and technology.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>During the 85th Legislative session, HB 8 passed as an omnibus bill relating to cybersecurity within state agency information resources. Section 14 of the bill requires the Secretary of State office to conduct a study on election cyber-attacks on election infrastructure which includes vulnerabilities against voting machines and registered voter lists and recommendations for preventative measures to protect voting machines and registered voter lists.</p> <p>Currently assessments and recommendations for election cybersecurity is optional. 90 counties are currently taking advantage of this process to ensure election security. HB 1421 would make the recommendations a requirement for all counties to ensure the strength and security of Texas election infrastructure.</p> <p>HB 1421 creates a new section within the Election Code on election cybersecurity that provides clarifying definitions, and requirements to implement HB 8 findings to better prepare and defend Texas against cyberattacks. HB 1421 requires Counties and Secretary of State to complete an annual hygiene training, report any cybersecurity breaches to legislative committee members with overseeing elections, and implement measures to strengthen election infrastructure. County Elections Officers shall request assessments, upon the extent that state funds are available to receive remediation for any breaches that are found. Federal funds have been provided and used for cybersecurity measures by the Secretary of State office to prevent this requirement from being a financial burden to the counties and state.</p> <p>HB 1421 will require risk assessments and preventative measures to be taken to ensure electronic use, storage, and transmission of election data and election system is secure and protected.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1802 By: Bohac</p>	<p>Relating to the deadline for filing a request for binding arbitration of certain appraisal review board orders.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1802 amends the deadline for a property owner to complete a request for binding arbitration from 45 to 60 days following notice of an appraisal review board order. This would bring uniformity to the appeal process deadlines by aligning the timeframe with that of the alternate method of appeal (filing lawsuit in district court) and result in less confusion for the taxpayer.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1702 By: Howard Stucky Frank</p>	<p>Relating to services provided for students at public institutions of higher education who are or were in foster care.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>Extended Foster Care is a voluntary program that lets young adults stay in foster care placement after DFPS legal conservatorship is terminated. Extended care youth may sign permission to stay in care until the age of 21. Often there are extended care youth who go on to pursue a degree at an institution of higher education and are unaware of services that can be provided by their campus liaison officer since there is no requirement for the institution of higher education to publicize the liaison officer's information.</p> <p>HB 1702 amends the Education Code by bridging the gap of awareness of services for students who are or were in</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman


		0 Absent	foster care, by strengthening the role of the liaison on campus. This bill requires that the designated liaison officer at the institution of higher education, aid current and incoming students who were or are in foster care, and requires that the institution of higher education publicize the name and contact information for the liaison officer.	
HB 1953 By: Thompson, Ed	Relating to the conversion of plastics and other recoverable materials through pyrolysis or gasification.	Environmental Regulation Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>With growing acceptance of the growing environmental concerns, recycling is becoming more important. There are types of non-recyclable materials that are heavily used by Texans- for example, plastics #3-7. These would be the thinner cheaper plastics like candy wrappers, chip bags, and some plastic water bottle brands. These materials head to landfills because they cannot be reused the way that more durable plastics can.</p> <p>HB 1953 aims to solve that problem and promote a more sustainable and circular economy for non-recyclable plastics by using a form of incineration to convert these materials into synthetic oil and gas. The conversion method described in HB 1953 called pyrolysis or gasification. This sounds great because it would reduce the amount of plastic in landfills but there are concerns. HB 1953 exempts facilities converting recyclable materials using pyrolysis or gasification from regulation under the rules adopted under the Solid Waste Disposal Act if the operator can prove that the final product has a resale value that is higher can the cost of converting the materials. It does require solid waste generated by the conversion process to be disposed of in a hazardous solid waste management facility, which is beneficial. The exemption from regulation is problematic for obvious reasons, such as being that they won't have to report quantities of products being recycled or that it can use a broad range of products.</p> <p>Numerous plants in the United States, Europe, United Kingdom, and Canada have been forced to shut down due to failure to meet pollution control requirements, corrosive damage to equipment, maintaining temperatures, energy efficiency, revenue generation, and emission targets—risks tend to outweigh potential returns. When the facilities are cancelled, it can mean wasted money, wasted time, ruined equipment, environmental damage, and sometimes a huge pile of waste that must be transported. The conversion process also has byproducts including air emissions (emissions violations repeatedly from numerous facilities), slag (form of solid waste), fly ash (requires special handling because of toxicity), and wastewater.</p> <p>Forms of incineration including gasification and pyrolysis create a demand for waste since it is being used for fuel. This reduces incentives for waste minimization and instead encourages Texas to generate more waste. The program could become hungry for more feedstock and dip into materials (like plastics #1-2) that are being recycled—which is better economically and environmentally. A more dependable economic and technical success approach comes from prevention, source separation, recycling and composting, and redesigning products with no value. The intention behind HB 1953 is a good effort to find use for the plastics and materials going straight to the landfill, however, it is risky and needs regulation.</p>	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 961 By: Howard	Relating to the membership and training course requirements of school district and open-enrollment charter school concussion oversight teams.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Concussions in interscholastic athletics happen far too often and if the student who received a concussion is not monitored correctly their condition could worsen and have a detrimental effect on their health. Texas schools currently have Concussion Oversight Teams (COT) that monitor students who have received concussions and can assess whether or not it is safe for them to return-to-play and set guidelines to ease their students back into activities if it is safe. The COT must have at least one physician and can consist of various other professionals such as athletic trainers, a neuropsychologist, physician assistant, or advance practice registered nurse, but currently the COT list excludes school nurses from professional individuals that can be part of the team.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution —  Rep. Garrett Coleman

			HB 961 amends the Education Code to add school nurses to the list of professional individuals that can serve on the COT, not just on a voluntary basis, after they have completed the required training course.	
HB 851 By: Huberty	Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Individual Graduation Committees (IGCs) are essential for students who were on track to graduate from high school but because they failed to meet certain requirements their graduation eligibility was then revoked. IGCs offer an alternative graduation plan for students who have a multitude of barriers to cross which often prevents them from meeting certain graduation requirements outside of the IGC. An example of a student failing a graduation requirement can include a student with a learning disability that causes them to fail a required End-Of-Course Exam (EOC) 3 or more times preventing them from being on track for graduation. These committees allow for school districts to analyze their students more efficiently and serve their needs. Currently, there are expiration dates in statute governing IGCs that are set to expire in 2019. HB 851 amends the Education Code by removing language relating to provisions for the Individual Graduation Committees, which includes the entirety of current student portfolios, and extends the requirement for the commissioner of education to establish IGCs.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 250 By: Farrar	Relating to attorney's fees associated with certain court proceedings for cruelly treated animals; authorizing fees and costs.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, during cases of animal abuse, courts cannot order for the defendants to pay for the attorney fees for the case. However, there are concerns that this limits large counties from prosecuting animal abuse cases due to the high costs of these fees. HB 250 aims to address these concerns by giving the county courts discretion on charging defendants who have been found guilty of committing animal abuse to cover the attorney fees as well as the courts costs. The courts will have the option to not charge the defendants with these fees If the defendant provides an affidavit stating they make a certain low income.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 1060 By: Bell, Cecil	Relating to the authority of a property owner to request that notice of a protest hearing before the appraisal review board be delivered by certified mail or electronic mail.	Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1060 amends the Tax Code to require that an appraisal review board (ARB), if requested by the taxpayer, deliver notice of scheduled protest hearing by certified mail or email. The taxpayer must indicate during written request for protest and provide the necessary information. This will increase public accessibility in the appraisal review process and reduce missed hearings, which are difficult and burdensome to reschedule. Provisions also state the taxpayer could assume cost of postage at the board's discretion.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 36 By: Ortega Neave Farrar White	Relating to expedited proceedings in cases involving dangerously damaged or deteriorated or substandard buildings or improvements in a municipality.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In certain communities, there are certain buildings which are so old that they generate a public safety risk. However, when a suit is brought against these building to restore them and fix them, it can take several years to reach a settlement or a disposition by the courts. During this time, the buildings can get even more dangerous to the community and residents. HB 36 aims to address these concerns by expediting these cases and making them a priority in the courts. The goal of the bill is to provide safety to residents of Texas and safely restore the older building to its full potential. The bill aims to restore safety into these communities.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 1142 By: Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to the creation and operations of health care provider participation programs in certain counties.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the Health and Safety Code does not yield any authority to governing county boards to create and operate local health care provider participations programs.</p> <p>HB 1142 seeks to amend current law by allocating power to a commissioner's court whose county is not served by a hospital district or public hospital; specifically, counties whose population ranges from 125,000. However, the population cannot be over 140,000 and not adjacent to counties with a more than 1 million in population</p> <p>HB 1142 would help counties, such as Taylor County, gain access to a Texas Waiver. Yet, at the same time, enhance the livelihoods of county residents, especially those who have been categorized as indigent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 1891 By: Stucky</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for students who achieve a certain score on a high school equivalency examination.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Under current law, the state allows for Texas Success Initiative (TSI) exemptions depending on levels of performance that can prove a student's college readiness. Some current exemptions students can obtain college readiness by are through the ACT, SAT, or state administered STAAR assessments. However, there is no current student exemption that deems college readiness that a student can earn via a state-authorized High School Equivalency (HSE). An example of an HSE can include a successful GED score.</p> <p>If a student can earn college readiness through an HSE exemption it would provide that student the opportunity to skip additional testing requirements and help students, that wouldn't otherwise receive the other exemptions listed above, be deemed as college ready.</p> <p>HB 1891 acknowledges that a state-authorized HSE, such as a GED, typically does not measure college readiness but requires that the state-authorized HSE conform to all set standards to obtain the TSI exemption equivalency. HB 1891 amends the Education Code by adding a subsection that would level the playing field and give an opportunity to students to achieve a score on an exam that is of high school equivalency in a subject area to be deemed college ready according to college readiness standards.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 25 By: González, Mary White Phelan Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to a pilot program for providing services to certain women and children under the Medicaid medical transportation program.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, mothers on Medicaid have the option to be transported to their medical appointments through the Medical Transport Program with at least a 48-hour notice to the transportation provider and may be individually transported or participate in a rideshare. However, mothers cannot take their children with them on the ride as the current model will only pay for the spot of the individual on Medicaid. This is a huge barrier to women who do not have access to child-care or cannot afford child-care; resulting in missed appointments. In addition, women who live in rural areas experience additional barriers to gain access to transportation to their appointments. 66% of women on Medicaid do not receive prenatal care and many women do not make their postnatal appointments. Missed prenatal or postnatal appointments lead to increased negative outcomes for both the mother and child and is a contributing factor to Texas' high maternal mortality rates.</p> <p>HB25 creates a pilot program through the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and, in collaboration with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, allow managed transportation organizations (MTOs) in at least one healthcare region to opt-in to the program to provide transportation services for pregnant women and women who have recently delivered. The MTO will arrange for and provide safe medical transportation services for women who request for the service 2 working days ahead of time or upon request if the mother does not qualify for a shared trip through a non-participating MTO. The MTO will provide these transportation services at no additional cost to Medicaid or the state and should not participate in the pilot program if they cannot do so.</p> <p>With HB25, mothers will have increased access to transportation services for potentially life-saving prenatal and postnatal appointments and be able to bring children along; removing a substantial barrier to care.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 2790 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to prima facie evidence of the intent to sell certain alcoholic beverages.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Dry counties in Texas are defined as counties in which the sale of alcohol is prohibited. However, for residents who live in these counties, the possession of alcohol for personal consumption is not illegal. Current provisions state that if a resident is in possession of more than a 24 pack of 12-ounce beers or more that a quart of liquor, they can be charged with the possession with the intent to sell alcohol. There are concerns that these statutes are outdated limit citizens from their possessions for personal consumptions. HB 2790 aims to address these concerns by repealing the section of the alcoholic beverage code and allow residents from these dry counties to possess any amount of alcohol for their personal consumption. The right to sell alcohol would still be protected to those who have a permit to sell.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1998 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the importation and use for manufacturing purposes of malt beverages by the holder of a brewer's permit or manufacturer's license.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, in Texas law, malt-based products cannot be imported from out of state although bottlers previously had the permission to transport it from out of state. The import of the malt-based products from out of state is cheaper than producing it from within the state and keeps bottling companies at a competing market rate. Amends the code so malt beverages can be imported for manufacturing purposes from out of state lines. Allowing the malt based bottling companies to be able to compete with their rivals and keep their rates at market value.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3246 By: Darby Geren Larson</p>	<p>Relating to the treatment and recycling for beneficial use of certain waste arising out of or incidental to the drilling for or production of oil or gas.</p>	<p>Energy Resources Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>To promote recycling within the industry, HB 3246 clarifies ownership of produced water resulting from oil and gas production. In 2013, HB 2767 provided provisions around ownership of the waste water for recyclers but did not address ownership for water haulers and oil and gas operators involved in the recycling process as established in this proposed bill. HB 3246 further stipulates oil and gas leases and surface use agreements are among the legally binding documents that would provide an exemption to the ownership provision. This addition attempts to but doesn't fully address concerns expressed by Texas Landowners Council and the Texas and Southwest Cattle Raisers Association in the ambiguity of language that could jeopardize the landowners' water and mineral rights.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 55 By: González, Mary Sanford VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the reporting of certain information regarding prekindergarten programs provided by or on behalf of school districts.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Strong evidence-based research shows that students who are participate in prekindergarten classes will be better prepared for kindergarten, excel on their 3rd grade reading exams, and leads to increased graduation rates from high school. Research also shows that the quality of education a student receives is related to the size of their classroom, and HB 55 addresses this issue by instructing the TEA to collect data on prekindergarten class sizes throughout the state. HB 55 instructs the TEA to gather information and data regarding current prekindergarten class sizes and the student-to-teacher ratios to predict the effects of implementing restrictions on class sizes in future policy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2137 By: Burns Herrero</p>	<p>Relating to an application made by certain retired state and federal officers to obtain a license to carry a handgun; waiving a fee.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, retired peace officers can apply for a license to carry through the Department of Public Safety for a reduced licensing fee. The current peace officers and jailers have that fee waived while in duty but once they retire, they have to begin paying the LTC fee. The goal of the bill is to have that fee waived for all honorably retired peace officers and allow them to renew their LTC at no cost and therefore by pass the reduced fee of \$25 dollars. By waiving this fee, it would put retired peace officers at the same cost of fees as current peace officers and jailers.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 791 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of volunteer fire department for purposes of certain motor fuel tax exemptions.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 791 revises the definition of a volunteer fire dept for motor fuel tax exemption purposes. Current statute requires an all-volunteer force to qualify for exemptions whereas this bill would expand the exemptions to include departments with 50% or more volunteer firefighters and operated on a not-for-profit basis (~190 fire departments).</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2228 By: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the inspection of certain boilers.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, steam collection boilers and liberation drums that were manufactured after 1970 are inspected every 10 years in order to assess functionality and safety. In order to inspect these boilers, they must be shut down. There are concerns that these shut downs cause the government and the company money. HB 2228 aims to address the shutdown concerns by extending the inspection time periods from 10 years to 12 for boilers that are manufactured after 1970. After 1970, manufacturers switched materials and began making boilers with a finer steel that is safer and lasts longer. The bill would give access to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to extend the inspections upon request.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2699 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the permit and license examinations for hearing instrument fitters and dispensers.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>The hearing instrument fitters and dispensers program was transferred to the Department of Licensing and Regulation in 2016 from the Texas Department of State Health Services. However, when the transfer occurred, the practices for the state tests were not modified to fit the standards that the TDLR requires. HB 2699 aims to address the issue by updating statutory language to fit with the TDLR standards for testing. The bill clarifies that an oral portion of the exam will be removed, Currently, an individual can take the licensing exam at any point throughout the year but statute states that the test is only given twice a year. HB 2699 addresses this concern by removing the outdated language from statute.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2684 By: Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from the sales tax for items sold by a nonprofit organization at a county fair.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2684 amends the Tax Code to exempt sales tax on taxable items at a county fair if the seller or retailer is a nonprofit organization and is listed as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization for federal income taxation purposes. This would alleviate the burden on these organizations from collecting and remitting the tax along with the difficulties of navigating the variations from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1355 By: Button Paul Holland Bowers Lang</p>	<p>Relating to the execution of a search warrant for taking a blood specimen from certain persons in certain intoxication offenses.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, there are counties in Texas that are so small they do not have a hospital within their county limits. If someone suffers an accident for driving while intoxicated and is taken to a hospital in another county, the police officer from the county where the accident originated has to go through the other counties law enforcement in order to execute a warrant to withdraw blood in order to make an arrest. House Bill 1355 aims to expedite this process by allowing Law enforcement agencies to execute blood withdrawing warrants in any county in which the law enforcement agency can make an arrest which is usually in counties adjacent to their jurisdiction. This would allow for law enforcement to function in the most efficient way possible and not have them work with other agencies just to execute a warrant to withdraw blood.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Garrett Coleman

<p>HB 2755 By: Price Coleman Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the amount of certain county and public health district fees.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2755 seeks to permit county and public health districts to establish their own fees based on the cost of conducting inspections. Currently, under Texas law within the Health and Safety code, the fee for inspections shall not exceed \$150.</p> <p>HB 2755 would allow fees to be increased in order to recover district cost for health and hospitals; but would limit any fees that exceed normal annual agency cost for correlating inspections.</p> <p>HB 2755 would allow a state inspection agency to recover departmental deficits relating to cost contributed prior annual inspections. Subsequently, the agency's human resources will not be exploited, and the integrity of food and health inspections will not be compromised due budgetary issues. The passage of HB 2755 would allow food and health inspections agencies to operate at optimal operation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 1182 By: Goodwin Talarico Beckley Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to personal financial literacy courses for high school students in public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Personal Financial Literacy (PFL) courses are very common throughout the nation, but there is little to no training for students and personal finances in Texas even if there is a TEKS section that defines a PFL course to be offered. A PFL course in Texas is currently only offered as an elective course and it is not mandatory. There are many benefits for a high-school student to participate in a mandatory PFL course as the covered topics can help them navigate their personal finances in the future. PFL courses can also fill a gap for students who may otherwise not have had parents to teach them how to be financially literate due to economic or cultural barriers. A few topics covered in PFL courses are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checking accounts, credit, debt, and credit sources • Careers and income • Budgeting and planning for financial needs • Reading markets, shopping, and negotiating • Saving and investing to support financial goals <p>HB 1182 requires local school districts, and open-enrollment charter schools, to provide a course in Personal Financial Literacy as a required course instead of an elective. Additionally, this bill changes the total number of elective credits required from 5 credits to 4 and 1/2 to allow for the PFL course to take up the 1/2 credit.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>