



# 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

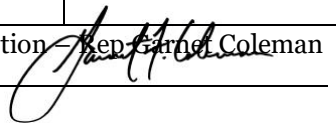
Rep. Mary Gonzalez  
 Rep. Gina Hinojosa  
 Rep. Rhetta Bowers  
 Rep. John Turner  
 Rep. Ina Minjarez  
 Rep. Sergio Munoz  
 Rep. Carl Sherman  
 Rep. Alex Dominguez  
 Rep. Nicole Collier  
 Rep. Julie Johnson

## Representative

## Desk

### LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business – Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>HB 2708</b> By: Thompson, Ed   Martinez   Paul	Relating to the purchase of food and beverages by the Texas Department of Transportation for certain employees responding to emergencies or disasters.	Transportation  Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	HB 2708 aims to improve the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) efficiency when responding directly after a disaster. Waiting on the declaration of a disaster to set things in motion can waste time. HB 2708 allows TxDOT to purchase food and beverages—for example, Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and bottled water— using money appropriated to them in advance of hurricane season for employees responding to emergencies and disasters.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3766</b> By: Burrows   Springer   Goldman   Leman	Relating to the storage of grapes in a public warehouse.	Agriculture & Livestock  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Grape producers in Texas are currently forced to turn over the title of their grapes to a 3rd party that stores or processes wine from the producer’s grapes into bulk wine. This is an issue because it creates an unfair market for the grape growers and can force the growers to sell their grapes below market value. When the grapes enter storage in a public warehouse, grape producers must give up their rights to their grapes. Grapes are currently the only commodity in Texas that does not have protection or rights to retain title to their product. HB 3766 amends the Texas Agriculture Code to create a receipt to allow grape growers to retain title over their grapes. This modification in language to the Agriculture Code will include grapes in the public warehouse operator definition. The bill also addresses that the product of grapes does turn into alcohol and defines that, regardless of the ability to turn into alcohol, it is legal to remain in storage in a public warehouse.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1364</b> By: Wu	Relating to the age of a child at which a juvenile court may exercise jurisdiction over the child and to the minimum age of criminal responsibility.	Juvenile Justice & Family Issues  Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Currently, courts have jurisdiction over a juvenile who is in custody for committing a crime from the age of 10 to 17 years old. The number of 10 and 11-year-olds in detention is a small percentage (1% in 2018) of the total children in detention. HB1364 raises the lower age of the court’s jurisdiction to 12 years of age. If a child younger than 12 years allegedly commits a first or second-degree felony, HB1364 allows for a jurisdictional hearing to consider if alternative options are sufficient or if it is appropriate and in the best interest of the child to go through the juvenile justice system. HB1364 also allows for juvenile jurisdiction over 18-year-olds who are charged for an offense committed prior to their 12th birthday. As written, HB1364 allows 18-year-olds who are being charged for exhibiting delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision prior to turning 17 to be under the jurisdiction of the juvenile justice system. At this time, the author intends to strike this portion with an amendment.  Many of these 10 or 11-year-olds are in custody for minor violations, misbehaving at school, or exhibiting conduct in need of supervision. Half of the 10 and 11-year-olds who were detained in 2018 had mental health issues or were children with special needs. Children are better served in their communities with systems of support rather than in detention which has lasting negative impacts on their development. Children who encounter the juvenile justice system are more likely to experience homelessness, recidivism, or substance abuse issues along with exposure to significant trauma.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon (515) 313-3712 Ali@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution  Rep. Garnet Coleman

Raising the lower age of criminal responsibility will result in a cost savings of \$1,195,274 for the state over the biennium. In addition, local probation programs will experience cost savings because they provide the majority of probation services for this population.

## LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE Calendar – Wednesday, April 17, 2019

<p><b>HB 7</b> By: Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to disaster preparation for state agencies and political subdivisions.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 7 directs the office of the Governor to maintain a comprehensive list of regulatory waivers needed, as well as compiling rules that need to be suspended during a time of disaster. The Governor currently has the authority to suspend any rules, but having a list ready will expedite the process for disaster relief and removes some of the red tape that slowed down the clean-up process after Hurricane Harvey.</p> <p>HB 7 also instructs the Texas Department of Emergency Management(TDEM) to consult with other agencies in order to execute contracts for debris clean up following a disaster. This will allow for pre-arranged goods and services to be streamlined and be delivered in order to ease the disaster relief after a storm. HB 7 expands current law to include TDEM to work with any state agency to streamline this process and allows for the creation of partnerships between agencies before a disaster hits.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2794</b> By: Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of emergency management in this state.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In December 2018, the governor announced that the Texas Department of Emergency Management(TDEM) system would be reorganized into the Texas A&amp;M University System. HB 2794 aligns current statute with this announcement and process that has already begun. Texas A&amp;M already has emergency management systems that align with TDEM's process. The chief of this program would be appointed by the governor and TDEM would still be able to continue to work with all of the other agencies it currently works with.</p> <p>The state already uses the Texas A&amp;M University system for disaster relief during storms. By merging the systems, it will allow the systems to work together on the preparedness time and response time before and during a storm.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1177</b> By: Phelan   White   Metcalf   Ashby   Toth</p>	<p>Relating to carrying a handgun during a state of disaster.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>During a time of a declared disaster, if a Texas resident owns a firearm but does not have a license to carry that firearm, they have to leave their weapon in their home. There are concerns that during this time of disaster, looters may break into that person's home and steal their weapon. The weapon is the resident's legally owned property. Additionally, the owner may not be allowed to evacuate with their weapons.</p> <p>HB 1177 addresses these concerns by amending the penal code to prevent citizens from getting in trouble if they are caught with their weapon while evacuating. Citizens will be exempt from getting an "unlawfully carrying" charge as long as they are carrying their weapon within 7 days from when the disaster was declared.</p> <p>However, there are concerns with this bill. It does not prohibit or address whether someone should be allowed to carry their weapon during a state of disaster if they do not have a license to carry that weapon in the first place. There are also concerns with these weapons being brought into emergency shelters during the storm during times of high stress. Although the shelters reserve the right to refuse weapons into their facilities, the staff in that shelter should not have to worry about weapons while trying to assist victims during a natural disaster.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 11</b> By: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to the assumption of the powers and duties relating to driver's licenses, personal identification certificates, and other related programs, powers, and</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>Texans have advocated to reform the process of getting a driver's license. Wait times at the DPS continue to increase and calls to the DPS continue to go unanswered, resulting in a long, time-consuming process just to get a license.</p> <p>HB 11 attempts to fix this by transferring duties, including driver's licenses, personal identification certificates, and other programs and duties from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). HB 11 requires the public safety director to adopt a comprehensive plan on the smooth transition of these programs,</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

	duties by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.	4 Absent	<p>powers, and duties by September of 2019. By January of 2021, the transition would take place and funding, contracts, lease, rights, record, bonds and other DPS obligations regarding licenses and other DPS miscellaneous programs, powers and duties are transferred to the DMV, DPS employees from the Driver License Division become DMV employees, the appropriated balance left at DPS goes to DMV for the programs, powers, duties, and obligations they took on. In addition, governing bodies of DMV and DPS will share information so each department may perform their functions, DMV will complete a study for effective use of state and county money and resources, DMV will prioritize customer service, wait times, accessibility for citizens in all parts of the state, and efficient spending. HB 11 also states that DMV is required to send DPS license photos of registered sex offenders, DMV must notify DPS of suspension/denial of licenses, and DMV will get a seat in the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation advisory committee.</p> <p>HB 11 requires the DPS to conduct a third-party study and submit a report by September 1, 2019. In order to streamline the process and ensures cooperation between DPS and DMV, DPS must release all their information. Currently CSHB 1 has a contingency rider for the transfer of the driver's licensing program of \$140.2 million from All Funds plus an additional \$200 million for FTEs from General Revenue. DMV is getting 2,236 FTEs from DPS and an additional 962 FTEs with the allotted money. The allotted money covers the transfer and further improvement in implementing driver's license programs within the DMV.</p> <p>The concern with this transfer is that DMV isn't in a perfect position to be taking on driver's licensing, which is a larger entity than the entire DMV. It's uncertain why additional resources/funding is not instead appropriated to DPS to address the licensing issues prior to moving forward with a transfer of services. This also affects the Tax Assessor Collector Association of Texas (TACA), which partners with the DMV. TACA is worried they won't get the attention they need and that this is a bad time considering the DMV and TACA get backed up when there are technical issues. Licensing needs resources/reform or the demand will always lead to line congestion and unhappy Texans.</p>	
<b>HB 1214</b> By: Cyrier   Zerwas   Price   Turner, Chris   Rose	Relating to the allocation to and use by the Parks and Wildlife Department and Texas Historical Commission of certain proceeds from the imposition of state sales and use taxes on sporting goods.	Appropriations  Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 1214 amends the Tax Code to require the legislature to appropriate money collected from the sporting goods sales tax to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at a 94% share and to the Texas Historical Commission at 6%. If the Historical Commission sunset bill passes these percentages would change to 93.4% and 6.6% respectively. This bill also aims to change the historic site account from a GR fund to a GR- dedicated account. With the increase in population our state parks and historical sites are seeing more visitors every year. This predictable funding would allow for state parks and historical sites to meet construction, operations and customer demands.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org
<b>LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar – Wednesday, April 17, 2019</b>				
<b>HJR 39</b> By: Cyrier   Price   Zerwas   Turner, Chris   Rose	Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the appropriation of the net revenue received from the imposition of state sales and use taxes on sporting goods.	Appropriations  Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	This resolution looks to amend the constitution in order to allow for the automatic appropriation of funds received to the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission from the sporting goods sales tax. With the increase in population our state parks and historical sites are seeing more visitors every year. This predictable funding would allow for state parks and historical sites to meet construction, operations and customer demands. This HJR serves an enabling legislation for HB 1214.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p><b>HJR 34</b> By: Shine   Darby   Stephenson</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a temporary local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HJR 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to provide temporary, local-option property tax exemptions authorized by the governing body of a taxing unit, including amounts, duration, and eligibility requirements for property damaged in a declared disaster area.</p> <p>Enabled by HB 492 which provides a local-option percentage property tax exemption on a portion of appraisal value based on extent of damage ranging from 15% to 100% exemption. Taxing unit must adopt the exemption within 60 days of the disaster and the value remains exempted until the property is reappraised the following year.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HJR 145</b> By: Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to provide financial assistance to political subdivisions located in areas of the state affected by a disaster.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 24 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>This resolution looks to amend the constitution in order to authorize the disaster reinvestment and infrastructure planning board to issue general obligation bonds of no more than \$500 million for the disaster reinvestment and infrastructure revolving fund. This HJR serves as enabling legislation for HB 274.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE Calendar – Wednesday, April 17, 2019</b></p>				
<p><b>HB 2570</b> By: Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the award of grants by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas Oversight Committee and to the payment of claims related to those grants by the comptroller of public accounts.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 24 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2570 extends the time period a grant must be presented to the Comptroller by CPRIT for the payment of a claim. The House Appropriations bill (HB 1) includes a \$164 million appropriation from Economic Stabilization Funds for the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT). This bill allows CPRIT, when grants are funded with non-bond sources (i.e. ESF funds), to pay reimbursement claims on multi-year cancer research grants up to seven years after the year of appropriation. Without this bill CPRIT would not be able to award grants funded through ESF or general revenue that exceed a three year time frame and have to reward the grantees no cost extensions. This would allow better funding for cancer research.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3317</b> By: Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts, the dedication and rededication of revenue and allocation of accrued interest on dedicated revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money from use for general governmental purposes.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 22 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3317 enables the fund consolidation process. Every legislature since 1995 has passed a consolidation bill to specify which general revenue dedicated accounts are available to use for budget certification and which are exempt. This bill will be finalized during the budget conference process due to currently moving legislation. Over the past two session, this process has allowed the legislature to reduce the states reliance on dedicated accounts for the purpose of budget certification.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 4071</b> By: Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to directing payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act; making</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>HB 4071 provides payment for outstanding claims and judgements against the state that cannot be paid in the General Appropriations Act. The claims in this bill are required to be approved by the legislature and seek to honor the State of Texas' obligations. Appropriations in the bill are from the following accounts.</p> <p>General Revenue Fund No. 0001- <b>\$10,156,037</b> State Highway Fund No. 0006- <b>\$ 5,231,552</b></p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman



	appropriations.	4 Absent	<p>Texas Commission on Law Enforcement General Revenue Account No. 0116- <b>\$797</b>                  Water Resource Management General Revenue Account No. 0153- <b>\$7,643</b>                  Federal Civil Defense and Disaster Relief General Revenue Account No. 0221- <b>\$24,586</b>                  Veterans Financial Assistance Program Fund No. 0374 - <b>\$3,200</b>                  Hazardous and Solid Waste Remediation Fees General Revenue Account No. 0550 - <b>\$152</b>                  Unemployment Compensation Clearance Account No. 0936 - <b>\$902</b>                  Lottery General Revenue Account No. 5025 - <b>\$1,502</b></p> <p><i>*All amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.</i></p>	
<b>HB 3912</b> By: Phelan	Relating to state agency reports submitted to the legislature.	State Affairs  Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3912 will exempt a state agency from indefinite reporting requirement after the 10th anniversary of the submission of their first report. HB 3912 will not impact any law that requires that reports continue for an indefinite period. For all other reports that state agencies are asked to submit to the legislature will be required to state the date in which state agency itself is no longer required to submit the report. The author's justification behind HB 3912 is that if a report were important for the legislature to obtain then a reauthorization for the continuation of said reporting rather than requiring an agency to indefinitely submit a report because of the concern should be required.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1078</b> By: Oliverson	Relating to waiving certain driver's license and handgun license fees for certain applicants who hold a certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	When someone suffers from a cardiac arrest, it is crucial for them to start receiving CPR immediately no more than 4 minutes from when the cardiac arrest began. However, most EMS services cannot make it to the patient within that time and cannot make it within the ideal 12 minutes before the cardiac arrest becomes fatal.  HB 1078 addresses the issue of beginning CPR as soon as possible by offering to waive the fees for a driver's license renewal for people who are CPR certified. The goal of the bill is to encourage people to become CPR certified and therefore be able to assist if someone suffers from a cardiac arrest around them.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1052</b> By: Larson   Toth	Relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to use the state participation account of the water development fund to provide financial assistance for the development of certain facilities.	Natural Resources  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1052 will authorize the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to use funds from a subaccount of the state participations account, known as the state participation account II for interregional projects.  The focus of this account, which 50% of the funds must be used for inter-regional purposes, will be for the development of desalination facilities and aquifer storage and recovery facilities that are included in the state water plan. TWDB will be required to establish selection criteria for inter-regional projects, and will allow the water board to transfer funds between the main account and subaccount of the state participation fund only if it has financed at least one desalination facility or aquifer storage and recovery facility by September 1, 2024.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2698</b> By: Goldman	Relating to the administration of the practical examination required for a barbering or cosmetology license.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Currently, cosmetology students have to travel to third-party sites located in cities such as Houston, Austin, Dallas, and McAllen in order to take their licensing test. This creates an unnecessary expense on the students and could create a delay on getting their license because sometimes they lack the funds and accessibility to travel to these facilities.  HB 2698 allows a school selected by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to administer the practical part of the test on exemplary school sites, saving students time and money. HB 2698 allows schools to get involved with the testing process and assist students to enter the professional world. Currently, to take the test, it costs \$75, however, if the schools are administering the tests, it could allow for TDLR to lower fees.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

<p><b>HB 1099</b> By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to peace officers commissioned by the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME) does not have the expressed authority to employ Peace Officers to aid in the investigation of theft of federally regulated medicine, violations of controlled substances, practicing veterinary medicine without a license, or related incidents. Other State Boards such as Pharmacy Board, Dental Board, etc. can hire individuals who are licensed Peace Officers to aid with any type of investigation. There is an issue that state and federal law enforcement officials encounter when attempting to release criminal justice information to non-criminal justice personnel and since SBVME does not have the authority to hire a Peace Officer there is difficulty getting criminal justice information to the SBVME. This has occurred on multiple occasions involving investigations of violations with controlled substances, and failure to pursue an investigation relating to individuals who practice veterinary medicine without a license.</p> <p>HB 1099 amends the Agriculture Code to would allow for the SBVME to employ Peace Officers. This bill would further ensure the integrity of the Medical Examiners Board to a high standard.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 427</b> By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for the offense of fraudulent destruction, removal, or concealment of a writing that is attached to tangible property; enhancing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, in statute, price swapping is counted as a class A misdemeanor regardless of the price difference between the item's original price and the fraudulent price tag. This means that if an individual place a \$2 price tag on a \$4 item for a net theft of \$2, the penalty could be up to a year in county jail and a fine of up to \$4000.</p> <p>HB 427 amends the Penal Code to correct this disproportional punishment. To do so, it staggers penalties to reflect the degree of theft committed as determined by the difference in the original value of the item and the fraudulent price tag. If the difference is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less than \$100 - Class C misdemeanor</li> <li>• \$100-\$749 - Class B misdemeanor</li> <li>• \$750-\$2499 - Class A misdemeanor</li> <li>• \$2500-\$29,999 - State jail felony</li> <li>• \$30,000-149,999 - Felony of the third degree</li> <li>• \$150,000-299,999 - Felony of the second degree</li> <li>• More than \$300,000 - Felony of the first degree</li> </ul> <p>The bill also clarifies that the penalties only apply if the price tag on the product is inaccurate and if the individual committing the act did so intentionally with the purpose of obtaining the product for a lesser price.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 529</b> By: Miller</p>	<p>Relating to renewal of an appointment as a volunteer deputy registrar.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, to become a volunteer deputy registrar (VDR) an individual must apply and attend a training conducted by the county voter registrar to be able to become certified to register voters within the county. This certification expires December 31st after general elections on even numbered years. Those who want to continue registering voters must apply and attend trainings again and must do so as long as they choose to participate in this form of civil engagement. In most instances, there are not any changes to the process in registering voters which makes this training requirement repetitive and time-consuming for volunteers and voter registrars.</p> <p>HB 529 would allow voter registrars to send a renewal notice to current VDRs in the November prior to expiration and request a signature that they have read the updated training information, if any. This will prevent repetitive trainings that VDRs must sit through each election cycle. HB 529 would allow trainings for those who had any performance issues, or if new information has been added that would impact their duties as VDRs.</p> <p>HB 529 would allow county voter registrars more time to focus on preparing for elections and allow VDRs to continue registering eligible Texans to vote.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p><b>HB 511</b> By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety standards in certain counties.</p>	<p>Transportation  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>An increased concentration of rock quarries has resulted in an increased volume of commercial vehicles throughout the state in those areas. There is concern about local law enforcement’s ability to regulate these trucks and enforce standards. The increase of DPS officers at the border has caused a shortage of DPS officers to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards (broken taillights, weight limits, etc.). Local law enforcement gets frustrated because they recognize these violations, but can’t do anything about them.</p> <p>HB 511 seeks to address this issue by allowing sheriffs or deputy sheriffs to apply for certification to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards. HB 511 applies to counties with populations above 400,000 <b>and</b> bordering Travis County (i.e. only Williamson County fits that criteria).</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2235</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia   Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the amount credited in a state fiscal year to the judicial fund to provide basic civil legal services.</p>	<p>Appropriations  Vote: 17 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 10 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2235 amends the Chief Justice Pope Act to increase the funding allocated to the judicial fund. Money from the judicial fund provides basic legal services to those unable to afford representation. This fund is expected to hit the cap this biennium due to many large cases the State of Texas is participating in. Without this legislation the funds over the cap cannot be used to provide basic legal services. The \$50 million increase for the biennium would provide more eligible individuals with the legal help they need. Currently, approximately 5.6 million Texans qualify to receive these services. However, only approximately 10% of individuals receive these services. This bill seeks to ensure that access to justice is for all Texans and not just those who can afford it.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1997</b> By: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the sampling of distilled spirits provided by the manufacturer to a retailer of distilled spirits.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>In current state law, a distiller cannot take a sample bottle into a retailer that does not yet carry their product for the retailer to try without the distiller’s wholesaler. This creates issues since retailers want to try certain spirits before they buy them and wholesalers may have up to 6,000 facilities across the nation; making it difficult to go with each distiller to each retailer to provide samples.</p> <p>HB 1997 addresses these concerns by allowing the holder of a distiller’s permit to provide a sample to a retailer as well as permit the distiller to hold a tasting on the premises for the retailer. The goal of the bill is to promote small business and allow for distillers to promote their product in an easier way.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2969</b> By: Sanford   Krause   Rodriguez   King, Phil   Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to prohibited adverse employment action against a first responder based on mental illness.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2969 will offer protections for first responders (peace officer, fire protection personnel, and emergency medical services personnel) who disclose a mental illness to their superior from discriminatory action that may be taken by their employers. HB 2969 will prohibit the employer of a first responder from suspending, terminating, or taking any other adverse employment action against a first responder solely because the employer knows or believes they have a mental illness, except when the action is deemed necessary to ensure public safety.</p> <p>HB 2969 gives a person the right to assert a violation against their employer or as a defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding. The aggrieved person may also seek compensatory damages, reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs, and any other appropriate relief. Sovereign immunity to suit is waved and abolished to the extent of liability created by HB 2969.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2775</b> By: Krause</p>	<p>Relating to the movement of pedestrians in front of, under, between, or through rail cars at a railroad grade crossing.</p>	<p>Transportation  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>It has been suggested that the pedestrians moving in front of, under, between, or through cars of a moving or stationary train causes a safety hazard for pedestrians, traffic, and rail operators. There is not a mechanism for citations if people are crossing over or playing around on halted trains.</p> <p>HB 2775 addresses this issue by prohibiting all pedestrians from moving through the cars of a moving or stationary train on part of a railroad grade crossing train occupying any part of a railroad crossing. Often the problem is young children crossing through the cars of a moving or stationary train. Since children cannot be handed citations, HB 2775 would give officers more incentive to call parents, give warnings, etc. HB 2775 has deterrent benefits also, because trains are getting longer and longer (used to be around 5,000 feet long and now approaching 10,000 feet</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			long) leading to increased temptation to cross through the middle. This is unsafe because the train could start to back up while pedestrians are attempting to cross.	
<b>HB 1452</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to the date on which certain persons placed on deferred adjudication community supervision are eligible to file a petition for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information.	Corrections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Current law allows individuals who have successfully completed deferred adjudication to petition the court for orders of non-disclosure of criminal history record information. If they are approved for a non-disclosure, it means they are no longer required to disclose their arrest record. For a misdemeanor charge, an individual must wait two years following probation completion to petition for non-disclosure, for felony charges, the wait time is five years.  HB 1452 would shorten the wait time to apply for non-disclosures following completion of deferred adjudication probation. For misdemeanors, the time would go down from two years to one year, for felonies, the time would do down from five years to three years.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3954</b> By: Burrows	Relating to motor fuel taxes applicable to gasoline and diesel fuel within the bulk transfer system.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	To avoid unnecessary motor fuel tax payments and burdensome refund requests, HB 3954 revises the tax code to clarify exemptions pertaining to the bulk transfer system and substantiating documentation specifically regarding fuel sales to foreign countries. The bill requires that the supplier, exporter, importer, distributor be licensed otherwise the seller is required to collect and remit taxes. HB 3954 also expands the provisions to allow for shipping documents, in addition to bills of lading in current statute, as proof of international export.  The bill also defines and clarifies within the bulk transfer system framework, marine vessels and motor fuel storage facilities.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3070</b> By: King, Ken   Springer   Cyrier   Murr   Kacal	Relating to grants for emergency assistance under the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.	Agriculture & Livestock Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Texas A&M Forest Service is tasked with responding to wildfires across the state, as well as preparing for wildfires in times of environmental instability, managing forests and land and much more.  The volunteer fire department assistance fund is administered by the Texas A&M Forest Service. This assistance fund can be used to aid with the purchasing of new equipment for the firefighters. However, there is not a section under the Government Code that would authorize the volunteer fire department whose equipment is damaged or lost in a disaster to be replaced or covered by the assistance fund. HB 3070 aims to allow grants from the assistance fund to be utilized for the purposes of replacing or repairing equipment that is lost or damaged in responding to a declared state of disaster area.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
<b>HB 2053</b> By: Murr	Relating to individuals and organizations providing certain services and liability in connection with prescribed burns.	Agriculture & Livestock Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	A prescribed burn is a safe way to achieve specific resource management goals using fire management tools on certain areas of land. These burns are conducted by a burn boss, or person conducting the burn on a written burn plan, under predetermined environmental conditions and are monitored to stay within the burn perimeter. Prescribed burns can be used to increase production of desired grasses, improve watershed function, provide better grazing distribution of livestock, enhance nutrient cycling, improve wildlife habitat and much more.  In Texas there are 501c (3) prescribed burns organizations (PBOs) that provide training and resources for their members and for the individuals that conduct prescribed burns on their land. The prescribed burn organizations do not conduct the burns; they only provide guidance and training for those that wish to carry out a prescribed burn. These organizations have never had the ability to be insured as volunteers and there is no current plan to insure the organizations because of poorly written language in the Natural Resources Code that associated PBOs with the duty of burning when that is not what they do as volunteers.  HB 2053 aims to address this issue by identifying provisions on matters relating to prescribed burns which includes liability and gets the volunteers of the PBO the ability to be insured.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org



<p><b>HB 872</b> By: Hefner   Lang   King, Phil   Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to financial assistance paid to the survivors of certain law enforcement officers and employees killed in the line of duty.</p>	<p>Appropriations  Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 872 adds municipal jailers and county jailers to those eligible for survivor state benefits if killed in the line of duty, including all living family of past jailers who have been killed on the job. These benefits include reimbursement of funeral expenses and monthly annuity payments if the individual was not eligible for pension benefits. The duties of municipal and county jailers are similar to those employed by TDCJ and should receive the same benefits.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 722</b> By: Larson</p>	<p>Relating to the development of brackish groundwater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 722 authorizes a groundwater conservation district located over any part of a designated brackish groundwater production zone to adopt rules in governing the issuance of permits for the completion and operation of a well for the withdrawal of brackish groundwater. The rules set out by HB 722 relate to how a permit application is to be processed for these brackish groundwater production zones, a cap on withdrawals and rates of withdrawals, a minimum permit term of 30 years, implementation of a water monitoring system, monitoring land elevations in certain zones, annual reports from a permit holder, provision of greater access to brackish groundwater by certain methods, groundwater property rights, and specification of all additional information required to be included in an application.</p> <p>HB 722 also lays out what must be included within an application of a production zone such as the proposed well field design compared to the designated brackish groundwater production zone, the requested maximum groundwater withdrawal rate for the proposed project, the number and location of monitoring wells needed to determine the effects of the proposed project on water levels and water quality of specified aquifers, along with a report. The district will then be required to submit this application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) who will then conduct a technical review of the application, and then submit a report of the review of the application with its findings and recommendations.</p> <p>HB 722 requires a district to provide the annual reports from a permit holder to the TWDB. If a district were to request the TWDB to investigate or issue a report regarding significant aquifer level decline or negative effects on water quality, it is to do so no later than the 120<sup>th</sup> that the TWDB receives such a request. Only after receiving this report from the TWDB may the district amend the applicable permit to establish a production limit necessary to mitigate any negative effects identified by the report.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>