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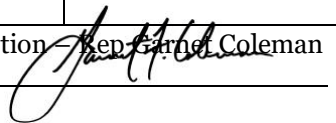
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LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS – Wednesday, April 24, 2019

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 2 By: Burrows	Relating to ad valorem taxation; authorizing fees.	Ways & Means Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<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, CS HB 2 does contain a number of beneficial transparency measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separates the appraisal notice process from the tax-setting process and requires increased communication and individualized tax notice forms for property owners. 	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org

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- 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.
- 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.

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 851 By: Huberty Cain Murphy Ashby Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the use of individual graduation committees and other alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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<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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2976 By: Howard Israel Rodriguez Hinojosa</p>	<p>Relating to authority of the Travis County Healthcare District to appoint, contract for, or employ physicians.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law since 2005, the Health and Safety Code directs the Travis County hospital district to assume sole responsibility for indigent needs centered around medical and hospital care. Ironically, the healthcare system of Travis County does not mirror the same ownership as other counties of Texas. Thus, the healthcare system is not owned by the county; yet, the county's healthcare system is contractually controlled through a private healthcare system.</p> <p>HB 2976 appears to leverage the Travis county's power by amending the Health and Safety Code by granting authority to the county to appoint, contract, or employ physicians by the hospital board that it deems necessary for efficient operation of the district.</p> <p>HB 2976 will limit employment contracts to not exceed four years and prohibit the authorizing board from supervising or controlling the practice of medicine.</p> <p>HB 2976 will allow the board to adopt policies targeting credentials, quality assurance, reviews revolving around utilization, due process, and professional peers. Notwithstanding the board's adopted policies, HB 2976 explicitly directs the board to report any actions or events that appear to compromise medical care of a patient to the Texas Medical Board.</p> <p>Stakeholders of HB 2976 have contended for years that Travis County's restricted authority to maintain its pool of physicians have hindered the progressive efforts to mirror other hospital districts within Texas. If HB 2976 is passed into law, it will allow Travis County to follow suit with other counties with the same governing authority.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>

LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE Calendar – Wednesday, April 24, 2019

<p>HB 9 By: Bonnen, Greg Murphy González, Mary Meyer Walle</p>	<p>Relating to the contributions to and benefits under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 9 will increase state contributions to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) to improve fiscal soundness of the TRS fund as well as create the availability of funds for teachers to have a living wage in retirement. HB 9 would shorten the solvency period, a projected 87 years, of TRS to create more long-term stability for those who will utilize TRS in the future as a means of retirement. For retirees who retired after 2017, there would be a supplemental, one-time payout of up to \$2,400 which would not be recognized as a 13th check as to not jeopardize current benefit payouts to those withdrawing from TRS.</p> <p>HB 9 will increase the state contribution to the following percentages. The contribution beginning in the same fiscal year would be amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2019: 7.8% • FY 2020: 8.05% • FY 2021: 8.3% 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2022: 8.55% • FY 2023: 8.8% <p>HB 9 protects teachers who will retire utilizing TRS and assists in the economic stability of TRS as a whole to ensure those who pay in will have a fund to withdraw from during retirement. While retiree contributions do not increase under HB 9, the language stipulates that adjustments can be made based on the state contribution.</p>	
HB 4611 By: Huberty	Relating to certain distributions to the available school fund.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4611 enables legislation for HJR 151 by providing changes in the Education Code that reflects the constitutional amendment that would allow for the annual distribution of funds up to \$600 million to the available school fund (ASF) from the General Land Office (GLO). This amount is an increase of funds from the current \$300 million that is available for distribution to the ASF.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar – Wednesday, April 24, 2019

HJR 151 By: Huberty	Proposing a constitutional amendment allowing increased distributions to the available school fund.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, there is a maximum amount of \$300 million that can be distributed from the General Land Office (GLO) to the available school fund (ASF). HJR 151 would authorize the GLO to increase the funds distributed to the ASF each year. The total funds that the GLO would distribute under this constitutional amendment would be \$600 million to the ASF from the GLO each year.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE Calendar – Wednesday, April 24, 2019

HB 4205 By: Craddick	Relating to the conditions under which a closed campus may be repurposed to serve students at that campus location.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Currently if a school has a not met performance standards for more than 3 years after the school has implemented a turnaround plan, the school is then required by the state to close and is then in the hands of the state. There are only two options for schools that are subject to closure which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete school closure, or • The school re-opens with different grade levels and entirely new students <p>HB 4205 adds a 3rd option for these schools that are subject to closure by allowing the school to partner with a charter school or a non-profit organization that has at least a cumulative total enrollment of 10,000 students. HB 4205 provides an option for local control in school districts that have low performing campuses and allows for the district to repurpose a campus by partnering with a charter school or non-profit organization that has a history of demonstrated success in a turnaround model.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is it would allow for the school to be repurposed and potentially follow a charter school model without the same level of accountability and regulation of the charter non-profit organization that is required of neighborhood public schools.</p>	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
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<p>HB 4310 By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to a school district's scope and sequence for subjects in the required curriculum for public school students.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In school districts today, teachers are required to develop a lesson plan and it must be followed regardless of where their students are at academically. Instructional coaches can follow up with teachers to monitor their lesson plan progress and hold them accountable if their students are falling behind.</p> <p>HB 4310 aims to require districts to ensure that teachers have enough instructional time to teach their students in a manner that is not monitored by other sources, such as instructional coaches, so their lesson plan can reflect the students' progress and the teacher would not be held to their scope and sequence. HB 4310 would prohibit the penalization of a teacher who does not follow a recommended scope and sequences for a subject in the required curriculum at a particular grade level with respect to the level the teacher's students are at and allow for more or less time in that specific area.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is how it works with the STAAR test method of accountability, even if this method provided a better educational experience for the students. While teachers should be supported, and validated, with regards to instructional time depending on the students they nurture, sticking to the scope and sequence, or lesson plan, as long as there is an inordinate emphasis on standardized testing in the state of Texas poses a challenge. This bill recognizes that we don't have standardized students as we seek ways to improve instruction while finding better ways to teach students and hold Texas schools accountable</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3784 By: Larson</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing a statewide referendum allowing voters to indicate a preference for exempting the state from daylight saving time or observing daylight saving time year-round.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3784 requires a referendum be held allowing voters to decide, on November 5, 2019, whether to be exempt from daylight saving time and stay on standard time, or stay in daylight-savings time year-round.</p> <p>HB 3784 would completely exempt Texas from the provisions of the federal Uniform Time Act of 1966 that establish daylight saving time, beginning January 1, 2020, if the majority of voters vote in favor of the exemption during the referendum.</p> <p>If voters were to vote in favor of observing daylight savings time year-round, HB 3784 would require Texas to do so, in accordance with federal law. However, this would only occur if Congress enacts legislation authorizing Texas to observe daylight savings time year-round.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3175 By: Deshotel</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of an applicant for disaster recovery funds.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3175 would make certain personal information obtained by a governmental body from the application for state or federal disaster recovery funds confidential. However, the street name of and the amount of such funds awarded to an individual or household will no longer remain confidential after the date on which the funds are awarded to allow for transparency of where public funds are being spent without revealing a recipient's identity. HB 3175 will provide protection to disaster victims who are made to be even more vulnerable with the disclosure of their private information while still providing transparency of public funds.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3345 By: Price Lucio III Paul Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to health benefit coverage provided by certain health benefit plans for telemedicine medical services and telehealth services.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3345 adds language to the Insurance Code to allow for electronic platforms when utilized for medical services delivery to be covered at the same amount of coverage as the in-person counterpart in the same insurance plan. Language would prohibit a health plan from limiting, denying, or reducing coverage for telehealth services based solely on the platform, and placing lifetime limits or an annual fee for telehealth services.</p> <p>HB 3345 would ease consumer burden, especially those in rural areas, in regard to access to medical services that are deliverable via telehealth services. This is especially valuable to physicians who may offer services to remote locations of population that may display physical travel barriers therefore isolating a population from medical services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 1655 By: Hunter Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to the availability of dates of birth under the public information law.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Access to birthdates in public records have been cut off since the 2015 Third Court of Appeals ruling in Paxton v. City of Dallas. Preventing the use of a date of birth as an identifier to ensure accuracy has been important in monitoring the actions of public officials and their employees and in reporting on elections and criminal justice. To help ensure the accuracy of identification HB 1655 will not authorize a governmental body to withhold a date of birth except as permitted by the exception from the law protecting the confidentiality of certain personnel information, or other constitutional or statutory law.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 69 By: Minjarez Rodriguez Bailes Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the right to vacate and avoid liability under a residential lease after a tenant's death.</p>	<p>Business & Industry Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas Code allows a tenant to provide their landlord with information regarding a person whom the landlord should contact at the vent of the tenant's death. The contact person, or representative of the tenant, is allowed to remove any of the tenant's property and receive the security deposit refund, as appropriate. However, it does not protect the representative of the tenant from future rent or other fees. Often, landlords will insert other protections into the lease for the protection of the representative of the tenant upon the tenant's death, however, this is not mandated by law and is inconsistent across the state. HB 69 adds to the law by releasing the representative of the tenant from liability for rent or any other owed money by terminating the lease on the occasion that the tenant died before the end of their lease. However, the representative of tenant isn't released from any delinquent or unpaid rent, or any sums due as a result of any damages to the leased premises. This release is contingent on the fact that the representative of the tenant provides the landlord with written notice of the termination of lease and has removed the tenant's property from the leased area, in accordance with all the requirements of the law. Such a lease termination will be effective on the 30th day after the written notice is provided or the date on which all the necessary conditions have been met, whichever comes later. HB 69 does not address situations in which there are multiple tenants on one lease.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1176 By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to technical defects in instruments affecting real property.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas real estate, technical defects in the acknowledgement of an instrument conveying property can cause delays in proceedings. A broker may issue a bond and once that bond is paid off, they have the opportunity to issue more loans. If there is a defect and the loan is returned, then the process of real estate is delayed. HB 1176 shortens the statute of limitations to bring a suit forward from 2 years to 6 months for technical defects. This allows for real estate proceedings to maintain their speed and not be slowed down for technical defects and allows for brokers to issue loans and bonds and not be returned. The change from 2 years to 6 months still allows for an opportunity to challenge an incorrect acknowledgement but allows for the process to maintain its speed.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 391 By: Blanco</p>	<p>Relating to student access to public school instructional materials and technology.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, not all students across the state have access to technology, and an estimated 1/3 of Texan students do not have internet access in their household. In the classrooms today, teachers are transitioning to services online for students to submit their homework as well as review electronic instructional materials provided by their teachers. HB 391 addresses the inequities to technology access for Texan students by requiring school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide instructional material, in printed format, for a student to take home upon request of the student's parent. HB 391 additionally requires school districts to document and report to the TEA, the amount of times parents request the printed materials. HB 391 would aid students who experience limited access to technology or internet services, to maintain the same learning at home as peers who may have the privilege of accessing technology or internet services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 695 By: Clardy</p>	<p>Relating to the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety standards in certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Transportation Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Due to an increase in commercial motor vehicles in Jacksonville, there is concern about local law enforcement's ability to regulate these trucks and enforce standards in certain areas due to a shortage of DPS officers assigned to Cherokee County. Car wreck fatalities are high in these areas and there are not enough eligible peace officers to enforce standards and increase safety for motorists and truck drivers.</p> <p>H.B. 695 seeks to address this issue by allowing additional officers to attend and complete training to achieve certification to enforce these commercial motor vehicle safety standards. These areas rely on the trucking economy and this is not meant to hurt them but rather serve as a deterrent to clean things up. HB 695 applies to municipalities with populations between 14,000 and 17,000 located in with three or more numbered U.S. highways located in a county adjacent to a county with a population higher than 200,000. The reason for this is because the counties and the surrounding counties with this level of production are inevitably seeing extensive commercial vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1140 By: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to fees for vehicles stored at vehicle storage facilities; authorizing fee increases and decreases; eliminating a fee; eliminating a minimum fee.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>There are concerns that fees for storage facilities have not been raised since 2005. Every fee that towing companies charge are regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and therefore, independent towing companies cannot raise their fees. The constant fee is set by the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers.</p> <p>HB 1140 allows for the TDLR to reassess the storage fee for towing companies biannually to meet with the CPI percentage increase or decrease for Urban Wage Earners. If the TDLR finds that the fee is decreased then the operator shall charge a new few but if the fee is increased, the operator does not have to increase it.</p> <p>HB 1140 allows for towing companies to keep up with the CPI and adjust their fees in order to maintain the market value and charge the customers accordingly.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1186 By: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the prizes awarded in certain pull-tab bingo games.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Charitable bingo over time has lost a lot of money due to other gambling games are more appealing to costumers since they can win more money. Charitable bingo provides a certain percent of its winnings to veteran's programs. Carryover Pull-tab bingo is a type of bingo that upon winning \$750, the player keeps \$500 and the rest of the money goes into a fund. The winner gets an opportunity to choose a square from a 50 square board and if they pick the correct square with the prize behind it, they get to keep all of the money from the fund. If they do not choose the right square, then the next winner gets an opportunity to win the money from the fund.</p> <p>HB 1186 amends the Occupations Code to increase the jackpot size for carry over pull-tab bingo. HB 1186 increases the cap of the possible winnings to \$10,000. HB 1186 creates the opportunity for charitable bingo to be played more frequently and therefore have more money for charity.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1318 By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of mental health services to persons younger than 18 years of age.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>When a child needs urgent mental health services, current Texas code is unclear about who may give consent for the child to be placed in inpatient mental health care if the child lives with individuals who are not the child's parents, guardian, or conservator. While one law allows a parent, close family member (defined by the law as a grandparent, adult sibling, aunt, or uncle), lawful guardian, or a managing conservator to give consent for the child to be placed in voluntary inpatient mental health services, yet another says that an individual who is below the age of 18 may not be involuntarily committed, except in certain cases.</p> <p>It is estimated that approximately 4% of Texan children live with relative with no parent present. The ambiguity of this law comes into play when close family members take care of a child that needs mental health services, they find that they may not have the legal ability to consent for the child to receive the necessary inpatient care. There are times in which the only way to get the child appropriate services is for Child Protective Services to intervene, resulting in the state taking custody of the child. The process for regaining custody after this point can be arduous and fiscally</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>difficult for the family.</p> <p>HB 1318 would allow for a caretaker who has had care, custody, and control for at least the previous six months to have the ability, through court order, to seek temporary authorization for the ability to consent to voluntary inpatient mental health services. The bill language specifies the procedure by which this petition can be made through the appropriate district court and the procedure by which the court shall address the petition. The necessary documentation includes: the petitioner's relationship to the child, dates during the last six months during which the child lived with the petitioner, documentation from a psychiatrist describing the necessity of voluntary inpatient services. HB 1318 requires that the court give notice of the petition and hearing along with a copy of the petition must be delivered to the parent or lawful guardian's last known address. If the petition is granted by the court, the same notification process must take place. If the parent or lawful guardian has any objection, the court must dismiss the petition.</p> <p>Any authorization granted under this bill is only valid for 10 days. After this point, the process of petition must be repeated.</p> <p>By requiring judicial oversight, HB 1318 mandates that, while a caretaker can receive authorization to place a child in voluntary inpatient care, due diligence is done to ensure that the petition is truly necessary, and that the caretaker has the qualifications required to make the decision.</p> <p>HB 1318 also has additional clean up language to clarify and make the code consistent.</p>	
<p>HB 1211 By: Darby Paul Phelan Longoria Guerra</p>	<p>Relating to certain agreements by architects and engineers in or in connection with certain construction contracts.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In certain court proceedings, an engineer or an architect may be asked to defend the owner of a building and pay for damages caused to the building by the owner's negligence. The architect or engineer may not have had anything to do with the defect and the defect may have been caused by the owner himself. Governmental entities are currently prohibited from holding the engineer or architect accountable for the governmental agencies' negligence, but nothing protect the engineers or architects from private entities.</p> <p>HB 1211 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies code to even the playing field between government entities and private entities to protect architects and engineers. HB 1211 still protects the owners if liability towards the architects or engineers is found by allowing the courts to issue a payment of attorney fees. HB 1211 also holds the architects and engineers to a standard of care clause stating they will work to the best of their ability to prevent defects. HB 1211 protects architects and engineers from being held responsible for other's negligence.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1262 By: Bell, Keith Nevárez King, Ken Paddie Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the extended registration of certain vehicles not subject to inspection.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Registration requirements for certain farm and ranch trailers used for agriculture are concerning because the legislation is burdensome to trailer owners, state agencies, and governmental agencies. Individuals with many trailers have trouble keeping them all properly registered.</p> <p>HB 1262 develops a registration system allowing owners of trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers to have an extended registration period not to exceed five years. The owner is authorized to choose the number of years (under the five year maximum). Owners will benefit from a longer registration term and the owners would still pay registration fees for each year so current revenue would be maintained.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 916 By: Guillen Anderson, Charles "Doc"</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption of rural transit districts from motor fuel taxes.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 916 provides motor fuel tax refunds on gasoline, diesel fuel and liquid and compressed natural gas, to rural transit districts providing primary public transportation, and exclusively for that use (similar to law and certain fire departments). Despite being a non-profit service provider and funded by local, state and federal funds, rural transit districts have been subject to this tax. These rural transit districts serve a critical role, ensuring mobility and accessibility for underserved rural areas and populations that many, including the poor, elderly and disabled, have come to rely upon.</p> <p>The bill specifies the district must file a claim with the comptroller for credit, including information regarding vehicle mileage, hours of service, and fuel consumed.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1999 By: Leach Lucio III Cyrier</p>	<p>Relating to certain construction liability claims concerning public buildings and public works.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Certain law firms have been known to approach school districts and bring a case to them stating that their buildings have certain defects within them, and they should sue the architects, contractors and builders in order to have those defects fixed. There have been growing concerns in Texas that school districts have been filing lawsuits against firms involved in designing or constructing a building because of defects in the buildings without prior notification of the defects.</p> <p>HB 1999 amends the government code in several provisions in order to address the concerns raised. HB 1999 requires that before a law suit is filed, the government entity must have a licensed engineer, who must be a third party, to conduct an inspection and file a report detailing what the defect, if any, is. The government entity must notify all parties involved with the design and construction of the buildings that has the defect 30 days prior to the inspection. This includes all contractors and subcontractors that may have been hired to assist with the construction. HB 1999 also instructs that the government agency must work with the other parties in order to fix the defect and the other parties have 6 months to fix the issues.</p> <p>HB 1999 raises concerns because it disproportionately benefits the companies involved in designing and constructing the buildings and creates a disadvantage for the government entities raising these suits. The burden of hiring a third party licensed engineer falls on the government entities and it is extremely difficult to notify all the parties involved with the construction and designs of these buildings since the government entities do not usually know who all of the contractors and subcontractors are. On top of that, the companies have 6 months to fix the issues which means that the government entities must continue to work with the companies who caused the defect in the first place.</p> <p>HB 1999 also affects the taxpayers in that community since the bill is targeting school districts. When a school district decides to construct a new building or provide repairs, they take out bonds that are paid for by the tax payers. The third party inspections are also paid for by the school districts which in turn is funded by the tax payers.</p> <p>The author intends to accept amendments that includes language agreed upon by the stakeholders and some opponents of HB 1999. However, considerable concerns remain for school districts and the rating would not change.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2894 By: Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of health care fraud.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2894 would redefine “Medicaid fraud” as “healthcare fraud” as it would allow for the prosecution of a person for all fraudulent conduct committed against a healthcare program to be prosecuted in one case. In doing so this would address the other types of fraud that may be committed against a governmental health care program but is currently being prosecuted under the theft statute if the offense does not relate to Medicaid specifically. This change is language would also impact the statute of limitations as theft has a five-year whereas Medicaid fraud has seven. HB 2894 simplifies any act of defrauding a health care program into one statute, which can then be prosecuted as one case, and with one statute of limitation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2423 By: Anderson, Charles "Doc" King, Tracy O. Nevárez Price Cyrier</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the broadband office within the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the establishment of a broadband service investment grant program.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2423 would establish a broadband office within the Public Utility Commission of Texas in which the office would be required to establish a grant program for projects that would install and maintain broadband service in areas that have gone unserved. HB 2423 makes clear that it does not: grant the commission authority to regulate broadband services or broadband service providers or to require broadband service providers to submit information to the commission, except as required of a grant application; or require or authorize the commission to require a broadband service provider or telecommunications provider to participate in any broadband service planning, activities, or initiatives conducted by the broadband officer of the commission.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1743 By: King, Tracy O. Rodriguez Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the additional ad valorem tax and interest imposed as a result of a change of use of certain land.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1743 reduces the additional property tax and interest owed on land when a change in use or eligibility occurs. Currently, if open-space or timber land changes from qualifying use to non-qualifying, the tax difference over past five years between what taxes would have been levied at market value and actual taxes paid, plus 7% interest, is owed by the property owner to the taxing unit. Based on concerns that this formula is outdated and the interest excessive, HB 1743 reduces the tax burden by adjusting the formula to account for only the past three years at a 5% interest rate.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1576 By: Phelan Paddie Springer González, Mary Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the delivery of certain transportation services under Medicaid and certain other health and human services programs.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, individuals on Medicaid have the option to be transported to their medical appointments through the Medical Transport Program with these rides being referred to as nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) services. These services require at least a 48 hour notice to the Medicaid transportation organizations and recipients are oftentimes transported in passenger vans with other passengers and multiple stops. This results in long wait times until they are picked up or dropped off. In addition, it can be difficult for individuals to schedule transportation 48 hours in advance. HB 1576 integrates transportation network companies (rideshares such as Uber, Lyft, etc.) into the Medical Transport Program and allows for an alternative model for transportation services on shorter notice with less wait times through these transportation network companies.</p> <p>HB 1576 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), along with managed care organizations (MCOs), to develop and implement a process for Medicaid recipients to have access to “nonmedical transportation services” through their MCOs via transportation network companies and other third party subcontractors. These providers often cost less than other vendors through brokers and will be reimbursed through the MCOs capitation rates. As defined in HB 1576, a “nonmedical transportation service” is a curb-to-curb transportation to and from any medically necessary, non-emergency covered health care service for which the MCO deems medically appropriate and for which is scheduled no more than 48 hours before the transportation is needed. These services include any medically necessary health care service and discharges from a health care facility, urgent care visits, and trips to the pharmacy. Emergency medical services personnel and emergency medical service vehicles are <i>excluded</i> from the provisions of HB 1576.</p> <p>HHSC will determine appropriate rules for MCOs to arrange nonmedical transportation services including how to verify a passenger is eligible to receive transportation and ensuring transportation services are only to and from covered health care services. If the Medicaid recipient is not eligible for nonmedical transportation services or if they require a specialized vehicle which isn’t provided through a transportation network company, the MCO must have a process to refer them to a NEMT service. All MCOs will be required to arrange for nonmedical transportation services and ensure service coordination, service authorization, and data management between the MCO and the transportation network company.</p> <p>All transportation network companies (such as Uber, Lyft, other third party vendors, etc.) within this program must comply with statute currently in place for transportation network companies such as ensuring a valid driver’s license, conduct a criminal background check, obtain the driver’s driving record, etc. The commission may require the transportation network company or a driver to be screened against lists of excluded individuals through the Inspector General of the United States Department of Health Services. Drivers may not provide nonmedical transportation services if the driver has been convicted (within a 3-year period) more than 3 offenses which are moving violations or one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● reckless driving ● driving without a valid license 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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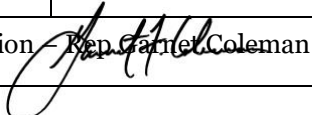
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has been convicted in the previous 7 years of driving while intoxicated or the use of a vehicle to commit a felony • is registered as a sex offender <p>Vehicles used for these services must meet appropriate vehicle standards in statute (appropriate inspection, up to date vehicle registration, insurance, etc.) and be a four-door car (unless it is a wheelchair accessible car). Vehicles which are wheelchair-accessible may provide transportation services in a vehicle with a lift/ramp if it uses a fixed-frame wheelchair in the cabin of the vehicle and meets all other statute requirements for vehicles providing transportation services. Individuals with a wheelchair able to use these transportation accommodations can utilize nonmedical transportation services through those vehicles.</p> <p>HB 1576 integrates transportation network companies into the Medical Transportation Program by disallowing HHSC to require that transportation network companies be enrolled as a Medicaid provider in order to participate in the program. HB 1576 does not allow HHSC or the MCO to impose additional requirements on driver's during implementation if they meet all requirements as prescribed by HB 1576.</p> <p>Currently, transportation network companies are not required to provide child safety seats and the parent is responsible for providing them. With this program, Medicaid recipients will have access to transportation, however, many low-income families without a vehicle will not have a child safety seat. 3 out of 4 individuals enrolled in Medicaid are children and their parents will be using transportation services on their behalf to access health care. Through implementation of this program, it is expected that HHSC, MCOs, and the transportation network companies will screen for child safety seat needs ahead of transport; ensuring the recipient gets referred to the appropriate transportation service for their needs.</p> <p>Allowing transportation network companies to participate in the Medical Transportation Program through NEMT, while simultaneously providing an alternative option for nonmedical transportation services which allows for last minute arrangements, will increase access to care for individuals who otherwise might miss their important medical appointments because they don't have transportation.</p>	
HB 489 By: Springer	Relating to the use of certain weapons in or on the beds or banks of certain rivers and streams in particular counties.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 489 would add Hall County to the other nine counties currently under Parks and Wildlife Code, which prohibit discharging of firearm or bow, or possessing certain types of bow or arrow in or on the bed or bank of a navigable river or stream. Personal and structural safety concerns have been noted by local officials due to use of the area for target practice, resulting in significant damage to bridge infrastructure.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 2830 By: Canales	Relating to certain requirements for and limitations on design-build contracts for highway projects of the Texas Department of Transportation.	Transportation Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Current law restricts the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to three Design-Build contracts per fiscal year. Design-Build is a method where TxDOT contracts with a single entity to design and construct transportation projects. This restriction affects TxDOT's ability to comply because some projects take more than a year and things like project delays can then confuse timelines for other projects. Requests for proposals also currently must include a schematic design approximately 30% complete among other requirements like materials specifications and location of relevant structures.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>HB 2830 does not allow any extra projects within a year span, but instead cleans-up current statute to allow a total of six design-bill contracts per fiscal biennium instead of 3 design bill contracts per fiscal year. HB 2830 also allows the requirement for requests for proposals to be a 30% complete design instead of a 30% complete schematic design. 'Schematic' is an out-of-date term. This balance will prevent projects from being over-designed which hinders the design-build process. The flexibility allowed by HB 2830 facilitates the procurement process, cost estimation, and understanding TxDOT/contractor risks.</p>	
<p>HB 1693 By: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to affidavits concerning cost and necessity of services.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Prior to a trial, a party to a lawsuit may file an affidavit with the court regarding the costs of services, these affidavits are usually submitted during cases of medical care and if the affidavit is not contradicted by the opposing party, they can be used by the court as a base for the judge or jury to state whether the costs were necessary and reasonable. This current statute allows both parties to know early on in the case if medical bills will be disputed, allows for early resolution, and allows for both parties to properly prepare for trial.</p> <p>However, there are concerns with the current statute since the defense only has 30 days from when the affidavit is filed to file a counter affidavit. When the first affidavit is filed and the case is filed, it takes a few days for the case to reach the defense and the 30 days to file a counter affidavit are usually almost up.</p> <p>HB 1693 addresses the concerns by extending the deadline to file the original affidavit to fall between 30 days from when the original evidence is submitted and 90 days after the defendant files an answer or when the deadline for designating an expert witness is reached. This allows for the defense to have a proper time to file a rebuttal affidavit.</p> <p>There are still concerns however, because the new deadlines create other problems. The new deadline does not allow for parties to work the case efficiently and forces the parties to rush to prepare for trial, which counters the original intent of the statute which is to allow for early resolution of the case and does not let the parties know early on about the medical bills being disputed.</p> <p>The author intends to accept amendments that includes language agreed upon by the stakeholders and opponents of HB 1999, withdrawing their opposition and remaining neutral.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 98 By: González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to civil and criminal liability for the unlawful disclosure of intimate visual material.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Parts of SB 1135, which was enacted into law during the 84th legislative session, created an offense regarding the liability for the unlawful disclosure or promotion of certain intimate visual material that have been struck down by the 12th court of appeals due to the broad-based content restrictions that infringe on free speech, which makes it unconstitutional. HB 98 is a remedy bill to make sure that victims of revenge porn still have protections. HB 98 would change the current the requisite intent for an offense involving the unlawful disclosure of intimate visual material to include the intent was to harm a person, and that at the time of the disclosure the defendant knew or had reason to believe that the content was to remain private.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1667 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of salvage vehicle dealers.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, if an independent auto dealer who is licensed wishes to purchase more than 5 salvage cars per year, they must also hold a salvage dealer license. There are concerns that by holding these two licenses, citizens are paying double licensing fees and holding them to different requirements under both licenses.</p> <p>HB 1667 allows for members who hold an independent motor vehicle license or a salvage auto dealer license to be able to purchase more than 5 salvage cars per year. HB 1667 allows for license holders to not have to get both licenses and serve the same purpose.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1839 By: Thompson, Senfronia Rodriguez Allen Morales Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation of housing tax credits to developments within proximate geographical areas.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 5 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the 9% housing tax credit may only be given to more than one development in the same community per year if the developments will be more than two linear miles apart. Following Hurricane Harvey, Houston received \$1.13 billion in federal housing recovery funds that expire in August of 2024. A change in statute regarding this restriction on housing tax credits is necessary to most effectively use these federal funds before their expiration.</p> <p>HB 1839 amends this restriction to allow for an exemption if the governing body of the municipality or county, whichever is most appropriate, authorizes by vote the allocation of housing tax credits for the second development. Because the amended section only applies to counties with populations exceeding one million, the amendment will be subject to the same bracketing. This means that only Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, and Travis county will be subject to this section, and consequently, the amendment.</p> <p>This change could allow Houston communities faster recovery from Hurricane Harvey damage.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2706 By: Capriglione Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to authorized investments for governmental entities.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2706 amends language in the Government Code to allow smaller governmental bodies, such as school districts with less than 50,000 students, as an investment pool to make investments in commercial paper and corporate bonds as collateral for repurchase agreements. Additionally, it would allow larger governmental bodies to invest via a financial professional to allow for a larger audience to be reached for investment yield. Current statutes does not facilitate the use of an outside financial professional.</p> <p>HB 2706 would allow for more financial return with reduced risk for the bodies who may not have a large amount of capital to invest to make those higher returns on investments. Additionally, the bill would extend the investment maturity from 270 days to 1 year. This additional 3 months of time for the investment to mature will also add monetary value on the return.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2111 By: Pacheco Cortez Lopez Minjarez Gutierrez</p>	<p>Relating to the period for which a school district's participation in certain tax increment financing reinvestment zones may be taken into account in determining the total taxable value of property in the school district.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2111 addresses the 2025 expiration of the Mission del Lago (San Antonio) tax increment reinvestment zone, (TIRZ) constructed the same year the legislature revised the school funding formulas which negatively impacted the TIRZ. The TIRZ term was set so as not extend beyond the original finance plan however unanticipated delays in development, change in developers, and financial difficulties including the 2008 recession, have led to concerns. Bracketed for municipalities between 1.1 and 1.8 million, HB 2111 would provide for an exemption to the limitation on number of years TIRZ property can be claimed in determining school district property values under the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) arrangement in Chapter 311, and thus the continuation of the Mission del Lago TIRZ until 2032.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1973 By: Button Price Shaheen Goodwin Guerra</p>	<p>Relating to the system by which an application for a low income housing tax credit is scored.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The low income housing tax credit (LIHTC) is an incentive offered by the Texas Department of Housing (TDHCA) to companies that build low income housing. The application process for this program includes a comprehensive point system that is used to score and rank submissions. Among the methods to garner points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a written statement from a state representative who represents the district containing the proposed development site (used to gauge the level of community support for the application) • a resolution voted on by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the governing body of the municipality containing the proposed development site ○ the commissioner's court of a county containing the proposed development site ○ if the site is located outside a municipality but within its jurisdiction, both the commissioner's court of the county and the governing body of the municipality <p>HB 1973 states that, if there is no written statement from a state representative, the maximum points allowed in that section may be used to increase the maximum number of points allowed for a resolution. If a resolution is necessary from both the commissioner's court and the governing body of the municipality, the points will be equally split</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>between the two political subdivisions. Point equivalency will require that positive points are awarded for positive resolutions and negative points are awarded for negative resolutions.</p> <p>State Representatives are well positioned to know the housing needs of their districts, and what developments would best meet those needs. Eliminating the need to get a State Representative's letter of support would hinder TDHCA's ability to properly evaluate the housing needs of each member's district. Furthermore, the letter of support system ensures members are kept in the loop of the housing developments in their district, and allows them to better serve their constituents.</p>	
HB 2140 By: Neave	Relating to creating an electronic application system for state student financial assistance.	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) is a service that collects information to determine eligibility for state financial aid that is administered by both 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education. Currently, the TASFA application can only be submitted as a paper document and there is no online service for the submission of this application. This means that the students filling out these paper documents must submit their TASFA applications to the Financial Aid offices of each institution of higher education they are applying to, unlike the FAFSA which is readily available online.</p> <p>HB 2140 will modernize the TASFA application submission process by allowing the electronic completion and submission of the TASFA application through the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's website.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2164 By: Burns	Relating to imposing civil and criminal penalties for prohibiting or otherwise restricting a peace officer or special investigator from carrying a weapon on certain premises open to the public; creating a criminal offense.	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2164 would create a Class C misdemeanor offense for prohibiting or restricting a peace officer or special investigator from carrying a weapon on certain premises open to the public. An establishment serving the public that commits this offense will also be subject to a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000 for each violation. The attorney general may sue to collect said penalty and all money collected will be deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 2419 By: Nevarez	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the transportation needs of the Middle Rio Grande region of this state.	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Traffic congestion has been growing in certain border regions of Texas, specifically the Middle Rio Grande region. This leads to an increase in accidents and traffic congestion.</p> <p>HB 2419 addresses these issues by requiring the Texas Department of Transportation to conduct a study assessing long-term needs regarding transportation needs including economic development, traffic congestion, commuter safety, and homeland security in the region.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 2174 By: Zerwas Capriglione	Relating to controlled substance prescriptions under the Texas Controlled Substances Act; authorizing a fee.	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas has laws and regulations concerning the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances. The regulations have been put in place to help reduce prescription drug abuse and fraud. With the increase in rates of prescription drug abuse, related deaths, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, it is imperative that Texas laws be amended to address the issue.</p> <p>HB 2174 changes some of the prescribing and dispensing requirements to change when electronic prescriptions are required and when other forms of prescriptions may be used. In accordance with the progression of technology, HB 2174 seeks to move away from current standards of controlled substance prescription to electronic prescription. This allows for better documentation and tracking. The bill stipulates that the requirement for an electronic prescription may be waived in particular circumstances including, among others, the following situations: if the prescriber is a veterinarian, if temporary technological failure deems electronic prescribing inaccessible, if the practitioner must issue a non-patient-specific prescription, or if a practitioner has received a waiver from the requirement. There is no requirement in the bill that mandates a pharmacist to ensure that a non-electronic prescription was appropriately</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

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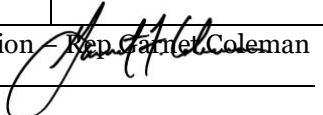
			<p>authorized. Should a non-electronic prescription be necessary, the prescriber shall provide the pharmacist with all information necessary for the pharmacist to complete the electronic prescription record.</p> <p>A Schedule II drug is one that has been federally defined as one with a high potential for abuse. Narcotics, opiates, and certain stimulants all fall under this category. HB 2174 requires that a prescription for a Schedule II drug that is written on an official prescription form must include information required for an electronic prescription. In addition to defining an "official prescription form," HB 2174 authorizes the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) to assess a fee for sending official prescription forms to practitioners. Additionally, the bill prohibits more than one prescription on an official prescription form for drugs categorized as Schedule III-Schedule IV.</p> <p>The bill also allows, in the event of an emergency, for prescribers to designate an agent to convey the prescription over the phone. This designation must be supported by written documentation which is subject to request by the pharmacist.</p> <p>HB 2174 also clarifies that hospice patients are the only population that is authorized to receive partial quantities of a Schedule II drug. Prescribers will also be prohibited from prescribing greater than a 10-day dose or allowing a refill for an opioid prescribed for treating acute pain.</p> <p>In addition, the bill mandates certain continuing education requirements for certain professionals who deal with the prescription and dispensing of controlled substances.</p> <p>HB 2174 allows for appropriate regulatory agency to have the authorization to provide to the practitioners under their jurisdiction waivers from the requirement for electronic prescription. Waivers are only valid for one year and must be renewed in a timely manner. TSBP is mandated by the provisions of the bill to create rules and procedures for regulatory agencies to issue such waivers with the assistance of an interagency work group consisting of representatives from each of the regulatory agencies. Eligibility requirements for waivers might include economic hardship or technological limitations.</p> <p>Any violations of the provisions found in HB 2174 will be subject to Texas Controlled Substance Act and violating pharmacists will be subject to disciplinary action by the TSBP.</p> <p>There are concerns about how these provisions, particularly the stipulation regarding supply restrictions to only a certain number of days, may affect individuals with chronic pain.</p>	
<p>HB 2464 By: Hernandez Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of massage schools and the issuance of a permit to massage school students; requiring an occupational permit; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) took over responsibilities for regulating the massage therapy field in 2017, which includes regulating massage therapy schools. There are concerns that the TDLR lacks certain powers in order to provide proper oversight over massage therapy schools and programs.</p> <p>HB 2464 amends the occupations code in order to give the TDLR proper authority. HB 2464 allows for TDLR to create a conversion between credit hours and clock hours to standardize instructions hours. The bill allows the department the authority to track student permits, and requires school to maintain proper attendance records to make sure instructional hours have been completed. HB 2464 also gives the TDLR the final authority to grant permission for graduation. The changes the bill creates allows for competent massage therapists to enter the workforce and allows the department to have proper oversight over the field.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1343 By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to persons who may be prosecuted for the criminal offense of improper contact with a victim.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, sex offenders are prohibited from contacting their victim or the victim's family while incarcerated without permission from the victim or the victim's family if the victim was a minor when they committed the crime.</p> <p>HB 1343 simply extends this legislation to all victims, not just minors. If HB 1343 becomes law, no sexual perpetrator may reach out to their victim, regardless of age, while incarcerated, without permission from the victim and the victim's family. It can be beneficial for perpetrators and victims when a sex offender reaches out to apologize, for example. However, it is fair and protective of victims to prohibit perpetrators reaching out without a warning and</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			written consent.	
HB 2511 By: Allen Harless	Relating to the content of a public school campus improvement plan.	Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	There is medical research that identifies the difference between mental and emotional health. This research is vital to understanding how school violence occurs in our classrooms, and what the root cause of school violence is. School violence is due to the lack of emotional health and those struggling with emotional illness. Emotional illness can often be categorized as a social illness that manifests itself in the inability to control difficult emotions such as anger and sadness, and often can be partnered with a lack of empathy and feelings of despair or being unwanted. People who commit acts of school violence often suffer from emotional illness due to isolation and the lack of healthy emotional relationships in their lives. HB 2511 addresses the issue of emotional illness some students might face and expands campus improvement plans to include research-based teacher development programs that are designed to aid teachers to provide empathetic care. HB 2511 also allows for school districts to provide evidence-based material to parents that promote positive disciplinary techniques to use in their home.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2195 By: Meyer Rosenthal	Relating to an active shooter emergency policy for school districts.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, there is no state requirement for an emergency plan for school districts to implement in the case of an active shooter incident. Effective emergency plans for school districts are essential to help with necessary communication between law enforcement and school officials and to ensure both parties can respond as quickly as possible. HB 2195 requires public school districts to include an effective response for an active shooter emergency within their multi-hazard emergency operations plan in conjunction with their available community resources to establish their policy.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 4120 By: Lucio III	Relating to the financial security requirement for providers obligated under certain service contracts.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Automobile dealers can provide separate service contracts to clients to maintain and repair their vehicles. This allows for clients to continue to use their dealership as a point of contact for all repairs. However, in previous sessions, the legislature increased the security amount a dealership must have in order to provide these contracts to \$250,000 dollars or have a net worth of \$100 million dollars. In turn, this has caused several dealerships to stop providing these service contracts to their customers. HB 4120 amends the occupations code to lower the security amount from \$ 250,000 dollars to \$25,000 dollars. HB 4120 allows for more dealerships to continue their trusted relationship with their clients and provide across the board care for their vehicles.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2458 By: Capriglione	Relating to the operation and administration of the Texas Bullion Depository.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 2458 amends Finance Code to provide clean-up for current statue as the infrastructure has continued to grow. In order to facilitate efficiency of the Texas Bullion Depository, the language in HB 2458 allows for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to appoint depository administrator without approval of governor, Lt. governor, or senate for daily tasks of the facility. • Employment of security personnel and to commission officers as peace officers. • Precious metals in any pure state may be accepted for deposit. • Extending the request for precious metal delivery for an account holder by the depository from 5 days to 10 days. 	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PNV o Absent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to deliver amendments to contracts electronically. • The ability to waive service charges to account holders. • The ability to sell promotional, licensed items or license for sale items. • Establish rules regarding the seizure or liquidation of precious metals being referred to the attorney general for resolution. • Exempting information from public record such as: records relating to depository fees, competitive harm information, and records related to the security of depository. <p>Addition of retail locations to provide depository services to the public.</p>	
HB 2456 By: Guillen	Relating to the energy efficiency performance standards for construction of industrialized housing.	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes o Nays o PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The Energy Systems Laboratory at Texas A&M regulates the energy efficiency of the state's single family residential energy code. The current law allows for local governments to request changes to the code and the energy systems laboratory evaluates if the changes are more stringent on the energy code. This allows for residents to have lower bills if the new energy code is less stringent on the current code. However, the Laboratory does not regulate industrialized housing since industrialized housing is regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. This means that apartment complexes or town homes cannot modify their energy code.</p> <p>HB 2456 amends the occupations code to allow industrialized housing to be built to follow the same energy code as single family residential codes. This allows for citizens who live in industrialized housing to have the same opportunities to amend their energy code and subsequently have lower bills.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2496 By: Cyrrier Cole Gervin-Hawkins Johnson, Jarvis	Relating to the designation of a property as a historic landmark by a municipality.	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>To address concerns around the lack of clarity in historic landmark designation requirements, HB 2496 prohibits a municipality from designating a property a local historic landmark unless the owner consents to the designation, or upon the approval of three-fourths vote of the municipality's governing body and any municipal zoning, planning or historical commissions as outlined in the committee substitute. The bill further stipulates that the owner may withdraw consent at any time during the designation process.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 2486 By: Goldman Paddie Oliverson Bonnen, Greg Huberty	Relating to certain required disclosures and prohibited practices of certain employee benefit plans and health insurance policies that provide benefits for dental care services.	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes o Nays o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2486 amends the Insurance Code regarding dental insurance to require an entity who provides employee benefit plans to have an internet resource free of charge to provide information and resources for consumers and dentists. This internet site will contain policy information about coverage of services and percentages of covered and reimbursed services. Available for dental providers is an estimate of reimbursement for the services covered by the policy. Additionally, benefit providers must have one or more methods of payments to dentists in which they can access compensation at zero cost and, if requested by patient or dentist, provide written preauthorization for benefits which will outline services and the coverage at which those services will be compensated; plan benefit provider cannot pay less than this stated amount.</p> <p>HB 2486 provides more consumer transparency of cost and coverage of services for those receiving dental services. Furthermore, there is improved access to compensation information to dental providers which would translate to more transparency for the consumer as well.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2624 By: Perez	Relating to the prosecution of certain criminal offenses involving fraud.	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote:</p>	<p>HB 2624 adds language to the Code of Criminal Procedure regarding credit card credit or debit card abuse. Language would now include the ability to pursue criminal charges in the county in which the card information was stolen or in the county of residence of the person whose information was stolen. Additionally, there is language pertaining to the possession or fraudulent use of personal information with the intent to defraud as something that does not have to be proved in a trial offense, the possession itself of the personal information is enough for investigation.</p> <p>HB 2624 would add another level of consumer protection when a victim of credit card fraud files a claim.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

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		<p>11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>		
<p>HB 2701 By: White</p>	<p>Relating to county jailer training and continuing education requirements regarding interacting with pregnant women confined in jail.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2701 seeks amend the Occupational Code of Texas by providing mandates for creating a training programs for county jailers dealing with pregnant women. Currently, Texas law does not dictate that county jailers have specialized training dealing with women health conditions that are surrounding pregnancy. HB 2701 will require that county jailer's training be based structured education and best practices focusing on pregnancy, labor, delivery, and first aid techniques.</p> <p>HB 2701 instructs the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to conduct training programs every 48 months which is to be provided by a medical professional.</p> <p>Advocates for the bill believe it ensure the pregnant inmates will receive better medical care; yet, at the same time, the new born child will have better chance at post-delivery development. Additionally, proponents believe that it will also reduce the risk of miscarriages. However, those in opposition of the bill believe that it overreaches duties of county jailers.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 2742 By: Neave</p>	<p>Relating to the content of the Healthy Texas Women program provider list.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Healthy Texas Women (HTW) was created in 2014 as a program intended to provide access to preventative health and family planning services for eligible low-income Texan women aged 15-44. The program's services can help prevent unintended pregnancies, gynecological issues, and cancers while also providing crucial healthcare. As of 122,406 women are enrolled in this program.</p> <p>Those seeking services through HTW can find a provider through the program provider list available on the HTW website - www.healthytexaswomen.org. However, there are concerns that the information provided on the provider list is inaccurate.</p> <p>A 2018 study showed that, of the providers listed on the HTW website for 54 counties, over two thirds did not provide HTW services. The provider list on the HTW site not only included these significant inaccuracies, but also many duplications that artificially inflated the total number of providers listed. For 17 of the 54 counties identified in the study, there were no HTW providers in the area offering services.</p> <p>To address this issue, HB 2742 requires HHSC to audit, review and update the HTW program provider list every 6 months to ensure that every provider listed is actively participating in the program and that the list provides accurate contact information for each provider. In addition, HB 2742 gives HHSC the authority and mandate to make any and all necessary changes to the provider list to facilitate access to services for program participants.</p> <p>The provisions in this bill apply, not only to HTW, but to any similar program that may succeed it.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2789 By: Meyer Moody Thompson, Senfronia Price Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of unlawful electronic transmission of sexually explicit visual material.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2789 would make unsolicited electronic transmission of sexually explicit visual material a Class C misdemeanor as a way to deter individuals from engaging in such behavior and to protect unwilling recipients. A person will have committed an offense if done knowingly and that the material was not sent at the request of or with the express consent of the recipient.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 2287 By: Moody Blanco Ortega</p>	<p>Relating to the operations of certain municipal housing authorities.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the city of El Paso has a housing authority that can develop affordable housing. However, this capacity is limited within city limits. There is a need for affordable housing in regions of El Paso county unincorporated into the City of El Paso.</p> <p>HB 2287 allows for a municipal housing authority to operate in the municipality for which the authority is created and, for certain counties in which another housing authority operates if the county in question is within the territorial boundaries of another municipality. This change will be bracketed by population and geographic location to El Paso County and the City of El Paso. HB 2287 effectively allows for the housing authority for the City of El Paso to also serve El Paso County.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3881 By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors in primary and secondary schools.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the commissioners of DSHS and the TEA, with input from an advisory committee, are required to create and adopt rules regarding the maintenance, administration, and disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors at primary and secondary school campuses. Concerns have been raised that this is an unnecessary and burdensome regulatory requirement that detracts from the agencies' other duties.</p> <p>To address this, HB 3881 removes provisions in statute that require the involvement of the DSHS and TEA commissioners to be involved in the rulemaking process. Additionally, the bill also removes TEA's responsibility to solicit reports concerning school epinephrine auto-injector use. However, DSHS will remain the reporting entity to which schools must report within 10 days of the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector by school personnel or volunteer. This eliminates unnecessary redundancies and streamlines the process.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3834 By: Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to the requirement that certain state and local government employees and state contractors complete a cybersecurity training program certified by the Department of Information Resources.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Many state and local government employees and contractors use information technology services, at least in part, of their daily work. This increased usage has created potential points of vulnerability to government data systems which hold sensitive information. HB 3834 will require the Department of Information Resources (DIR), in consultation with the cybersecurity council, to annually certify at least 20 cybersecurity training programs for state and local government employees and to annually update standards for maintenance of certification by the programs. HB 3834 will require a government employee, who uses a computer for at least 25% of their required duties, to complete the required training at least once a year, and would require a contractor to complete the training during the contract term and any renewal term.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1494 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to surety bonds for deputy clerks and other employees of county and district clerks.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the district clerk has to issue individual surety bonds for each of their deputy clerks. A surety bond is a line of credit that establishes that a clerk will act to perform their official duties during their term of office to the best of their ability. Issuing the individual surety bonds can be very tedious and time consuming work for the district clerks.</p> <p>HB 1494 creates a comprehensive surety bond that would extend to all of the deputy clerks to be issued to at one time. This would save the district clerks time and resources as well as maintain the surety that deputy clerks will perform their duties to the best of their ability. HB 1494 allows for district clerks to continue to issue individual bonds for each deputy clerk in an amount that equals the district clerks bond, or they can issue a blanket bond for all of the clerks in which total amount equals the district clerks bond.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2847 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain occupations and activities; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has several programs under their umbrella of licensing and regulation. The TDLR is constantly looking for ways to streamline these programs and allow them run as efficiently as possible. HB 2847 improves seven different programs that the TDLR regulates.</p> <p>Driver Education: HB 2847 allows for Driver Education and Safety Programs to not need a physical location in order to provide for online only courses. HB 2847 also sets the minimum standards for a driver education instructor certification and repeals the temporary driver education instructor license as well as the duplicate license for driver education instructor.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>Hair Removal: HB 2847 requires the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation to establish requirements on continuing education for laser hair removal for renewing their certificates.</p> <p>Boilers: HB 2847 removes the requirement for boilers certificates of operations to be posted under glass.</p> <p>Podiatrist 2847 removes the deadline for the podiatrist to be notified by the TDLR if someone has filed a complaint against them. The bill grants immunity to the complainant and repeals provisions for the director of the TDLR to determine which complaints will be given priority. HB 2847 also removes the authority from the TDLR to refuse a person from testing to become a podiatrist.</p> <p>Audiologists: HB 2847 amends the language in the occupations code to reference someone that hold an audiology license to maintain the licensure practices rather than someone who just meets the licensing requirements.</p> <p>Orthodontists: HB 2847 repeals the prosthetic technician registration code which is a voluntary registration.</p> <p>Dieticians: HB 2847 amends the occupations code to update the definition of cosmetology and requires the TCLR to adopt rules to teach specialty courses within cosmetology. The bill limits what manicurists who hold the specialty license can do and what kind of establishment a license holder can open.</p> <p>HB 2847 amends the occupations code to eliminate the used car part employee license, repeal the provisions regarding the regulation of those licenses and repeals the regulations of inspections of used car parts recycling facilities.</p> <p>The intent of the bill is to streamline departments and remove unnecessary licensing provisions. However, by removing these provisions and avoiding the dual-licensing requirements, the bill is removing the authority for smaller governments and political subdivisions to regulate businesses and protect their consumers.</p> <p>Examples of the authority that would be taken away from smaller political subdivisions include the predatory lending practices by payday lenders since payday lenders must register with the Texas Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner, sexually oriented business regulations since these businesses must obtain a license from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and pawnshop regulations designed to stop stolen property sales since these business have to register with the Texas Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner.</p> <p>HB 2847 streamlines the TDLR regulation proceedings but in the process allows for the deregulation of certain business that have these regulations to protect the consumers.</p>	
<p>HB 3007 By: Turner, Chris Krause</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to provide to a school district certain information used in determining academic accountability ratings for the district.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, school districts are not given the entire data set for their A-F accountability rating, nor are they allowed to view that data set for their schools. This data set is conducted by a third-party service and there have been instances of inaccurate data markings, often from student error, which can severely affect the accreditation status of a school. These data sets are used by the TEA to determine the accountability rating for public schools and the schools are not able to view them.</p> <p>HB 3007 addresses the issue school districts face of not being able to view the data sets used to determine their accountability rating, by requesting that the TEA provide copies of all source data that is submitted to TEA by the third-party service to public school districts before their initial release.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p>HB 2914 By: Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to the necessity of hearings regarding the dissolution or conversion of certain conservation and reclamation districts.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2914 would eliminate the burdensome process of holding a hearing to dissolve or convert certain water districts by allowing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to adopt a dissolution order for a district without conducting a hearing if they receive a petition from the district's board of directors or from the owners of the majority in value of the land in the district. If a landowner files a written objection to the dissolution of the district with TCEQ within the period specified in the notice, TCEQ will then be required to hold a hearing on the dissolution of the district.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2650 By: Goodwin</p>	<p>Relating to the procedure for the sale by auction of real property pursuant to foreclosure of a tax lien.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2650 allows for an auctioneer's commission and fees to be included in the cost of a sale for foreclosed properties. Historically, this was unnecessary given the auctions were conducted by the county, in-person at the courthouse. This is increasingly relevant as online sales have increased dramatically since legislation authorizing counties to conduct such internet auctions in 2015. This increases access to the auction process however, current statute does not allow for the additional but logistically necessary cost of contracting with an auctioneer, specifically commission and fees, to be included within the costs of sale. This provision would allow counties to not only account for those costs but to maximize the benefits of internet-based auctions.</p> <p>The substitute removes the requirement that the auctioneer be licensed and makes its provisions applicable to any auctioneer.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3018 By: Allison Talarico González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the incorporation of instruction in digital citizenship into the public school curriculum.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Digital Citizenship is a standard for members of the digital community to conduct themselves in a way that is responsible, appropriate, and engages in healthy online behavior. Currently, school districts can voluntarily participate in teaching their students what digital citizenship is and how they can conduct themselves online across all forms of digital communication. Digital Citizenship is important for students to understand as technology and digital communication is being further entrenched in their lives. Students learn how to be responsible and safe online with regards to their personal information as well. They learn topics such as the potential harms of sharing their full name, phone number, addresses, and other information easily on the internet and what threats phishing scams can pose.</p> <p>HB 3018 requires the State Board of Education to mandate that school districts incorporate instruction in Digital Citizenship into the curriculum for the district, as well as defines the meaning of Digital Citizenship in statute.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 933 By: Bucy Cortez Israel</p>	<p>Relating to posting of election information on the secretary of state's and each county's Internet website.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, law requires that certain information regarding elections be posted on the County and Secretary of State website. However, there are 20 Counties that do not have a website, and many others who do not have adequate information accessible to voters to assist with their questions on the voting process. HB 933 requires information regarding the time/date and location one can vote, voter ID requirements, and contact information for each County to be posted on the County's website and the Secretary of State's website. HB 933 modernizes the current laws in place that only require counties to provide this information on a bulletin board where County Commissioner hearings are posted. It allows information to be more accessible to voters in addition to what is already in place.</p> <p>HB 933 will increase voter participation by removing a barrier for Texas voters who seek to find information on how to participate in Texas democracy. More voices in Texas will be heard by having feasible access to information on the voting process and ensure that more Texans are politically represented.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 3165 By: Oliverson Button Howard</p>	<p>Relating to an occupational and life skills associate degree program offered by the Lone Star College System District.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>There is an existing program within the Lone Star College System that was created for adults with cognitive disabilities that primarily affect executive functioning. As of now, the students that are enrolled in this program do not get awarded an associate degree through the program. If the program were expanded to allow for the awarding of an associate degree to the students, this would lead to lifelong benefits and access to federal student aid through the program requirements.</p> <p>HB 3165 authorizes the Lone Star College System to establish the Occupational and Life Skills program and extend the awarding of a specialized associate degree in Occupational and Life Skills to the students enrolled in the program.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3195 By: Wu Dutton Murr White</p>	<p>Relating to juveniles committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, juveniles at sanction level six are committed to a Texas Juvenile Justice Department residential program (emphasizing discipline, accountability, fitness, training, and productive work) for at least 9 months and up to 24 months unless there is an extension. TJJD may not reduce the time a juvenile participates in a residential program regardless of the performance or progress of those juveniles. According to TJJD, around 20% of juveniles in their programs are participating successfully with no issues within a 6 month time period. TJJD would like to focus their limited resources on individuals who need the most intervention and incentivize them to fully participate in their programs. HB 3195 allows TJJD to reduce the commitment for successfully participating individuals and release them to community services rather than a continued stay in detention; focusing their resources where it is needed most while simultaneously incentivizing juveniles to be successful.</p> <p>The longer children encounter the juvenile justice system the more likely it is that they experience homelessness, recidivism, or substance abuse issues later in life along with exposure to significant trauma. HB 3195 allows TJJD to divert children who are participating successfully to community systems of support; hopefully mitigating continued negative impacts on their development. To increase the effectiveness of community supports, HB 3195 allows records of a juvenile's treatments while detained to be accessible to entities implementing their reentry or transition services.</p> <p>TJJD is required to provide the court a copy of the child's reentry/reintegration plan and a report regarding their progress no later than the 30th day prior to the child's release. Oftentimes, TJJD doesn't know that a child will be released in that limited time frame and they're only required to give 10 days' notice upon release; resulting in children residing in detention longer simply to comply with this provision. HB 3195 reduces the requirement notice to 10 days to align with the release notice. HB 3195 does not apply to children committed to a post-adjudication secure correctional facility. HB 3195 repeals a portion of the education code; allowing students in the custody of TJJD to still be released on parole regardless of their participation in positive skills and reading assessment programs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3334 By: Paul</p>	<p>Relating to satisfaction of continuing education requirements for certain insurance adjusters.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3334 would add language to the Insurance Code to accept continuing education credits received by insurance claim adjusters for claims certification. The continuing education would have to be equivalent or more in time required by Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), issued by a state or national claims association, content of the training would have to be available for review by TDI electronically, and the association would have to be approved by TDI.</p> <p>HB 3334 would allow for flexibility for claims adjusters to maintain certification as well as keep up on best practices in the field. This would allow for more efficient practice somewhere that is prone to tropical storms and hurricanes where up to date training and competency in the field is crucial when engaging a high risk population such as those prone to disaster.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 3552 By: Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to certain notice requirements regarding fluoridation of a water supply system.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the discontinuation of the fluoridation of public water can happen without the knowledge of consumers or community decision-makers. As this is being viewed as a matter of public health that should require transparency HB 3552 would prohibit an owner, agent, manager, operator, or other person in charge of a public water supply system that furnishes for public or private use drinking water containing added fluoride from permanently terminating the fluoridation of the water without providing written notice to the customers of the system and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality of the termination at least 60 days before the termination.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3808 By: Walle</p>	<p>Relating to the filing of a degree plan by students at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, students who earn dual credit in school are not required to be provided advising when they reach 30 school credit hours (SCH) from earning dual credit. Students at institutions of higher education are advised to file a degree plan at 45 SCH, or by their second semester or term at the institution.</p> <p>HB 3808 decreases the amount of required SCH from 45 to 30 to file a degree plan at an institution of higher education. This helps students that earn dual credit prior to enrolling at an institution of higher education, by allowing them to look ahead for the courses they are wanting to pursue and could possibly align with their career and academic goals. HB 3808 allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to monitor the requirement for filing a degree plan.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1026 By: Bohac Allison</p>	<p>Relating to instruction in positive character traits in public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, school districts are authorized to implement Character Education Programs for students in grades K-12. The Character Education Programs stress positive character traits such as courage, trustworthiness, integrity, respect and courtesy, responsibility, fairness, caring, good citizenship, and school pride.</p> <p>HB 1026 removes the authorization for a public school district to provide the Character Education Program and instead requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to integrate Positive Character Traits instruction into the TEKS.</p> <p>The SBOE will research how this type of instruction correlates with reduced disciplinary actions and improved school performance. The addition of this teaching in curriculum would improve social awareness of younger students and maintain valuable skills in older students.</p> <p>HB 1026 language would now be included to include K - 12th grade to maintain instruction of courage, trustworthiness, integrity, respect and courtesy, responsibility, fairness, caring, good citizenship, <u>and now also include gratitude</u> among the list of 10 positive character traits for students. The SBOE is required to create a report containing how the traits were taught on the board's website. This would apply to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 790 By: Davis, Sarah Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to recovery of attorney's fees in certain civil cases.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>During civil claims, a party may request attorney fees for certain civil claims. However, during a court case in 2014, it was ruled that attorney fees can only be sought from a corporation which includes Limited Liability Companies (LLC) and Limited Companies (LC). Attorney fees cannot be collected from any other corporation or state agency.</p> <p>HB 790 addresses this language by amending the civil practice and remedies code to include all business and corporations for attorney's fees to be recovered from. The intent of HB 790 is to include all corporations to have fair business dealings and prevent from unnecessary court proceedings.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 4673 By: Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Chambers County Municipal Utility District No. 3; granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4673 establishes the creation of the Chambers County Municipal Utility District No. 3. Generally, Municipal Utility District (MUDs) creations are sent to the Local and Consent Calendar however, the author will layout amendments to the MUD creation. The amendment requires the local residence homestead exemption option to be offered ensuring that the exemptions will not result in an increase or impair a reduction of the districts total tax rate for the year. The amendment also requires all MUD board meetings to be held within the District or no further than 10 miles outside of district to ensure constituents have access to attend the meetings.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2855 By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to a study by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute on the impacts to state and local roads and bridges from increasing maximum weight limits for certain vehicles transporting sand.</p>	<p>Transportation Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The industries affecting the increase in commercial motor vehicle traffic in Texas are good for Texas economy, however, the increase comes with obstacles related to transportation. Increasing maximum weight limit for sand trucks could reduce traffic congestion regarding commercial motor vehicles. HB 2855 addresses this by requiring the Texas A&M Transportation unit to conduct a study on impacts to state, and local bridges, traffic volumes, road and bridge safety resulting an increase to the maximum weight limits for truck-tractor and semitrailer combinations transporting sand.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2079 By: Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to compensation under the Crime Victims' Compensation Act for certain expenses.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2079 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to include a child who is a victim of a murder attempt to the victims eligible to receive a onetime- only assistance payment through the Crime Victims' Compensation Act. These payments can be used for relocation and housing rental and are capped at \$2,000 and \$1,800 respectively. HB 2079 would result in the addition of 44 new reimbursements per fiscal year without requiring any additional appropriations. These funds will help ensure the safety and healthy recovery of the child and family.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2630 By: Johnson, Julie</p>	<p>Relating to physician and health care provider directories for certain health benefit plans.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2630 adds language to the Insurance Code to require insurance providers to clarify and edit online directories for physician/specialist availability. Online directories now would have to list service providers in a manner that would clearly distinguish if they are "in network" or status to the insurance company, what plan the physician/specialist would be covered under, and what services are possible to be provided by that physician/specialist. Additionally, this information would be electronically searchable by specialty. HB 2630 would enable more consumer transparency for consumers to make more informed decisions as well as avoid surprise billing when choosing a provider of healthcare services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1276 By: Rosenthal Dutton Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to the assignment of a public school student to an uncertified teacher.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are reports across the state of uncertified and inexperienced teachers that are employed in public school districts, due to a teaching certification exemption based on the size of certain school district classrooms. As of 2015, an estimated 604 rural and urban school districts have qualified for these exemptions based on their classroom sizes. Teachers that are uncertified or inexperienced, and fall under this exemption, can have a negative effect on the students they are teaching. HB 1276 prohibits students from being assigned to a teacher who is uncertified, under the exemption, in 1st – 6th grade for two years in a row. HB 1276 only applies to school districts have more than 5,000 enrolled students and affect teachers that are required to teach the foundation curriculums. This would allow for students to have access to experienced and certified teachers early on in their formative years. An experienced and certified teacher can intervene at critical developmental periods and would be equipped with knowledge to identify productive strategies for the student to be efficient in their personal learning style. This is especially crucial with third grade reading readiness levels.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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