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### LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS Calendar – Monday, April 29, 2019

<p><b>HB 282</b> By: Neave</p>	<p>Relating to the training of peace officers on cases involving child abuse and neglect, family violence, and sexual assault.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Police officers are usually the first people to have contact with sexual assault survivors after an attack. However, it has been a concern that the police officers are not properly trained to handle the trauma that the survivors are dealing with. The first contact with the victim is crucial to the investigation and crucial for the prosecution of the offender since it is the first instance of the victim recalling of the events of the attack. For the victims, this can be very traumatizing since it is reliving an attack that just occurred.</p> <p>HB 282 addresses these concerns regarding law enforcement by amending the occupations code in order to include training that would identify sexual assault cases, as well as provide a trauma informed approach to the crime scene by the police officer. HB 282 also creates a specialized optional certification for responding to cases of sexual assault. The goal of the bill is to have a provide a trauma informed response to cases of sexual assault.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 885</b> By: Raney   Stucky   Anchia   Harless   Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to wage requirements for community rehabilitation programs participating in the purchasing from people with disabilities program.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Purchasing from People with Disabilities program, run through the Texas Workforce Commission, provides employment opportunities to individuals with a disability to be employed within Community Rehabilitation Programs. Community Rehabilitation Programs are government entities which provide services and products to local communities such as medical test kits, landscaping, office supplies, etc. Currently, individuals with disabilities, which may prevent them from performing work tasks at equal rate to another employee, are not required to be paid federal minimum wage in these Community Rehabilitation Programs. Many of these programs are already providing minimum wage to its employees with disabilities but there are currently 222 employees being paid less than the federal minimum wage through these programs. HB885 aims to require <i>all</i> programs to pay at least the federal minimum wage. HB885 would not impact other private entities.</p> <p>The TWC will provide assistance for these Community Rehabilitation Programs to develop a strategic plan to reach minimum wage payment for its workers with disabilities by September of 2022. The TWC will also provide information regarding how increase in wage could impact their federal or state benefits in addition to providing referrals to a benefits counselor upon request. Community Rehabilitation Programs may request to extend their deadline by up to 12 months if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• they have been in collaboration with the TWC to implement their transition to a federal minimum wage and have made progress towards that end goal</li> <li>• displayed their intent to be in the best interest of their workers with disabilities</li> <li>• provided a new transition plan including how the extension will help the program accomplish minimum wage for its employees</li> <li>• request the extension before March of 2022</li> </ul> <p>HB885 requires that the Community Rehabilitation Programs retain all workers with disabilities to the best of their ability after wages are increased. If the program is unable to retain all of their initial workers, the TWC and any</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>pertinent government entity, will work with the former workers to gain access to alternative employment or job training to find a job which provides minimum wage. Through HB885 the TWC will also be required, upon request, to assist any worker with disabilities to secure a job which pays minimum wage regardless of their participation in a Community Rehabilitation Program. If the Community Rehabilitation Program, along with the TWC, determines that an employee's circumstances might lead to their departure from the program and their inability to access employment elsewhere, this particular instance will be exempt from paying the federal minimum wage. Any future participants in the program must pay their employees with disabilities at least the federal minimum wage in order to participate.</p> <p>HB885 ensures the dignity and worth of work from an individual with disabilities is upheld through these Community Rehabilitation Programs.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1378</b> By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Lubbock County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the <i>Special District Local Laws Code</i> regarding Health and Hospital Districts within Chapter 1053 does not relinquish power solely to the Lubbock County Hospital District to employ any officer whose duties are centered around or correlate to public safety. HB 1378 amends the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will add an additional section under <i>Subchapter C of Chapter 1053</i> by granting the board the authority to employ peace officers;</li> <li>• Define the jurisdiction of peace officer which includes anything owned or controlled by the district</li> <li>• Grants peace officer's the same Authority under Chapter 14 of the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i></li> <li>• Expand <i>Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2.12</i> (18) by including Lubbock as a county authorize to commission peace Officers.</li> </ul> <p>Presently, the county's method of hiring armed security officers is done by third party with the oversight of the Texas Department of Public Safety. If this law becomes passed legislation, it will allow the county to have more control over the selection process of the armed officers.</p> <p>Proponents of HB 1378, which include top decision makers of the UMC Health system, appear to believe that it gives the Hospital District a range options to tailor their security needs more specifically to address existing safety risks and future increased safety risk.</p> <p>HB 1378 will allow the Lubbock Hospital District to follow suit with other Hospital Districts that reside in Texas such as Dallas County, Tarrant County, Bexar County, and El Paso County.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>

## LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE HOUSE BILLS Calendar – Monday, April 29, 2019

<p><b>HB 2730</b> By: Leach   Price   Moody   Burrows   Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to civil actions involving the exercise of certain constitutional rights.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP) lawsuit is a law suit brought forward in order to silence free speech. This is used by public officials, companies, and governments in order to drown the opposition in legal paperwork and prevent them from providing any sort of criticism about a certain topic. In 2011, the Texas legislature passed the Texas Citizens Participation Act (TCPA) in order to dismiss these lawsuits and prevents the wrong parties from being drowned in legal paperwork. The TCPA protects people by allowing them to speak more freely about an entity or government. However, since the TCPA passed in 2011, it has been used to dismiss cases that have nothing to do with free speech. There are concerns that the TCPA law is too broad and can be applied to something it should not be applied to. For example, victims of family violence and sexual assault may not be able to tell their story publicly because the abuser threatens the victim with a law suit and silences the victim.</p> <p>HB 2730 addresses these concerns by amending the civil practice and remedies code in order to change language in the code to allow the TCPA to not be used so broadly. HB 2730 changes the language of the current provision to</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
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define clearly that a “matter of public concern” is a statement or activity that involves a public official or public figure, a matter of political, social, or other interests, or a subject of concern to the public. The current law allows for this definition to be used for matters that are not currently matters of public concern. This new definition is narrower and explicitly defined.

By redefining the code, HB 2730 reinstates what the TCPA is intended to do. The TCPA is intended to protect citizens who use free speech. Under HB 2730 any communication made in public or private is protected, participation in government is protected, and media defendants will still have the anti-SLAPP protections(which will protect them while broadcasting). HB 2730 protects speech, association, and petition while still allowing access to the courts to defend one’s reputation as intended originally by the TCPA.

## LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE HOUSE BILLS Calendar – Monday, April 29, 2019

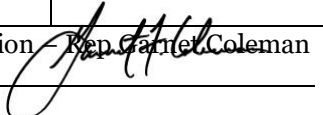
<p><b>HB 2387</b> By: Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of utilization review, independent review, and peer review for health benefit plan and workers' compensation coverage.</p>	<p>Insurance  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2387 would amend the Insurance Code regarding review of services denied by coverage of insurance companies. Agents reviewing denials would now be supervised by licensed medical doctors to review the medical utilization plan. Before the denial of a request, there would have to be a letter of medical determination obtained by the party denying the service. HB 2387 would provide more consumer protection while obtaining coverage of services that require a review. Having a licensed medical professional as a point of oversight would allow for a wider range of knowledge to allow for more informed decision-making when accepting or denying services.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 70</b> By: González, Mary   Zwiener   Fierro</p>	<p>Relating to a strategic plan goal by the Department of Agriculture to prevent crop diseases and plant pests in this state.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Crops across Texas are vulnerable to many infections and diseases which can negatively impact the yield of the product and cause economic harm to the state. One of the most destructive Southwest fungal plant diseases is the Cotton Root Rot, or <i>Phymatotrichum omnivorum</i>, which attacks more than 2,000 species of plants. Texas leads the nation in cotton production and the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has not adopted a goal to address this problem.  HB 70 instructs the TDA to add a goal to the strategic plan to improve the department’s practices, performance, and evaluation procedures relating to crop disease prevention.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2899</b> By: Leach   Cyrier   Gervin-Hawkins</p>	<p>Relating to civil liability and responsibility for defects in the plans, specifications, or other documents for the construction or repair of roads, highways, and related improvements.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>When a contractor is hired for a project under contract, they are presented with a design plan from a third party (such as an engineer or architect) to follow for the construction, repair, or improvement of a road or highway. The contractors and subcontractors have to follow those plans, or they can be held liable for any defect within the road or highway or be sued for breach of contract. However, there are concerns that contractors and subcontractors are being held liable and sued for defects caused by the design plans in the roads or highways.  There are additional concerns that contractors entered into these contracts with design flaws voluntarily and should be held liable for being under contract, however, there are times where contractors do not know the exact provisions of said contracts.  HB 2899 amends the Transportation code to address these concerns. HB 2899 establishes that a contractor or subcontractor cannot be sued for any defect within a road or highway if the defects were caused by the plans from the third party. HB 2899 outlines that even under contract, the contractors and subcontractor cannot be sued since there are concerns that the contractors and subcontractors sometimes do not even know what the contract entails. HB 2899 outlines that a promise or a covenant within a contract can be void and unenforceable if it conflicts with the bill’s provisions which apply to any government entity authorized by law to enter a contract with any contractor.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			Construction Manager at Risk contracts are riskier contracts that contractors can bid for large projects such as large bridges. There are concerns with HB 2899 that it would repeal the section of the government code that allows local governments that enter into Construction Manager at Risk contracts for large projects. By entering into these contracts, contractors assume the risks of the projects. When a contractor bids for these larger, riskier projects, they know what is included within the contracts. HB 1899 repeals these provisions and states that a local government cannot sue the contractors included in these contracts although they know what is outlined before they bid for the project.	
<b>HB 823</b> By: Davis, Yvonne   Clardy	Relating to an expedited on-site health inspection process for assisted living facility license applicants.	Human Services  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Assisted living facilities must have inspections in order to be licensed or get their license renewed through the state. Facilities schedule their life safety code inspection and facilities inspection and once they pass those inspections, they can request for their on-site health inspection. Health inspections are done unannounced once there are 1-3 residents in the facility. Currently, assisted living facilities have experienced delays in their inspections due to understaffing of surveyors through the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and increased number of new assisted living facilities in certain regions. Statute allows for a facility to request an expedited life safety code inspection and facilities inspection within 15 days for a fee but there is currently no process for an expedited health inspection. HB 823 adds into statute that assisted living facilities may request an expedited health inspection be done within 21 days of request with a fee payment; decreasing wait times for licensure. The expedited health inspection will still be unannounced.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3224</b> By: Lozano	Relating to the creation of a defense under the Solid Waste Disposal Act for persons engaged in certain recycling transactions.	Environmental Regulation  Vote: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>Metal recycling entities (MREs) purchase recyclables from private businesses, law enforcement, and the public and arrange for the recycling and disposal of those materials. On occasion, MREs contract with facilities that arrange recyclable materials. When these facilities go out of business after being found to have polluted the environment with recyclable material, sometimes the MRE is held liable for this pollution even though they only contracted for the arrangement of recyclable material.</p> <p>HB 3224 aims to align state law with federal law, however federal and state Superfund law are fundamentally different since state law provides liability for solid waste and hazardous substances while federal law provides liability for only hazardous substances. Furthermore, the committee substitute removes scrap metal from the definition of 'recyclable material' which provides a different standard for scrap metal within the recycling realm. HB 3224 allows persons who arrange/contract with a transporter to process, store, dispose of, or transport recyclables a defense to prosecution of pollution if the company they contracted with violates the Solid Waste Disposal Act and subsequently goes out of business due to pollution violations—however, parties who recycle scrap metal will be held to current exemption found in the Solid Waste Disposal Act's definition of solid waste. HB 3224 exempts MREs from liability if they can prove that they arranged the disposal contract appropriately or arranged to transport the disposal properly. HB 3224 would relieve the MRE of undue prosecution for violations committed by another company.</p> <p>However, the TCEQ recovers cleanup costs incurred when remediating Superfund sites that have been contaminated, and HB 3224 would provide a defense to liability for entities that TCEQ labels as responsible parties, these entities would be exempt from being required to conduct or fund these cleanup activities. TCEQ estimates that current cleanup activities at a former battery recycling site would be impacted by the bill. TCEQ has indicated that the cost of cleaning up the recycling site could range from \$2,200,000 to \$2,900,000 and take 5 years to complete. This is one specific site that will be exempt from the rest of the owed money, there is no way to predict future costs because there could be Superfund sites abandoned in the future that could impose financial impacts.</p>	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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<p><b>HB 1542</b> By: Martinez</p>	<p>Relating to changes made by certain design-build contractors to the design-build team for transportation projects.</p>	<p>Transportation  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>There are concerns regarding the transportation project process where design-build contractors select companies to fill project roles for projects but end up negotiating with another company for a lower cost. The contractors will drop the original contractor and enjoy the savings.</p> <p>HB 1542 prohibits design-build contractors working on highway projects or projects under the Regional Mobility Act from changing companies/entities already selected for the design-build team after requesting for proposals. HB 1542 allows exceptions to this rule. If the original company in the deal goes out of business or cannot complete the terms of the agreement, backs out voluntarily, does not provide an appropriate staff during the proposal stage, or does not comply with the timeline proposal. If the contractor violates HB 1542 outside of the exceptions listed above, the contractor must forfeit the cost savings to the Texas Department of Transportation or the Regional Mobility Authority.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2439</b> By: Phelan   Rodriguez   Collier   Schaefer</p>	<p>Relating to certain regulations adopted by governmental entities for the building products, materials, or methods used in the construction or renovation of residential or commercial buildings.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 10 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>As proposed, HB 2439 would prevent local governments from prohibiting the use of a building product, materials, or method in the construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of a residential or commercial structure. The justification for this is to increase consumer and builder choice in construction as current ordinances, codes, guidelines, and standards create monopolies.</p> <p>Local governments would no longer be able to require that property owners repair or replace historic materials in kind, and local governments would no longer prohibit incompatible building materials on new buildings or additions in historic districts.</p> <p>Cities regulate building materials in a variety of different ways because their citizens demand that they do so. Some of those regulations are for safety, such as prohibiting certain types of fuel gas piping. Some are for protection of property values, such as requiring certain exterior building materials.</p> <p>Stakeholders have agreed to the adoption of the various statewide building codes over the years because the bills that did so allow local amendments to the codes. Texas is a vast state with diverse geography, weather patterns, and community values. House Bill 2439 fails to recognize that fact, and it would make structures in Texas cities less safe and sustainable.</p> <p>HB 2439 does make exceptions for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a program established by a state agency that requires particular standards, incentives, or financing arrangements in order to comply with requirement of a state or federal funding source or housing program;</li> <li>• a requirement for a building necessary to consider the building eligible for windstorm and hail insurance coverage under the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association Act;</li> <li>• a building located in a place or area designated for its historical, cultural, or architectural importance and significance the construction, reconstruction, alteration, or razing of which a municipality may regulate under specified statutory provisions, if the municipality:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ is a certified local government under the federal National Historic Preservation Act; or</li> <li>○ has an applicable landmark ordinance that meets the requirements under the certified local government program as determined by the Texas Historical Commission;</li> </ul> </li> <li>• a building located in a place or area designated for its historical, cultural, or architectural importance and significance by a governmental entity, if designated before April 1, 2019;</li> <li>• a building located in an area designated as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places;</li> <li>• a building designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark;</li> <li>• a building designated as a State Archeological Landmark or State Antiquities Landmark;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a landmark by a governmental entity;</li> <li>• a building located in a World Heritage Buffer Zone; and</li> <li>• a building located in an area designated for development, restoration, or preservation in a main street city under the main street program administered by the Texas Historical Commission</li> </ul> <p>HB 2439 does not take into consideration how the provisions could negatively affect the safety of building by preventing local regulation from keeping pace with the most up-to-date model code cycles as it allows builders to use any building materials that were listed within the last three code cycles. Not keeping up with the most current code cycles, as well as knowing that municipalities will no longer be able to create codes or ordinances from the potential likelihood of losses from natural hazards, insurers that rely on a rating system known as the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) could have their rates for their property increase.</p>	
<b>HB 808</b> By: Dutton	Relating to the consideration of certain student differentials based on sex under the public school accountability system.	Public Education  Vote: 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>The rate of graduation for black male students is at a 59% completion rate compared to white male students at 80%. Under current law, the public education accountability system has a 3rd domain called “Closing the Gap” that measures categories for African American and Hispanic students.</p> <p>HB 808 addresses this gap in graduation rates for minority students, especially black male students, by requiring reporting to be done in the first two years of school and allows the Texas’ public school accountability system to base performance for school district evaluation on black male students only. HB 808 specifies, by gender, the application of the 3<sup>rd</sup> domain for both African American and Hispanic students for accountability rating.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
<b>HB 3106</b> By: Goldman   Krause   Tinderholt	Relating to a requirement that law enforcement agencies enter into the Texas Data Exchange information related to investigations of sexual assault or other sex offenses.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>There have been reported cases of sexual assault and rape where the offender was never caught and assaulted other victims. There are concerns that law enforcement agencies do not have the proper tools to prevent certain predators from becoming serial offenders.</p> <p>HB 3106 provides additional tools to law enforcement in order to help them catch predators and assist with apprehending serial sexual offenders. HB 3106 requires law enforcement to enter offenders’ information into the Texas Data Exchange (TDEX) when a sexual assault crime is committed. The information entered into TDEX includes the suspects name, date of birth, the offenses being investigated, and which law enforcement agency is handling the case. HB 3106 establishes a centralized data system that will assist different counties and law enforcement agencies to catch serial sexual assault offenders faster and prevent them from assaulting other victims.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1307</b> By: Hinojosa   Huberty   Deshotel   Phelan	Relating to the creation of a disaster case management system by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>There were concerns during Hurricane Harvey relief that certain victims of this disaster were not aware of the relief services that were available to be used. This caused more lives to be lost and the recovery process to take longer than it should have. There were also concerns that there was not one centralized data system that specified what state agencies were doing; how many evacuees there were; or outlined communication systems to connect the different state agencies providing services.</p> <p>HB 1307 addresses these concerns by requiring the Texas Department of Emergency Management(TDEM) to create a Statewide Disaster Case Management System to collect all the possible resources that are available. The system will be created as a public website that will allow residents to log in and enter data based on their losses. The state agencies offering relief, certain non-profits such as Red Cross, and impacted city and county officials will also have access to the website on the back end in order to provide support for residents. Through this website, the residents will have the ability to see which assistance they qualify for. The residents’ information would be kept confidential and entering any information to the website will remain optional.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3006</b>	Relating to the	Ways & Means	Per the Comptroller’s legislative proposals, HB 3006 addresses and more closely aligns reporting and payment	<b>Favorable</b>

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By: Burrows	administration of the mixed beverage sales tax.	Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	requirements for the mixed beverage gross receipts and mixed beverage sales tax. The bill establishes that the due date for the permittee to report and make payment to the comptroller is the 20th day of each month for mixed beverage sales tax. The bill requires permittee to report total sales, total taxable sales and any other information required by the comptroller.	Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 914</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to the regulation of bingo games.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	<p>In current bingo games, the state and local governments receive money from the players since the governments impose a prize fee. There are concerns that the charities that receive funds from these bingo games could use more funding and that should come from the prize fee. However, some of these funds are not available since they go to the state and local governments.</p> <p>HB 914 amends the occupations code to set out that half of the proceeds from the charitable bingo games go to the Texas Lottery Commission and the other half goes to the county or local municipality. However, the bill also sets out that the charities that receive some of these provisions can go to the local or state government and request some of the proceeds. The governing body must then vote on whether they would like to keep using the provisions or if they can give them back to the charity. By November 1st, the governing body must vote to keep the provisions or give it back to the charities.</p> <p>HB 914 also targets illegal gambling within counties throughout the state. HB 914 requires that an organization submit a copy of their appropriate license to hold legal gambling within their premises immediately after receiving that license and give written notice to the local authorities of the issuance of the license. HB 914 also extends the 14-day deadline to notify the Texas Lottery Commission of background checks for a licensed bingo worker who is not on the approved bingo worker registry to 30 days. This allows more time for the background checks to reach the commission and the bingo games to not be punished for not meeting that deadline. HB 914 allows for the Texas Lottery Commission to state whether there is illegal gambling within a municipality and if a conclusion by the commission is reached that local law enforcement is not enforcing the illegal gambling, then the prize fee will cease to stop going to the local government. This adds pressure to local entities to punish illegal gambling centers and allow for legal bingo to flourish.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 4009</b> By: Toth	Relating to the establishment, operation, and funding of victim-offender mediation programs; authorizing fees.	Corrections  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Research shows that victim-offender mediation programs are cost-effective, reduce recidivism, and can be helpful for victims and offenders regarding recovery and rehabilitation. Victim-offender mediation allows the victim and the offender to work through the offenses and related issues together with the victim's permission.</p> <p>HB 4009 allows use of pretrial victim-offender mediation programs by the county commissioner's court or governing body of a municipality for non-violent offenses if there is consent from the victim and the prosecuting attorney. This legislation protects victims by allowing them to withdraw at any time from the mediation agreement. The program might additionally require testing, substance abuse treatment, counseling, or mental health resources specific to defendants. These programs are meant for first time offenders and misdemeanor crimes. Completion of the program allows a chance for case dismissal. The program is self-sustaining since it is maintained by the victim-offender mediation fund which receives funding from participation fees and court fees upon completion.</p> <p>HB 4009 allows counties and municipalities to adopt the program if they would like to participate and allows flexibility regarding requirements and rules. HB 4009 also extends to juveniles by directing the Texas Juvenile Justice Board to implement a victim-offender mediation program and establish their own guidelines.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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<p><b>HB 1806</b> By: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer by certain entities.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, due to a provision within the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) Act, there is a requirement to keep any water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer within the boundaries of the EAA, which include all or part of the following eight counties: Uvalde, Medina, Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, Hays and Caldwell. In order to meet the needs of growing population and expanding utility service and infrastructure that now crosses county lines outside of the boundaries of the EAA, there have been calls to provide some flexibility in the interpretation of said provision.</p> <p>HB 1806 will allow a retail public utility that is an original permit holder and the service area of which is contained wholly or partly inside the boundaries of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) to use water withdrawn from the aquifer to provide retail water service in a county adjacent to the boundaries of the EAA. HB 1806 also clarifies that a municipally owned utility owned by the City of San Antonio may sell no more than 6,000 acre feet of water that has been withdrawn from the aquifer per year at wholesale to a retail public utility or river authority for use in any county adjacent to Bexar County.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1619</b> By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to court reporters and shorthand reporting firms; imposing a fee; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the state is suffering from a shortage of court reporters within the courts. With a shortage of court reporters, there are concerns that the integrity of the court could be at stake if proper records are not maintained. Court reporters are a crucial component to the judicial system.</p> <p>HB 1619 addresses the concerns by providing court reporter apprenticeships and provisional certifications. The apprenticeship program will allow for court reporters that are going through the licensing program to get experience transcribing within the courts with oversight from a licensed court reporter. The provisional court reporters' certifications would allow court reporters who move to Texas from another state to be able to serve as court reporters on a temporary license while they work to get their court reporter license in Texas. HB 1619 addresses the shortage of court reporters in the state and allows for more reporters within the courts. The oversight for these apprenticeships and provisional certifications will have complete oversight by the Judicial Branch Certification Commission (JBCC) which is in charge of court reporters.</p> <p>HB 1619 also amends the government code to require a notice of appeals to the court reporters by the attorneys. This will aid the court reporters to have prior knowledge of an appeal rather than waiting until the notice is served by mail. HB 1619 also provides consumer protections for courts who hire court reporters by providing a notification of certificate with an exact amount as to how much a court reporters service is, however, the certificate does not outline what the breakdown of the services are.</p> <p>HB 1619 requires the JBCC to define the conditions for which a court reporting firm's behaviors or reporter's behaviors are deemed unacceptable and the bill creates a misdemeanor offense for firms who violate registration requirements. This will hold firms and reporters accountable for providing the best services available.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2169</b> By: Allen   Rosenthal   Wu</p>	<p>Relating to reporting concerning female prisoners who are confined in county jails and to the provision of feminine hygiene products to female prisoners.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2169 amends the Government Code of Texas law by adopting established rules and procedures that would serve as a minimum standard for the quantity and quality of feminine products provided to female prisoners. Currently, Texas law does not provide a benchmark standard for providing female inmates certain hygiene items. HB 2169 also positions the county jails to assist in the decision making process of the hygiene needs of the female prisoners.</p> <p>HB 2169 will order a category for female prisoners to be appended to a county's monthly jail population report.</p> <p>If HB 2169 is passed, it will help preventable health care risks caused by feminine hygiene products that do not meet the bill's threshold of quality.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>

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<p><b>HB 2100</b> By: Cain   Oliverson   Goldman   Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the protection of expressive activities at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2100's prevents restrictions on speech by public colleges and universities as it is seen as a form of censorship. HB 2100 does not protect behavior that crosses the line into targeted harassment and threats or that creates a continued hostile environment that materially and substantially disrupts the functioning of the institution.</p> <p>HB 2100 will require that each institution of higher education adopt a policy detailing students' and employees' rights and responsibilities regarding expressive activities at the institution. Within this policy, it must also establish disciplinary sanctions for those who unduly interfere with such expressive activities of others on campus. A point of concern within HB 2100 is its requirement for an institution to maintain an official position of neutrality on "matters of public concern," when approving an invited person to speak on campus, which is defined as matters related to health and safety; environmental, economic or community well-being; a local, state, or federal government; a public official or figure; a good or service; or a public policy or controversy. An institution of higher education should be allowed to take a stance on public policy issues, which can be on a number of topics, as a way to create an environment that fosters tolerance and safety on campus. For an institution to do so does not take away its capabilities of protecting expressive activities of their employees or students, and it should not be mandated that colleges and universities take up a neutral stance on all matters of public concern.</p> <p>If an institution of higher education violates provisions laid out in HB 2100, the attorney general or the person whose expressive rights have been violated may bring an action of injunctive relief to compel the institution to comply or to recover compensatory damages, or \$1,000 (whichever is greater), as well as pay the court costs and attorney's fees. Each day that the higher institution is to be found in violation of a rule or policy set out by HB 2100's provisions will constitute as a separate charge. As a temporary provision, prior to December 1, 2020, each institution of higher education shall prepare, post on their website, and submit to the governor and the members of the legislature a report regarding the institution's implementation of HB 2100's requirements.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 63</b> By: Moody   Collier   White   Dutton   Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the civil and criminal penalties for possession of certain small amounts of marijuana and an exception to prosecution for possession of associated drug paraphernalia; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  Vote: 5 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There are over 75,000 arrests per year for marijuana possession in Texas, which is more than any other state, and 97% of those arrests are for small amounts. That cost of such arrests and prosecutions is \$734 million every year.</p> <p>HB 63 decriminalizes the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana and replaces it with a civil penalty not to exceed \$250. A person only commits a criminal offense, Class C misdemeanor, if they have been ticketed with a civil penalty two times before.</p> <p>HB 63 does not allow for a peace officer to make an arrest solely because of a violation regardless if the person has made multiple violations, and they may only issue a citation to make an appearance in court. If a person is not able to afford the civil penalty a judge may require the defendant to complete maximum 10 hours of community service. Provisions within HB 63 do not impact a peace officer's authority to conduct a search or seize of marijuana or other property as contraband under any law.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1543</b> By: Springer   Flynn   Schaefer</p>	<p>Relating to methods to enhance the enforcement of the collection of the use tax due on certain off-highway vehicles purchased outside this state; providing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas retailers have expressed concerns over off-highway vehicle sales lost to out-of-state retailers, who maximize and advertise the lack of tax enforcement to attract business from Texas. This is detrimental to the state's retailers and results in lost tax revenue for the government.</p> <p>HB 1543 introduces an enforcement mechanism, requiring manufacturers of off-highway vehicles to submit an annual report to the comptroller, listing each warranty sold to a Texas resident by a retailer located outside Texas. The bill would mandate that the comptroller use the report to monitor manufacturers for compliance, impose a civil penalty for violation, as well as investigate and collect taxes as soon as practicable. HB 1543 also prohibits county assessor-collector or Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) from issuing certificate of title or title receipt for off-</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			highway vehicles purchased out-of-state unless applicant delivers evidence of paid sales tax.	
<b>HB 2668</b> By: Turner, Chris	Relating to the dissolution of a direct-support organization established by the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board and the transfer of funds related to prepaid higher education tuition scholarships to the Texas Match the Promise Foundation or a successor entity.	Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Currently, there is money awarded to the Texas Prepaid Tuition Scholarship Foundation (TPTSF) about 15 years ago in the amount of \$2,741. This amount of money is statutorily set to be terminated along with a few other accounts that hold unused money.  HB 2668 allows the comptroller to dissolve the accounts with the terminated funds and transfer them to the Texas Match the Promise Foundation to help students receive scholarships for an estimated total transfer of \$15,600. HB 2668 transfers unobligated funds that were formerly under the TPTFS to be added to the Texas Match the Promise Foundation and fund student scholarships through the Texas Save and Match program.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
<b>HB 2188</b> By: Frullo   Larson	Relating to the operation of electric and nonelectric bicycles.	Transportation  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Electric bicycles are becoming more popular in Texas. Regarding manufacturers, retailers, and consumers, it is important to have consistent and predictable regulations for the up and coming industry.  HB 2188 establishes the regulations for E-bikes by defining electric bicycles in statute as a bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor fewer than 750 watts, and a maximum speed of 28 miles per hours. HB 2188 also defines classes of E-bikes into three categories based on speed and motors (or lack thereof) and requires labels of these classifications on the bikes themselves, sets an age limit to Class 3 e-Bikes at 15 years old, and allows local authorities and municipalities to set their own restrictions including speed limits and restricted use in certain areas/on certain terrain.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1865</b> By: Landgraf   Thompson, Senfronia   Meyer   Ortega   Harless	Relating to the licensing and regulation of massage therapy; requiring a student permit; authorizing fees.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	There have been concerns that massage parlors remain as a significant problem regarding labor and sex trafficking. During the interim period before the 86th legislative session, the Texas Human Trafficking Taskforce recommended statutory changes to the massage therapy code.  HB 1865 amends the occupations code to authorize the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to conduct criminal background checks on massage therapy license applicants as well as making a person who has been convicted of sex trafficking or related sexual offenses until after 5 years of this conviction. HB 1865 requires TDLR to require applicants to submit to a finger print background check to obtain an applicant's criminal history.  HB 1865 requires TDLR to require a student who is enrolled in a massage therapy school to hold a permit with their name and the name of their school and requires the permit to be displayed in the school. HB 1865 also requires the massage schools to maintain monthly progress reports that certifies attendance for all of the students. The schools are required to notify the TDLR that the students has successfully completed all of the required courses.  The current code exempts students who provide massage therapy as part of an internship program form licensing. HB 1865 repeals this current provision and requires all students to become licensed massage therapists.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2845</b> By: Canales   Darby   Clardy   Phelan   Burrows	Relating to the removal of wind power facilities.	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	As wind power production becomes more widespread and more prevalent, HB2845 will require that decommissioned wind farm facilities, including wind turbines, be cleared, cleaned, and removed by wind farm operators. Any agreement that waives the right or exempts a grantee, a person who leases property from a landowner and operates a wind power facility on the property, from liability or duty of clearing, cleaning, and removing is made void by HB 2845. Only at the request of a landowner will a grantee need to clear, clean and remove each road constructed on the property and, if reasonable, returning the property to a tillable state, removing rocks of a certain size, and ensuring that that each hole or cavity created in the ground through the removal is filled with topsoil of the same type or a	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>similar type of topsoil found on the property. A landowner may make these requests up to one year after the date on which the wind power facility is no longer capable of generating electricity in commercial quantities.</p> <p>HB 2845 will require that a wind power facility agreement to include that the grantee shall obtain and deliver to a landowner a bond or other form of financial assurance to secure the performance of the grantee's obligations to remove their wind power facilities located on the landowner's property in an amount that is at least equal to the estimated cost of removing the wind power facilities and restoration of landowner's property. The estimated salvage value of the wind power facilities must be determined by an independent third-party professional engineer licensed in this state. It is also the responsibility of the grantee to deliver an updated said estimate every five years and ensuring that the amount of the bond or other financial assurance remains sufficient.</p>	
<b>HB 2623</b> By: White	Relating to the requirements for a change of name for a person with a final felony conviction or a person required to register as a sex offender.	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In rare cases, an individual may use a name besides their birth name that has been used for legal documentation and used in the person's criminal history record information. Concerns involve people being penalized for trying to change their names from one that has been used for most of their entire lives.</p> <p>HB 2623 allows for a court to permit a name change for an individual with a felony conviction or a registered sex offender if the name is being changed to the primary name used in criminal history record information. As a stipulation, HB 2623 allows this change if the individual provides the court with proof that the person has notified the appropriate local law enforcement authority of the proposed name change.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<b>HB 3842</b> By: King, Tracy O.	Relating to the requirement that a motor vehicle dealer obtain a general distinguishing number for a consignment location.	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, motor vehicle dealers are only allowed to sell vehicles from their licensed premise. However, sections of the law state that if that dealer sells more than 5 cars from another location, that location must also be a licensed dealer location. This creates confusion within the industry as to where it is allowed to sell a vehicle or not.</p> <p>HB 3842 amends the transportation code to protect the consumers from dealers who poses as a private seller to sell a car from a location other than where they are licensed to sell from. The bill also protects consumers from certain dealers sending their vehicles to another dealer and having them sell that vehicle hiding who is actually selling or who the owner of the vehicle is from the consumer. The bill protects the consumers and allows them to buy vehicles.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<b>HB 985</b> By: Parker	Relating to the effect of certain agreements with a collective bargaining organization on certain state-funded public work contracts.	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 985 would prohibit governmental entities from prohibiting, requiring, discouraging, or encouraging a bidder on state-funded public works contract from entering into or adhering to a Project Labor Agreement (PLA), a collective bargaining agreement that is put in place prior to the hiring of any contractors or workers, even though Texas has never entered into such an agreement before on a taxpayer-funded project.</p> <p>The author of HB 985 claims that states where PLAs are common also have higher unemployment rates, but these claims are not supported by the facts. Correlation does not equal causation. In fact, according to federal data, Texas construction employment has reached a record high growing 6.4% in 2018. The worry for Texas employers right now is in the inability to find workers they need to grow. In an industry that is known for its dangerous working conditions, ensuring the safety and security of workers through collective bargaining agreements could be seen as a benefit rather than a hinderance to the growth of our state.</p> <p>There have also been arguments that PLAs drive the cost of projects up but there is no evidence to back that up. If PLAs did drive up the cost of construction, then the question that must be asked is why do so many cost-conscious and profit-orientated corporations use them repeatedly?</p> <p>Any qualified contractor can bid to work under a PLA on a public contract. Many agreements in the public sector</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

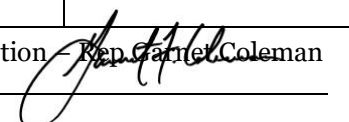
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			contain special accommodations to make it easier for contracts that do not ordinarily work under collective bargaining agreements to participate on the project (e.g. some agreements will permit contracts to bring a certain number of their existing employees onto the worksite without requiring them to go through the union's hiring halls).	
<b>HB 1139</b> By: Thompson, Senfronia   Leach   Moody   White   Walle	Relating to the applicability of the death penalty to a capital offense committed by a person with an intellectual disability.	Criminal Jurisprudence  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>In 2002, the United States Supreme Court ruled that executing people with intellectual disabilities is a cruel and unusual punishment and would leave it up to the states to come up with their own method of defining the condition. However, this process which has not yet been legislated in Texas has left the courts across the state to decide what that method looks like with zero uniformity. In 2017 and again in 2019 the U.S Supreme Court ruled that the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals' test for intellectual disability is unconstitutional. HB 1139 will provide guidance to determine whether a criminal defendant is intellectually disabled by requiring courts to use the most up-to-date medical standards of intellectual and developmental disability, and by providing a process for judges to determine whether the defendant is intellectually disabled. HB 1139 will prohibit a defendant who has an intellectual disability from being sentenced to death.</p> <p>HB 1139 authorizes an attorney for a defendant to request that the judge hearing the case hold a hearing to determine whether the defendant is a person with an intellectual disability. The request must be accompanied by evidence from a credible source indicating that the defendant is a person with an intellectual disability. On the request of either party or on the judge's own motion, the judge shall appoint a disinterested expert experienced and qualified in the field of diagnosing intellectual disabilities to examine the defendant and make a diagnosis.</p> <p>HB 1139 places burden of proof on defendant to prove at such a hearing by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is a person with an intellectual disability and authorizes the state to offer evidence to challenge evidence offered by the defendant. Evidence offered by either party must be consistent with prevailing medical standards for the diagnosis of intellectual disabilities.</p> <p>The judge is then required to make a determination, no later than the 30th day after the conclusion of the hearing, whether the defendant is a person with an intellectual disability and to issue an appropriate order that must contain findings of fact explaining the judge's reasoning for the determination and citing evidence in the record. If the judge determines that a defendant is not a person with an intellectual disability, then the trial moves forward as usual. HB 1139 will prohibit the jury at the trial from being informed of the fact that the judge held a hearing but does authorize the defendant to present evidence of intellectual disability as otherwise permitted by law. HB 1139 entitles the state to appeal an order of a court in a criminal case that determines that that a defendant is a person with an intellectual disability.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3143</b> By: Murphy   Button   Sanford   Noble   Shaheen	Relating to the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.	Ways & Means  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>HB 3143 as originally introduced aimed to extend the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act another ten years through 2029, however this extension provision is not included in the committee substitute and the program is currently set to expire September 1, 2019. The Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act provides for Chapter 312 tax abatement agreements designed to incentivize economic development through property tax exemptions.</p> <p>HB 3143 provides several transparency measures and clarification requirements regarding eligibility including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The taxing unit must hold a public hearing before adopting, amending, repealing or reauthorizing guidelines;</li> <li>• The taxing unit must maintain and post current guidelines on a website;</li> <li>• Public notice for meetings considering approval of a tax abatement agreement with a property owner, must be posted at least 30 days prior and be in accordance with the open meetings law; and</li> <li>• The chief appraiser must deliver a report to the comptroller on property appraisals that have expired</li> </ul>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>under chapter 312, for each of the first three years after expiration.</p> <p>Additionally, if the agreement provides for 25 or more new jobs within a municipality or relates to property subject to a voluntary cleanup agreement, a fiscal impact statement detailing the potential local costs and benefits of the agreement is required.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2611</b> By: Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the treatment of certain limited liability companies as passive entities for purposes of the franchise tax.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Passive entities are defined as having income derived from or is related to financial assets and investments. Passive income includes, for example, dividends, royalties, interest, foreign currency, rental income or property gains.</p> <p>Currently statute restricts the definition of a “passive entity” to limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and trusts, HB 2611 expands the definition to include limited liability companies (LLC) for franchise tax exemption purposes.</p> <p>While an LLC provides an easier, more accessible route to exemption eligibility, HB 2611 would have an estimated \$35 million negative impact to the Property Tax Relief Fund that would have be made up from General Revenue and place additional strain on the Foundation School Program Fund.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 4429</b> By: Blanco</p>	<p>Relating to the inclusion of mental health first aid training in the mental health program for veterans.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Veterans suffer from mental health conditions and suicide at rates far higher than the general population. The population accounts for 14% of the nation's suicides. Yet only half of veterans who need mental health services receive it.</p> <p>Current Texas law offers a mental health intervention program for veterans through DSHS known as the Texas Veterans' Mental Health Program. This program is a face-to-face training program that helps individuals recognize and respond to signs of mental health issues.</p> <p>HB 4429 adds to this law a requirement for the program to contract with local mental health authorities to provide Mental Health First Aid for Veterans training for both veterans and their immediate family members. Data about the new training requirement will be required to be reported through DSHS under the existing annual report for the mental health training intervention program for veterans.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1111</b> By: Davis, Sarah   Springer</p>	<p>Relating to maternal and newborn health care.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Over the last few years, Texas has taken actions to address its high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity. Yet, the numbers still show that 80% of maternal deaths were potentially preventable. Increasing access to services for pregnant and new mothers can help decrease the rates of negative health outcomes for mothers in Texas. Complementing such efforts with a strategy to maintain and improve the newborn screening plan can also result in positive health outcomes for Texan children as well.</p> <p>To address these concerns, HB 1111 seeks to create a study, three pilot programs, and other provisions to help increase rates of positive outcomes for Texan mothers and children.</p> <p><b>Study: Telehealth/Telemedicine Maternal Care Through Medicaid</b> HB 1111 requires HHSC to study whether there are benefits and cost savings for providing Medicaid reimbursement for prenatal and postpartum care delivered through telemedicine and telehealth services.</p> <p><b>Pilot Program: Pregnancy Medical Home</b> HB 1111 creates a pilot program to establish pregnancy medical homes for the purpose of serving pregnant women who are on the Medicaid program. The pilot program should be implemented in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least two counties with populations of over two million</li> <li>• At least one county with a population between 100,001 and 500,000</li> <li>• At least one rural county with high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, as determined through consultation with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force</li> </ul> <p>HB 1111 says that each of these pregnancy homes will be:</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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- required to have a maternity management team composed of specific healthcare providers who all offer services at one unified location
  - required to conduct a risk assessment to determine the pregnancy risk classification for each participant upon entry to the pilot program
  - required to an individual pregnancy care plan based on the results of the pregnancy risk assessment and follow each participant through the pregnancy to help reduce poor birth outcomes
  - authorized to offer financial incentives for providers who participate in the program
- The commission may waive certain requirements from this section for pregnancy medical homes in a rural area.

HB 1111 allows the HHSC to:

- offer home telemonitoring services and any necessary medical equipment to program participants contingent on the opinion of the physician and the commission that such provisions will help reduce the risk of hospitalization or emergency medical care
- reimburse providers under Medicaid for telemonitoring and medical equipment

By the first day of 2021, the commission must submit a report to the legislature on the pilot program which must include the evaluation of reduction in poor birth outcomes and a recommendation as to the fate of the pilot program.

**Pilot Program: Telehealth/Telemedicine Prenatal and Postpartum Care – Low Risk**

HB 1111 requires HHSC to create a pilot program to offer prenatal and postpartum care via telehealth/telemedicine to women with low risk of pregnancy-related complications in certain areas.

The pilot program should be implemented in:

- At least two counties with populations of over two million
- At least one county with a population between 100,001 and 500,000
- At least one rural county with high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, as determined through consultation with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force

Participants of the program shall be identified through the Medicaid telehealth/telemedicine maternal care services study created in this bill. HHSC shall use the results of the study to create criteria for the selection process of this pilot program.

HB 1111 allows the HHSC to:

- offer home telemonitoring services and any necessary medical equipment to program participants contingent on the opinion of the physician and the commission that such provisions will help reduce the risk of hospitalization or emergency medical care
- reimburse providers under Medicaid for telemonitoring and medical equipment

By the first day of 2021, the commission must submit a report to the legislature on the pilot program which must include the evaluation of the program’s success in delivering prenatal and postpartum care through telehealth/telemedicine services.

**Pilot Program: Coordination of Maternal Care – High-Risk**

HB 1111 seeks to provide care coordination services for high-risk pregnancies. To do so, HHSC is required to:

- provide support, resources, technical assistance, training, and guidance required for this program

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- screen all or a sample of women with a pregnancy risk assessment
- provide community health worker services for women with high risk pregnancies to provide patient education, offer resource linkage assistance, and work to reduce barriers to health care access.
- develop training courses to prepare community health workers and promotoras (in current statute, a promotora is a person who acts as a liaison between the healthcare provider and the patient.
- create and submit an evaluation and recommendation on the future of the program to the executive commissioner and the chairs of the appropriate committees of the Senate and House

**Creation of Newborn Screening Program Dedicated Account**

HB 1111 requires the creation of a dedicated account to ensure that the costs of performing the screening is covered. These fees will be placed into a new account, provisions for which are offered within the bill, for the newborn screening program. Any additional screenings that DSHS chooses to add to the newborn screening panel will need to be funded from this dedicated account.

After the any costs of operating the newborn screening program, any leftover funds may be used to pay for any repairs, upgrades, or expanded screening conducted for the lab. These dedicated funds may not be used for other HHSC functions.

Should DSHS require additional screening tests, the department must prepare a report following the addition of the test that speaks to actions taken by the department to fund and implement the test. This report will be submitted to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker, and each legislative committee with jurisdiction over the agency.

**Report on Maternal Mortality Rates**

The provisions of HB 1111 require HHSC to create a report regarding actions taken by all relevant programs to address Texas maternal morbidity and maternal mortality rates. This should be reported to the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Speaker, the Legislative Budget Board, and the appropriate committees of the legislature. Reported information would include that from Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), CHIP-Perinatal, Healthy Texas Women, Family Planning Program, programs under the federal Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Act, the Perinatal Advisory Council, state health plans, and the Healthy Texas Babies program.

**Evaluation of Programs**

Additionally, HB 1111 requires HHSC to engage in collaboration with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and other stakeholders to evaluate existing programs and potential solutions. To do so, the commission must:

- explore options for expanding the pilot program for pregnancy medical homes
- explore methods for increasing benefits and services provided under Medicaid for women at a greater risk of a high-risk pregnancy or premature delivery, even after the end of their Medicaid eligibility period
- study whether supplemental payments to obstetrics providers for pregnancy risk assessments might increase access to maternal health services
- evaluate the average time required for a pregnant woman to enroll in Medicaid
- evaluate and recommend future actions on programs funded through the federal Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program grant
- evaluate the use of telemedicine medical services for women through pregnancy as well as the postpartum period

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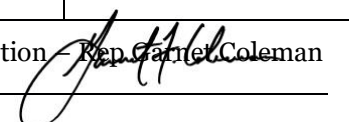
			<p><b>Data on Maternity Care and Postpartum Depression</b>                  HB 1111 also requires the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force to annually collect a number of statistics on maternity care and postpartum depression in Texas. There is some concern that the Task Force may not have the resources and staff required to complete this task.</p> <p><b>Grant Applications</b>                  HB 1111 requires HHSC to apply to the US Department of Health and Human Services for grants under the federal Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2018.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2282</b>                  By: Parker</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of certain limitations on the capture and use of biometric identifiers to financial institutions.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments &amp; Financial Services</p> <p>Vote:                  11 Ayes                  0 Nays                  0 PNV                  0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2282 would allow financial institutions to use biometric data of consumers without notification as to enable security features to be up to date without a lag in service. Current statute only includes voiceprint data and HB 2282 would amend current law to encompass all biometric data utilized for security measures taken by financial institutions on behalf of consumer access to financial information.</p> <p>HB 2282 would allow for more consumer protection and less interruption of security with the notification system of biometric.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>                  Evaluated by:                  Elizabeth Churaman                  (281)-686-4544                  Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 4214</b>                  By:                  Capriglione   Bohac   Blanco</p>	<p>Relating to matters concerning governmental entities, including cybersecurity, governmental efficiencies, information resources, and emergency planning.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote:                  11 Ayes                  0 Nays                  0 PNV                  2 Absent</p>	<p>In an effort to help fund local government entities and smaller state agencies to keep up with cybersecurity, information resources, and emergency planning needs, HB 4214 will create a matching grant program as well as provide assistance by providing for the appointment of a state chief innovation officer and providing for the creation of information sharing and analysis centers.</p> <p>Costs associated with HB 4214 could be significant as it requires each agency to implement a constant monitoring program and contract with an independent contractor to conduct an independent assessment of each agency's exposure to information security risks. What was estimated by the LBB as the minimum costs associated with HB 4214 would be \$3.8 million in General Revenue Funds through the biennium ending August 31, 2021. The fiscal impact on local governments is said to be mostly dependent on the extent to which the school- or public junior college districts already conduct the assessments required by the provisions of HB 4214.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>                  Evaluated by:                  Merci Mohagheghi                  (713) 382-7007                  Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1528</b>                  By: Rose   Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the reporting of certain information involving family violence offenses.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote:                  5 Ayes                  3 Nays                  0 PNV                  1 Absent</p>	<p>A class C misdemeanor in Texas is only punishable by up to a \$500 dollar fine. Family violence is classified as a class C misdemeanor and therefore only punishable by fine. There is currently no database available for family violence offenders which means a person can potentially re-offend several times in different jurisdictions and go unnoticed by law enforcement.</p> <p>HB 1528 amends the code of criminal procedure in order to require court clerks to begin a reporting process for class C misdemeanors that involve family violence. If a person is found guilty of this charge, they will have to submit to a fingerprint card that will outline the person's citation. The clerk will then have to upload this information to the Department of Public Safety's electronic program that will be developed by DPS. HB 1528 protects victims from re-offenders as well as allows law enforcement to be informed of who has committed crimes of family violence.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>                  Evaluated by:                  Santiago Cernigliaro                  (713) 435-9049                  Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p><b>HB 2817</b> By: Lucio III   Raney   Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the contractual relationship between a pharmacist or pharmacy and a health benefit plan issuer or pharmacy benefit manager.</p>	<p>Insurance  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2817 adds language to the Insurance Code to prohibit insurance providers from paying non-affiliated pharmacies a lower rate for the same service as an affiliated pharmacy. A fee schedule would be provided and be available online easily to all pharmacies in network as to determine compensation rates. Language would also be included to prohibit retaliation if the pharmacy were to ship medication to a patient on request with prior disclosure the shipping cost may not be compensated by the insurance plan to the patient. Additionally, Benefit manage4rs may not apply retroactive fees against pharmacies unless under ran audit discrepancy. This does not affect the ability to retroactively increase payments based on performance incentives. HB 2817 would protect smaller pharmacies from being purposely cut from the market and offer more service choices for consumers. Language include provisions as well to protect benefit managers from being charged by pharmacies for the shipping cost retroactively.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2811</b> By: Price   Frank   Minjarez   Thompson, Senfronia   VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the prescribing of controlled substances and dangerous drugs for acute pain.</p>	<p>Public Health  Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that in 2017, Texas had 2,989 deaths due to opioid overdoses. 1 in 9 Texans suffer from Substance Abuse Disorder, and in 2014 alone, the state spent over \$2 billion in opioid-related healthcare costs. While Texas continues to have one of the lowest opioid-related overdose deaths, with the increase in rates of prescription drug abuse, related deaths and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, it is imperative that Texas laws be amended to improve regulation of controlled substances. HB 2811 attempts to address this issue by adding additional regulation to create a consistent guideline for physicians to communicate with patients as well as standards by which to evaluate the patient and review treatment. HB 2811 also adds certain definitions into Code to keep it relevant and updated. In evaluating a patient with acute pain, HB 2811 requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consideration of whether a treatment meets the standard of care</li> <li>• the practitioner to obtain a medical history and physician examination that is focused on the acute pain</li> <li>• the Texas Medical Board to adopt rules regarding what must be documented in the patient's medical chart if the patient is being prescribed a controlled substance</li> <li>• the physician to review the patient's prescription data and history prior to prescribing a controlled substance or dangerous drug</li> </ul> <p>HB 2811 also requires for regulatory agencies of practitioners to create guidelines regarding a mandated discussion between the practitioner and the patient about the risks and benefits of using a controlled substance or dangerous drug for the treatment of acute pain. This conversation must be verbal, but the practitioner may also provide written information. It must also be documented in a signed document that is kept in the patient's medical record. During the discussion, the practitioner must address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the risk of addiction, overdose, and misuse</li> <li>• the necessity of the prescription for the patient's treatment</li> <li>• the responsibility of the patient to keep the drugs in a safe location</li> <li>• methods for disposal</li> <li>• the patient's diagnosis</li> <li>• the proposed treatment plan</li> <li>• the anticipated results of the treatment plan as well as realistic expectations of the improvement of pain symptoms</li> <li>• potential alternative therapies</li> <li>• potential side effect and ways to manage them</li> <li>• the potential for impairment of judgement and motor skills</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			As needed, the practitioner must see the patient for a review of symptoms and treatment at reasonable intervals or refer the patient to another practitioner to do the same. At these reviews, the practitioner must review compliance with the treatment plan and reevaluate potential for substance abuse or non-compliance. Those patients who are at a higher risk for substance abuse or also have a psychiatric disorder must be given consultation with or a referral to an expert in the management of such patients.	
<b>HB 97</b> By: Rodriguez   Murphy	Relating to the eligibility of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land.	Ways & Means  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 97 would include explicit statutory eligibility requirements for open-space land to allow for greater consistency in consideration of smaller scale agricultural operations (<10 acres) with 'uncommon' or less conventional methods and land use for production of fruits and vegetables. Currently, variation in local interpretation of appraisal criteria disadvantage some fruit and vegetable producers and operations with less common though increasingly sustainable agricultural methods like pasture-raised poultry and rotational grazing. This bill would require the chief appraiser, along with the appraisal districts and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, to develop guidelines and distinguish between intensity requirements for various these producers and methods for open-space land property tax purposes. Concerns have been expressed that this would result in less funding for local services however this bill is not expected to significantly expand the amount of exempted properties.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 669</b> By: King, Ken	Relating to the use of the universal service fund for the provision of broadband service in underserved rural areas.	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 669 would add a rural broadband service program under the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) to allow those funds to be dispersed amongst companies that elect to participate in the program to build and maintain broadband service to rural areas. It has been argued that the TUSF is not the appropriate place to provide additional funding for the expansion of broadband services as the current source of money for the TUSF is from a percentage of a customer's wireline and wireless phone bill. To use portions of the TUSF money only toward rural areas would a be a mismatch in purpose, especially when it will come at the cost of the customer in the form of an increased phone bill.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 103</b> By: Martinez   Guillen	Relating to the establishment of a public law school in the Rio Grande Valley.	Higher Education  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>The Rio Grande Valley is an area that has been historically underrepresented in terms of access to healthcare professionals and legal representation in relation to population density and diversity, and it is geographically isolated from educational opportunities such as legal education. About 5 years ago, the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) opened its first medical school and this has helped the valley grow in tremendous ways. However, the Rio Grande Valley currently does not have a public law school and the distance to the nearest law school is out of reach for most people.</p> <p>HB 103 authorizes the governing board of a university system to establish and operate a school of law in either Hidalgo County or Cameron County. HB 103 would increase the representation of attorneys per person for residents of the Rio Grande Valley, since the state-wide ratio is 1 attorney for every 311 residents, but the current attorney to population ratio along the border for the Brownsville-Harlingen Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 1 to 736, and the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA is 1 to 805.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsq.org
<b>HB 4306</b> By: Biedermann   Nevarez   Cain   Miller   Murr	Relating to border security enhancement projects and the creation of a fund to pay for those projects; allocating the earnings on the balance of that fund and reimbursement of related expenditures.	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4306 would create a fund, that would be managed by the governor, in order to contract with various parties to accomplish the goal of enhancing border security and to develop and implement a pilot program in one or more counties on the international border with a population of: more than 240,000 and less than 252,000; or more than 54,000 and less than 55,000. The fund may only be used for the planning, designing, constructing, or maintaining along this state's international border water and transportation infrastructure, technology, and commercial vehicle inspection infrastructure at ports of entry for the purposes of preventing human trafficking and illegal entry to the U.S., terrorists, instruments of terrorism, and contraband. The governor may waive any legal requirements as necessary to ensure expeditious design, testing, construction, installation, deployment, operation and maintenance of infrastructure and technology.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>What HB 4306 actually might do given its very broad charge is potentially a major issue. If the intent is to create a government fund for infrastructure along the border, it should be made clear that it will not be used to build a wall.</p> <p>Additionally, border security is the responsibility of the Federal government. Texas should not allow the Federal government to abdicate its responsibility to fund border security.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2384</b> By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to judicial compensation and assignment and the contributions to, benefits from, membership in, and administration of the Judicial Retirement System of Texas Plan One and Plan Two, including related changes to the compensation and retirement benefits of certain prosecutors and other members of the elected class of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In the past 18 years, Texas judges have only received 2 pay raises and the rates are 25-35% lower than judges in other states. There are concerns that judges are not being paid enough and can make more money working as private attorneys. Texas is beginning to lose good judges to private practices and less competent attorneys are becoming judges. There have been past attempts at raising the base pay for judges, however, the formula that codifies the base pay is directly tied to the legislative retirements. Raising the base pay for judges consequently raises the retirement benefits for the legislative members.</p> <p>HB 2384 addresses these concerns by amending the government code and setting the base pay for judges at 140,000 for district judges. District judges have been getting paid this much as their base pay since 2013, HB 2384 puts the amount into code. HB 2384 also creates a new tiered pay system for district judges based on their years of services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0-4 years- judges get the base pay of \$140,000</li> <li>• 4-8 years- receive 10% increase</li> <li>• 8-12 years- receive an additional 10% increase</li> <li>• Over 12 years- receive an additional 10% increase</li> </ul> <p>HB 2384 also adds provisions to the salary pay of the appellate court, district court, multicounty court, and probate court by computing the numbers of years served equals to a certain percentage increase in their salary tied to the base pay of district judges.</p> <p>HB 2384 also modifies the retirement of the district judges by linking it up to the state base pay of a district judge. The new retirement system does not increase the legislatures retirement plan but instead links up the Judicial Retirement system to the new tier pay system mentioned above. HB 2384 helps bring qualified candidates to the bench for a competitive salary. HB 2384 also helps retain the judges that are on the bench currently.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 720</b> By: Larson</p>	<p>Relating to appropriations of water for recharge of aquifers and use in aquifer storage and recovery projects.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 720 addresses concerns regarding the lack of development of aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects and aquifer recharge projects, which provide for the retention of water. Yet, concerns with HB 720 suggest that it may be based on a false premise that as long as current "environmental flow standards" are met, surface water flow needs for fish and wildlife habitat are fulfilled, but that is not necessarily the case. This bill sets up a complex and possibly unworkable and counterproductive system for "evaporative" water credits; it sets up a false expectation that storm water and perhaps even flood waters might easily be captured for ASR projects when in reality there are many economic, physical &amp; logistical, and water quality challenges and barriers to doing so on a grand scale.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 133</b> By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the payment of gratuities to certain employees.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>When a credit card or debit card is used at a place of business, the company that services that card will charge the merchant a "swipe fee". This swipe fee takes anywhere from 1.5 percent to 5 percent of the transaction as the compensation for the financial services. Any tip paid through credit card or debit card by a customer to an employee is also subject to the swipe fee. Currently, merchants subtract the swipe fee from the tip that is given to a tipped employee.</p> <p>The Legislature has previously passed legislation that prevents merchants from passing on this fee to the consumer. HB 133 attempts to provide the same protection to tipped employees. HB 133 prohibits an employer from collecting</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>any portion of gratuity intended for a tipped employee, including any percentage intended to pay swipe fees. Rather, the employer will be required to provide the entirety of the paid tip to the tipped employee and pay the swipe fee from other funds. HB 133 clarifies that any gratuity intended for an employee is the property of the employee.</p> <p>Because tipped employees are not responsible for a customer's decision to pay by card or for the employer's decision to accept them, it seems unreasonable to penalize the tipped employee. Additionally, a customer who tips expects the entirety of the tip to be given to the employee. To contradict this expectation without notice is misleading. HB 133 does not levy a punishment, fee, or any other penalty for a violation, causing concerns about the lack of enforcement of this statute. There are also concerns that this statute may disproportionately affect smaller businesses that may not be able to take on the burden of paying swipe fees for tips from other funds. Federal law currently allows for employers to use employee tips to pay such fees.</p>	
<p><b>HB 406</b> By: Price</p>	<p>Relating to organ donor registration information when applying for a hunting or fishing license on the Internet.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Department of Public Safety partners with the Glenda Dawson Donate Life - Texas Registry, also known as the Texas organ donor registry. This partnership has allowed increased registrations for the program. However, Texans are generally only required to renew their driver's license or state identification card every six years. Hunting and fishing licenses must be renewed every year, meaning that certain Texans visit the Parks and Wildlife annual outdoor license application website than the DPS for a driver's license renewal. HB 406 requires the Parks and Wildlife Department to add to their site for hunting and fishing license applications a link to the Texas Organ Donor Registry. The bill does not require a license issuer to ask the license applicant about organ donor registration.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1906</b> By: Burns</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from or federal waiver of the annual assessment requirements for public school students with significant cognitive disabilities.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, school districts are held accountable with measuring educational attainment for students with disabilities using the alternative assessment instrument STAAR Alt 2 under federal law in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This alternative exam has met all federal requirements under ESSA and has already been designed to take into consideration students with a range of cognitive disabilities for students in grades 3-8 and high school. If Texas does not meet the participation threshold of alternative assessments for students who can take the alternative exam, the state is currently allowed to ask and receive a waiver.</p> <p>HB 1906 authorizes a parent, or guardian, of a student with significant cognitive disabilities to request that the student be exempt from TEA developed alternative exams. HB 1906 authorizes an additional waiver of exemption to be created for the TEA to submit to the U.S. Department of Education for students with significant cognitive disabilities.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that it allows for a gap to be created for students with disabilities for measuring educational attainment via the creation and addition of an exemption waiver. The current alternative exam that was developed under federal law already covers students with a range of cognitive disabilities. HB 1906 does not clearly define those that have significant cognitive disabilities who would be allowed to request this exemption from alternative exams.</p> <p><u>There is an amendment authored by Rep. Hinojosa that intends to improve HB 1906. The adoption of the amendment would address the significant concerns laid out by advocates, as they would back off their opposition, but would only remain neutral. Nevertheless, HB 1906 would be rated favorable if this amendment were adopted.</u></p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

<p><b>HB 3950</b> By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the child welfare task force and provision of services in the child welfare system.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3950 creates a child welfare task force to develop a state plan for the implementation of Community-Based Care (CBC) in addition to prevention services for the child welfare system and preserving the family unit. The task force will consist of 9 legislators appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House with the chair and vice chair elected by members of the task force. The task force will meet at least quarterly with appropriate public notice of meetings and may consider public testimony.</p> <p>This task force will identify sources of funding for implementation of Community Based Care (CBC) and prevention services. The state plan will include a timeline for the implementation of CBC throughout the state of Texas and identify what the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) requires to fully implement CBC such as enhanced technology services, legal services, etc. The task force will also identify the barriers in place which keep the state from using federal or state funds for preventing entrance into foster care. Specifically, the task force will identify placements which may be eligible for federal funds through the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and any other programs/services which could receive federal funds through FFPSA. The task force may request relevant information from HHSC, DFPS, and other relevant state agencies. The task force will submit a report to the legislature by September 1, 2020. Afterwards, the task force will continue to review the implementation of CBC and will submit a final evaluation by December 30, 2024.</p> <p>While the task force will request relevant information from state agencies in addition to taking public testimony, the task force needs to include child welfare experts and advocates to provide experienced input from a variety of backgrounds; including individuals from DFPS, attorney ad litem, child advocates, or individuals from child-placing agencies. Including these individuals will promote transparency and ensure the strategic plan reflects the support of experts. In addition, the task force should focus more heavily on the FFPSA which will be implemented by the fall of 2021. With limited guidance federally, it is crucial that Texas review its programs/services and prepare for implementation in a short period of time. Including all FFPSA strategies within the task force's state plan will ensure that Texas receives as many federal funds as possible which is needed for Texas' prevention services.</p> <p>Texas does not currently have any regions in stage 2 of CBC which involves the transfer of all case management services for children in foster care to a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). Transferring case management services is a huge feat and there are concerns that relying wholly on a private contractor will not result in improved outcomes. Two regions are currently planned to enter into stage 2 by the end of 2020 pending the appropriate funds from the legislature. However, CBC expansion is not currently fully funded and implementing expansion without appropriate funds could lead to negative outcomes in the future. The task force needs to review the effectiveness and outcomes of CBC implementation through all stages and determine best practices for the state moving forward.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 351</b> By: Blanco   Capriglione   Dean</p>	<p>Relating to emergency management for cyber-attacks against this state.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 351 will add the term "cyber-attack," in order to qualify as a disaster and therefore be eligible for a disaster declaration, to the Emergency Management Chapter of the Government Code. Including this term is needed in an era where we have become more dependent on technology and are becoming more susceptible to cyber threats. "Cyber-attack" is defined as an attempt to damage, disrupt, or gain unauthorized access to a computer, computer network, or computer system.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 882</b> By: Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to the duration of a bingo occasion.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote:</p>	<p>Currently, a bingo event or occasion can only last 4 hours. The 4 hours includes time to eat, take a break, and do necessary administrative paperwork. There are concerns that the 4 hours for a bingo occasion is not long enough and causes the players to rush through the game.</p> <p>HB 882 amends the occupations code and extends the time allowable for the bingo occasion to occur from 4 to 6</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	hours. HB 882 amends the license issued for these bingo occasions to allow for the time extension. By extending the time from 4 hours to 6, HB 882 allows for the game to run longer and therefore earn more earnings. HB 882 allows for administrative paperwork to also be completed without shortening the length of the game.	
<b>HB 354</b> By: Herrero	Relating to exemption of certain firefighters and police officers from jury service.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 2 PNV 2 Absent	When summoned to appear for Jury Duty, appearance is mandatory for everyone summoned. For police officers and fire fighters, this is the case as well. There are concerns that when these first responders are summoned for Jury Duty, they are coming off their shift and could be sleeping instead of participating in this civic duty. There are other concerns that if a police officer is summoned when they are supposed to be on shift, their caseload is not replaced by another police officer, his shift just goes uncovered.  HB 354 amends the government code in order to address these concerns. HB 354 allows fire fighters and police officers to be exempt from Jury Duty if they choose to. HB 354 allows Jury Duty to be optional for these certain first responders. Police officers and fire fighters tend to not get picked for jury duty, for certain cases, regardless due to their close relationships to other members of their related field. Under HB 354 police officers and fire fighters will still be able to serve if they choose to.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2481</b> By: Metcalf	Relating to the administration of a veteran's treatment court program.	Corrections  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Current law allows formation and operation of a veterans' treatment court program in any county. Criminal cases for veterans can be transferred to be dealt with in this veterans' treatment court program if their county has it. As a result of the 84th Legislative Session, if the criminal charges are incurred outside of the veterans' home county, the county can transfer a veteran's participation in veterans' treatment court program to the county where the veteran works/resides. The issue is that some counties don't accept transfers or misdemeanor/felony cases, or they don't have an operating program, at all.  HB 2481 allows veterans to transfer to veterans' treatment court program located in the county where they work/reside OR a county adjacent to theirs with the defendant and program's consent. This opens opportunity to transfer cases close to home which facilitates participation in beneficial programs for veterans.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 399</b> By: Hernandez	Relating to the period during which an employee may file a claim for unpaid wages with the Texas Workforce Commission.	International Relations & Economic Development  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Currently, an employee has 180 days (from the date wages are due) to file a wage theft claim with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to receive unpaid wages. An employer commits wage theft when they <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fail to pay their employees for work done (including overtime, off-the-clock work, and working through meal breaks)</li> <li>pay less than minimum wage</li> <li>misclassify employees as independent contractors to pay lower than minimum wage</li> </ul> Wage theft disproportionately impacts low-income workers; taking money from employees who worked hard for those wages and removing tax revenue from Texas. Filing a claim with the TWC requires paperwork and detailed employment information which the employee must get from an employer who may have wronged them. Oftentimes, workers are not aware of the TWC and their ability to file a claim against their employer and won't be able to file something within the current 180 day deadline. HB 399 extends the filing deadline for a wage claim through TWC for up to 12 months after the wages were to be paid by the employer. Employers are already required to keep employment details up to 2 years under federal guidelines, so this extension does not add requirements to employers.  HB 399 will remove a bureaucratic barrier to receiving legally owed wages for working Texans. It is important to uphold the rights of employees who have been wronged by their employers and ensure they are given an appropriate amount of time to file for their unpaid wages.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

<p><b>HB 1243</b> By: Ashby   Price</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation of certain revenue from mixed beverage gross receipts and sales taxes.</p>	<p>Appropriations  Vote: 19 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>A drug court is a type of specialty court that provides certain non-violent offenders an option to avoid incarceration by allowing the individual to get treatment. Drug courts are proven to decrease crime and save the state money as every dollar spent on specialty courts equals \$3.36 gained in avoiding criminal justice costs and \$27 in gained reduced health care services and victimization cost. However, many counties do not have drug courts because of a lack of resources. Counties that do have drug courts have been operating with less money due to funding cuts. HB 1243 directs the comptroller to deposit 1% of revenue from mixed beverage gross receipts and sales taxes to the drug court account. HB 1243 is expected to put funding back at 2013 levels and will provide a more consistent, sustainable funding source for drug courts.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 441</b> By: Bernal   Romero, Jr.   Anchia   Stucky   Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the Texas Workforce Commission to pay the cost of taking a high school equivalency examination for certain individuals.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>About 1 in 6 working age individuals in Texas do not have a high school diploma while at the same time Texas is experiencing a shortage in qualified workers. Having a high school diploma or an equivalent leads to securing higher paying jobs and access to greater opportunities. Currently, the average cost of a high school equivalency exam is \$137. Coming up with the money to pay for the exam can be a huge barrier for low-income individuals and discourages individuals from taking the exam. HB 441 requires the Texas Workforce Commission to pay for the first completed high school equivalency exam (such as the GED) for an individual who is 21 years or older; removing this payment barrier and hopefully increasing access to higher paying jobs.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2050</b> By: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to consent requirements for the prescription of certain psychoactive medications to residents of nursing facilities and related institutions.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, nursing facilities are required to get consent from a resident or their legal representative in order to prescribe and give antipsychotic/neuroleptic medications. The facility tracks on paper that consent was given and under what circumstances the consent was given, however, neither the resident nor legal representative need to sign a document explicitly designating their consent. This has led to concerns that facilities are not appropriately documenting consent for antipsychotic/neuroleptic medications and potentially giving medications which are not needed or appropriate for certain populations.</p> <p>Antipsychotic/neuroleptic medications have a black-box warning by the FDA containing disclosure of the serious and life-threatening risks associated with giving these medications to individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia. However, many of these medications are being used in nursing facilities to treat behavioral problems associated with these diseases without appropriate consideration of alternative treatments like increased physical activity, music therapy, change in environment, redirection, etc. While at times these medications may be needed for the safety of the individual or those around them, HB 2050 seeks to ensure proper consent for these risky medications and potentially divert facilities to first consider other options. HB 2050 will require HHSC to build a standard consent form for the administration of antipsychotic/neuroleptic medications for residents in a nursing facility. The prescription of an antipsychotic/neuroleptic medication is considered valid only if the consent is in writing on the standard form in addition to requirements which are already in statute.</p> <p>When a resident is newly admitted into the facility, it should be clear that the treating physician or the medical director of the facility should be able to gain consent for the medication if needed or if the resident was receiving the medication prior to admit but does not have the appropriate consent.</p> <p>HB 2050 will provide another measure for surveyors from HHSC to determine if these medications are being appropriately administered with valid consent, and if they are not, gives added basis for violation fines.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p><b>HB 2303</b> By: Moody   King, Phil   Thompson, Senfronia   Guillen   Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of a bet for purposes of gambling criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, fantasy sport competitions are illegal due to them being considered as gambling and one actually has to bet on their team or players in order to participate. There are concerns that fantasy sports competition are actually based on skill, thorough understanding of how competitions are played and who is doing what in the competition.</p> <p>HB 2303 amends the penal code in order to exclude fantasy sport competitions from the definition of what a bet is. HB 2303 adds language to the penal code in order to define that betting cannot include a fantasy game or contest that reflects true knowledge and skill of the participants of said contest. HB 2303 expands the legality of fantasy sports in order to keep 4 million Texans on the right side of the law and narrowly defines what a fantasy sport competition is in order for the law to not be misused to expand other gambling channels.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2726</b> By: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the commencement of construction of a project following the issuance of a draft permit for a permit amendment to an air quality permit.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2726 relates to language from SB 1740 from the 79th legislative session regarding construction commencement for facilities before permit approval from TCEQ. SB 1740 was put into statute, but the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed TCEQ that this legislation violates the preconstruction permitting requirements in the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA). EPA does not allow construction to commence before proper public notice and comment procedures. TCEQ did not adopt SB 1740 into agency rules and it is unlikely that the passage of HB 2726 would change that because it doesn't correct EPA's previously identified terms.</p> <p>Even though not adopted by TCEQ, current code allows a person who submits an application for a modification permit to begin construction at their own risk before the permit is fully approved by TCEQ. Current language refers to permit applications "for a modification of or a lesser change to an existing facility", HB 2726 replaces that with applications for permit amendments. Construction can begin while awaiting the final permit issuance once the application is submitted but HB 2726 states that persons may begin construction after they have submitted an application AND received a draft permit issued by the Executive Director at TCEQ. HB 2726 further states that TCEQ may not use commencement of construction to determine whether to grant the permit.</p> <p>'Modification' and 'amendment' have different meanings. Modification of an existing facility includes any physical change of change in method of operation, that increase air contaminants by the facility. Permit amendments are changes in the method of control of emissions, character of emissions, and air contaminant emission rate increases. The term "amendment" is narrower than "modification or a lesser change" regarding facility/permit changes. This change is limiting because the statute won't be used for minor alterations and permit revisions because they don't meet criteria for an amendment.</p> <p>In general, allowing entities to begin construction earlier in the process, before permit approval, is a bad idea. This will disturb the permit engineering review of applications. TCEQ permit engineers offer suggested physical improvements and if the establishment is already partially built, the opportunity to include suggestions becomes limited. It also hinders public participation in contested case hearings and these hearings lead to improvements in facilities and it's easier to include those before building has commenced.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2734</b> By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to an anatomical gift on behalf of a resident in a state supported living center.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>In state supportive living centers, people are under the care of the state but have legal guardians who make every day decisions for them. If the guardian passes away and no one else claims responsibility for that person, then the state becomes the guardian. When this responsibility is shifted from person to state, the state loses the ability to donate the organs of that person if the person passes away. There are times where the people who the state is a guardian for may be a match for organ donation, but the state cannot sign off on the donation.</p> <p>HB 2734 amends the Health and Safety Code to create a legal form that is given to the guardians of people who live in state supportive living centers that allows the guardians to grant the state permission to donate the organs in the case</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		2 Absent	that the guardian passes on. This gives the state clarity and the form is kept in the patients file for record.	
<b>HB 2983</b> By: Huberty	Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.	Public Education  Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Standardized testing in the state can often take a toll on young students with a total of 17 STAAR tests administered for students in grades 3-8. There is an over-testing burden that teachers and school districts are faced with for their students.  HB 2983 reduces the amount of consecutive testing for students who have performed well consistently by removing certain statewide standardized tests and reduces the STAAR tests to only 10 instead of 17 for students in grades 3-8. For students who have not yet achieved a satisfactory score on certain sections of any statewide standardized test, they will be tested again on the subject area they underperformed on using a test that the TEA will develop instead of testing the students on an entire STAAR test again.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
<b>HB 741</b> By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to the notice of rights provided to an injured employee under the Texas workers' compensation system.	Business & Industry  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	When an individual is involved in a worker's compensation case, they may not always know their rights in choosing a treating doctor. HB 714 clarifies that an employee has the right to choose their treating doctor. This can include a Doctor of Medicine, osteopathic medicine, optometry, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic. The chosen treating doctor must be licensed and authorized to practice. Currently, the Division of Workers' Compensation within the Department of Insurance is required to create and distribute a written notice of an injured employee's rights and responsibilities. The bill language requires that information regarding the right to choose a treating doctor must be included in the notice distributed to the injured employee.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3542</b> By: Phelan	Relating to the valuation of a retail public utility or its facilities as part of a voluntary acquisition.	State Affairs  Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	There are some smaller water and wastewater utilities whose system infrastructure is in need of repair or replacement but cannot afford to make the needed upgrades. Sale to a larger water company is one way to enable system improvements and to ensure reliable service. However, current state law restricts a water utility's ability to recover investments made to acquire a water or wastewater system. HB 3542 would allow for that and require a certain process to be followed to determine the fair market value of the selling utility or the facilities to be sold. The Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) would be required to maintain a list of experts qualified to conduct economic valuations of utilities for the reason that the fair market value is determined by the average of three valuation expert appraisals. The ratemaking rate base of the selling utility would be either the purchasing price negotiated by the utilities or the fair market value, whichever is less, and shall be incorporated into the rate base of the acquiring utility during the utility's next base rate case. HB 3542 would also allow an acquiring utility's post-acquisition improvements to accrue an allowance of funds used during construction either after the date the cost was incurred until either four years after the date the asset entered into service or the inclusion of the asset in the next rate base case, whichever was earlier.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2048</b> By: Zerwas   Darby   Krause   Davis, Sarah   Howard	Relating to the repeal of the driver responsibility program and the amount and allocation of state traffic fine funds; eliminating program surcharges; authorizing and increasing criminal fines; increasing a fee.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The Drivers Responsibility Program (DRP) was created in 2003 in order to punish drivers who were consistently not following the law and using the fees collected to fund trauma hospitals in Texas. The DPR collects surcharges from drivers who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect more than 6 points for traffic offenses on their driver's license</li> <li>• Are convicted for driving without proof of insurance or without a driver's license</li> <li>• Are convicted of Driving While Intoxicated</li> </ul> The DPR collects charges from these drivers on top of the fines that the drivers have to pay. Since its inception, the DPR has collected 40% less money than it was expected to and has inadvertently targeted low income drivers. The drivers who are convicted of driving without proof of insurance account for 90% of the surcharges the DPR brings in. These drivers typically cannot afford insurance but need to drive a vehicle in order to go to work, school, and provide for their families. If a person who is charged with these surcharges under this program does not pay the surcharges, their license is suspended. Therefore, because of these surcharges, 1.5 million Texans have their license suspended and tend to continue to drive illegally.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>HB 2048 addresses the concerns that are raised by the DPR by amending the transportation code to repeal the program. Instead, HB 2048 turns the DPR surcharges into a fine and increases other traffic fines. HB 2048 increases the amount of a state traffic fine from \$30 dollars to \$50 and decreases the amount a municipality receives from that fine from 5% to 4%. Out of the money left over, 80% will go to the General Revenue fund and 20% will go to the trauma facilities services account.</p> <p>HB 2048 increases the fines for people who are convicted of driving while intoxicated to the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> offense: \$3,000 fine</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$4,500 if the offense occurred within 36 months of the first offense</li> <li>• \$6,000 fine for any offense if the blood alcohol content upon arrest is .16 or higher.</li> </ul> <p>The allocation of the funds would be distributed by providing 80% to the General Revenue fund and 20% deposited to the Trauma facilities services account.</p> <p>HB 2048 also increases the fee amount that an insurance company has to pay to the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority from \$2 dollars to \$4. The formula for the increase of fee would then be \$4 multiplied by the total number of motor vehicle years of insurance for insurance policies. The distribution of these funds is 20% deposited into the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority, 20% into the General Revenue Fund, and 60% into the Trauma facilities services account.</p> <p>By repealing the DPR account, HB 2048 distributes the costs of funding the trauma hospitals to all Texan driver's rather than mostly to those who cannot afford it. Repealing the DPR and increasing the fines will bring more money into the trauma centers and they will be funded accordingly. Repealing the DPR will also allow Texan drivers to continue to drive legally and not have their license suspended through this program.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1191</b> By: Johnson, Jarvis   Wu</p>	<p>Relating to an annual report concerning the number of inmates who have been in the conservatorship of a state agency responsible for providing child protective services.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Many people who have spent time in the foster care system end up in the state or federal correctional system. This is referred to as the Foster Care-to-Prison pipeline. Data on how many Texas inmates spent time in the foster care system in their youth is lacking and inaccessible to the public. Foster youth face disproportionate risk for incarceration nationwide.</p> <p>There is already a report summarizing stats concerning the number of inmates who have been in foster care that Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) submits to the speaker, the lieutenant governor, and committees overseeing TDCJ. HB 1191 requires the report to go to Lt. governor, governor, each member of the legislature, and be published online. HB 1191 also requires the report to include whether the offender is entering the system for the first time and what age they are entering the system. This assists research regarding the length of time before fostered individuals meet the criminal justice system.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3582</b> By: Murr   Moody   White   Wray   Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for certain intoxication offenses and the eligibility for deferred adjudication community supervision of defendants who committed certain intoxication offenses; enhancing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, deferred adjudication is not offered in Texas for first offense Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) crimes. This glitches up the system for judges/courts, over-penalizes individuals in some cases and under-penalizes individuals in other cases. Deferred adjudication was taken off the table in the 80s because it was labeled as insufficient accountability, but data doesn't point to harsher punishment as a solution for first time DWI offenses.</p> <p>The majority of first time DWI offenders don't get charged with second DWIs. Judges know this and experience frustration when there are perfect candidates for deferred adjudication, but they lack the ability to grant it. DWI convictions ruin lives and cut opportunity for success in Texas because the process leaves people with their assets depleted since it is so expensive and immense trouble finding jobs.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>Prosecutors try to loophole the system to find routes where deferred adjudication can be used by changing the DWI charge to something like obstruction of a highway, or, in larger counties judges can use diversion contracts. Some judges refuse to do this and are stuck giving sentences when they don't necessarily want to.</p> <p>The loophole system is especially problematic when people reoffend, and drive intoxicated. The majority of people who are charged with DWIs do not offend a second time, but when people do get second DWIs, the likelihood of reoffending again skyrockets to 80-85%. When judges give defendants the opportunity for deferred adjudication by charging them with obstruction of a highway, if they reoffend, the first DWI won't truly be in the system so the second DWI and what it statistically means-that the person will probably keep doing this and the situation needs attention-might not be handled properly. This is glitchy and problematic because for second offenses, the risk of continued intoxicated driving is high and the individuals need to be monitored and rehabilitated after continuing to put themselves, and others, in danger.</p> <p>HB 3582 allows deferred adjudication as an option for first-time DWI offenders if there was no personal injury and property damage. Deferred adjudication is a restorative approach with rehabilitative measures that are beneficial and effective in reducing recidivism. This also solves the current inability to track DWIs and hold people accountable when they continue to drive while intoxicated. Even if an individual successfully completes deferred adjudication, if they are charged with another DWI, both charges will be recognized in court. This reflects statistical data because people who receive second DWIs are likely to reoffend which endangers public safety.</p> <p>HB 3582 further allows judge discretion for ignition interlock devices. Judges are not required to have ignition interlock devices installed in main vehicles used by defendants if they don't think it is necessary. There are situations, for example, if a young offender is charged with a DWI and his vehicle is the family car, where it is not helpful to install an ignition interlock device. Also, HB 3582 grants permission for judges to allow reduction in costs or payment plans for ignition interlock devices if they see fit which protects people without the means to pay ongoing fines. However, if individuals blow into the machine with a positive read for alcohol, the reduced fees stop there.</p>	
<b>HB 1895</b> By: Nevárez	Relating to the investigation of municipal fire fighters.	Urban Affairs  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Currently, certain protections that are offered to firefighters who are under investigation for misconduct only apply to certain municipalities. For the municipalities to which certain investigation requirements do not apply, there are concerns that when a firefighter comes under investigation for misconduct, there are instances in which the firefighter may be threatened with termination even before opening a proper investigation.</p> <p>HB 1895 clarifies that a municipality may not take punitive action against a firefighter without an appropriate investigation that has been conducted in accordance with Texas law. The statute will apply even if the municipality is covered by either a meet and confer or collective bargaining agreement, but the protections do not apply in situations where the firefighter has been convicted of a family violence crime, a felony, a Class A misdemeanor or a Class B misdemeanor.</p> <p>HB 1895 not only provides protections for the firefighter to ensure proper investigative procedure, but also protects the employer from litigation for wrongful termination.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1868</b> By: Lozano   Anderson, Charles "Doc"   Zwiener   Stephenson	Relating to the creation of the Texas Rural Water Advisory Council.	Agriculture & Livestock  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	<p>Currently, there are no measures in place to assure the quality and quantity of water for rural communities. Things such as pesticide runoff, water waste, windblown and water borne litter are issues that rural communities face related to water in their area. Rural communities do not have best management practices (BMPs) that have oversight of the quality and quantity of rural water.</p> <p>HB 1868 creates a Texas Rural Water Advisory Council within the Department of Agriculture Office of Water consisting of 15 members and the council will design a BMP plan to assist rural communities. The Texas Rural Water</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org

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		0 Absent	Advisory Council would design BMPs, that get reported back annually to the legislature, relating to litter and illegal dumping along with pesticide management with the flexibility for the commissioner to implements additional topics of importance for the council to address.	
<b>HB 2747</b> By: Ortega   Landgraf   Thompson, Senfronia   Harless	Relating to the licensing and regulation of massage therapy.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>Illicit massage establishments are known to be fronts for illegal human trafficking. There are over 700 illicit massage parlors across the state, employing women who do not have a license to work at a massage parlor. In many of these places, the massage therapists are forced to live on the premises and are forced to work by their “employers”. There are concerns that not enough measures have been taken to protect the lives of victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>HB 2747 amends the occupations code to require a finger print back ground check for those who have a massage therapy license in order to flag those who have criminal history in other states and prevent those who have opened illicit stores in other states to do so in Texas. HB 2747 requires for a photograph to be attached to the massage therapy license in order to easily identify fake licenses and those who are using another people’s license. HB 2747 requires for the license to be posted in a visible location at the store. The bill also prohibits anyone from living on the premises of the massage parlor and requires the posting of signs with available services for those who are subjected to human trafficking. HB 2747 tackles the issue of illicit massage establishments and protects victims of human trafficking.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2025</b> By: Thompson, Ed	Relating to legislative oversight of the issuance of driver's licenses and certain other forms of identification in this state.	House Administration  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	<p>Concerns have been raised regarding long wait times and frustrating experiences when applying or renewing for a driver’s license.</p> <p>HB 2025 seeks to address these concerns by establishing an 8-member joint oversight committee for the legislative review of the issuance of driver's licenses and certain other forms of identification to review the following duties are administrated by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the issuance of driver's licenses;</li> <li>• the issuance of personal identification certificates;</li> <li>• the issuance of election identification certificates; and</li> <li>• the registration of voters during the issuance or renewal of a driver's license or personal identification certificate.</li> </ul> <p>HB 2025 requires the committee provide a biennial report to the legislature. The provisions of the committee and of HB 2025 are to expire HB 2029.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Raul Lopez (512) 787-7199 Raul@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 2945</b> By: Perez   Thompson, Senfronia   Longoria   Price   Goldman	Relating to payment card skimmers on motor fuel dispensers and to creating a payment fraud fusion center; imposing civil penalties; creating criminal offenses.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>HB 2945 would add language to the Business and Commerce Code to allow for the creation of a task force for the handling of payment card skimmers at fuel dispensers. HB 2945 also outlines penalties for those in possession or use fraudulent debit and credit card data. The bill includes duties set forth by the Attorney General on merchant duties which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent skimmer installation</li> <li>• Find and remove skimmers</li> <li>• Reporting skimmers to appropriate departments within 24 hours of discovery.</li> <li>• Cooperation with department/ law enforcement to enable an investigation.</li> <li>• Violation of duties or violation of rules adopted by attorney general will incur a civil penalty ≤ \$5,000.</li> <li>• Negligence to report or has at least 3 reports in 24 months will incur a fee of between \$1,000-\$5,000 per violation.</li> </ul> <p>HB 2945 establishes procedure and regulation over card skimmer crime which has increased recently due to the</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

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			increased use and sophistication of card based transactions and potential for theft. Establishment of statute would enhance public protection for a new type of crime in which fuel stations are not equipped to handle at the direct point of contact.	
<b>HB 1548</b> By: Springer   Middleton	Relating to the operation of golf carts, neighborhood electric vehicles, and off-highway vehicles; authorizing fees.	Transportation  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	<p>Some areas in Texas, especially coastal cities, have people moving around on golf-carts and ATVS which is preferred over bigger vehicles travelling the small neighborhoods and tearing up beaches. HB 1548 is a clean-up bill. Before last session, law enforcement found statute hard to interpret regarding golf carts on local roads, it was hard to know what vehicles belonged where. Current law has been amended many times regarding vehicles like All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Utility Vehicles (UTVs) and Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles resulting in confusion for drivers and law enforcement officers. Last session, legislation passed to clean this up and it did solve the majority of the problems, but there were a few things overlooked and HB 1548 plays the role to fix this.</p> <p>HB 1548 clarifies that ATVs are banned from state/local highways but gives local governments authority to allow ATVs on local highways. HB 1548 also consolidates legislation regarding ATVs because currently it is spread out in several chapters. HB 1548 reclassifies ATVs, recreational off-highway vehicle, and utility vehicles as off-highway vehicles. HB 1549 prohibits the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) from registering off-highway vehicles, neighborhood electric vehicles, and golf carts as operational on highways even if they have alterations. HB 1548 requires these <u>unregistered</u> vehicles to have license plates (never expire but must get a new one when transferring ownership) if they are on highways and allows a maximum fee of \$10 for said plates to go to the TxDMV fund. HB 1548 prohibits use of off-highway vehicles on state land that is not for use of vehicular traffic. These vehicles are allowed on public off-highway vehicle land (land where off-highway recreation is allowed) but adult supervision is required for riders under the age of 14. HB 1548 allows off-highway vehicles registered by TxDMV and owned by the state, county, or municipality to operate on public beaches and highways for public safety purposes. HB 1548 specifies a Class C misdemeanor for people who violate laws related to off-highway vehicles on public off-highway vehicle land or beaches. This clears up legislation regarding off-highway vehicles which is beneficial to public safety.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3231</b> By: Clardy	Relating to the regulation of firearms, air guns, knives, ammunition, or firearm or air gun supplies or accessories by a county or municipality.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>There have been concerns that laws between the state and local municipalities are conflicting. Preemption statutes are uniform state laws that local municipalities have to enforce and cannot over ride. There are concerns that certain gun laws need to be reevaluated for their preemption statutes since there is not uniform enforcement by municipalities or municipalities are enforcing their own restrictions on guns. There are concerns that municipalities need laws to be explicitly laid out so they can enforce them.</p> <p>HB 3231 amends the local government code in order to update the preemption laws in the state. HB 3231 prohibits local municipalities from adopting any rules or regulations relating the transfer, private ownership, keeping, transportation, licensing, or registration of firearms, knives, and ammunition. HB 3231 prohibits the local municipalities from adopting any rules or regulations relating to the possession of a firearms; the possession, carrying, owning, storing, a gun accessory; or regulations relating to the selling of fire arms.</p> <p>HB 3231 also extends the same prohibitions to counties as well as the prohibition of adopting zoning laws relating to firearms, regulating the carrying of a firearm by a person who is licensed, and regulating the carrying of a firearm by an employee whose official duties relate to carrying a weapon.</p> <p>Under HB 3231 counties can still regulate the discharge of firearms and adopt land use regulations. If municipalities break these prohibitions or go against the preemption laws, HB 3231 allows for a resident of any municipality who has been affected by these violations of the law to sue the municipality.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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<p><b>HB 1883</b> By: Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to deferred payment of ad valorem taxes for certain persons serving in the United States armed forces.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Current statute allows for deferment of delinquent property tax payments without penalty for active military service members if serving during a declared war or national emergency. H.B. 1883 strikes a the "the war or national emergency ends" condition of eligibility for a person serving on active duty. The bill also establishes the delinquent tax does accrue a 6% interest annually (instead of the current 1%) if unpaid after the expiration date of the 60-day delinquent deferral period, but the bill also removes the additional 12% penalty altogether. The bill applies to taxes paid on or after the bill's effective date, even if the penalties or interest accrued prior.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3012</b> By: Talarico   Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to requiring the provision of course work to public school students subject to in-school or out-of-school suspension.</p>	<p>Public Education  Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, public schools suspended about 700,000 students according to the TEA Annual Discipline Summary, and the students that make up this population were majority Hispanic/Latino. The TEA Annual Discipline Summary indicated that there was a total of 1.3 million suspensions across the state which means that students were suspended more than once leading to multiple sessions of missed class time. Currently, there is no requirement for the students placed on in or out of school suspension to receive material missed during class time, nor is there a requirement to make the curriculum material available for these students.</p> <p>HB 3012 requires core subject teachers to make available the curriculum materials that are provided to the other students in the classroom, available to students that are placed on in or out of school suspension. HB 3012 allows for students that are placed on in or out of school suspension to not fall behind in their classroom and leads to them staying on track for their exam and test preparation.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 888</b> By: Landgraf   Phelan   Cyrier   Burns   Dean</p>	<p>Relating to creating the criminal offense of misrepresenting a child as a family member at a port of entry.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 888 would create a criminal offense, Class B misdemeanor, of mispresenting a person younger than 18 years of age as a family member at a port of entry. A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by confinement in county jail for no more than 6 months and a possible fine of up to \$2,000. The intent of the bill is to decrease child victims of human trafficking. However, the language of HB 888 does not make clear that only a person who is attempting to traffic or smuggle a person is subject to this offense, which could then impact those who are simply seeking asylum. Without this distinction, HB 888 is in direct conflict with Federal law.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3124</b> By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to tuition and fees charged by The Texas A&amp;M University System for certain national laboratory or national laboratory operator employees and dependents.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Current law allows The University of Texas System to provide "in-state tuition" for employees of a national laboratory they have established a partnership with. The Texas A&amp;M University System recently partnered with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) through the National Nuclear Security Administration and The Texas A&amp;M University System is required to provide the LANL employees and their dependents with in-state tuition rates at any of A&amp;M University System campuses.</p> <p>HB 3124 allows for The Texas A&amp;M University System to provide LANL employees and their dependents with in-state tuition rates at any of A&amp;M University System campuses once they are enrolled at the campus.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3045</b> By: Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of solid waste disposal services in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Certain counties could benefit from charging fees for solid waste disposal services in extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities. HB 3045 allows counties to offer, require the use of, or charge fees for solid waste disposal services in extraterritorial jurisdiction of municipalities. HB 3045 is bracketed to counties with populations within the range of 54,000 and 54,500. This provides opportunity for effective, affordable, and competitive waste management. HB 3045 helps communities in a unique situation with populations in unincorporated parts of the community outside of city limits by allowing them to provide services for residences outside of city limits without affecting the city and making sure trash isn't outsourced, thereby keeping funding in the community.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p><b>HB 2041</b> By: Oliveron   Phelan   Wray   Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of freestanding emergency medical care facilities.</p>	<p>Public Health  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Texas code defines a freestanding emergency medical care facility as one that is structurally separate and distinct from a hospital that provides emergency care to individuals. There are concerns that freestanding emergency medical care facilities (freestanding ERs) are not sufficiently regulated in the state of Texas, allowing freestanding ERs to offer misleading information to consumers seeking care. HB 2041 amends current code to increase certain regulatory requirements relating to freestanding emergency medical care facilities. To do so, it does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires DSHS to collect data about freestanding ERs, including those that are administratively attached to a hospital</li> <li>• requires DSHS to collect data about freestanding image centers</li> <li>• stipulates that any fees or administrative penalties collected will be deposited in the freestanding ER facility licensing fund of the state treasury</li> <li>• this fund is to be used for the purpose of administration and enforcement of certain regulations imposed on freestanding ERs</li> <li>• adds to the list of information that a freestanding ER is required to post to include information regarding the fact that the freestanding ER or physicians providing medical care at the facility may be an out-of-network provider for the patient's health plan</li> <li>• requires that the freestanding ER post a statement that either lists all the health plans for which the facility is in-network or states that the facility is an out-of-network provider for all health plans</li> <li>• requires that the mandated notice is available, not only at the primary entrance and each patient treatment room, but also on the home page of the facility's website</li> <li>• the facility may have the information available on page other than the home page only if a hyperlink titled "Insurance Information" is located in a noticeable location on the home page</li> <li>• prohibits the freestanding ER from adding or altering the language of the notice required in statute</li> <li>• requires a disclosure statement to be provided to the patient or patient's representative which:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ lists any potential observation and facility fees</li> <li>○ lists the health plans for which the freestanding ER is an in-network provider (or states that the freestanding ER is not in network with any health plans</li> <li>○ should be in an easily readable font</li> <li>○ is required to be in both English and Spanish</li> <li>○ may not include any additional information that is not described in statute</li> <li>○ must be provided to every patient, even if the patient refuses or is unable to sign</li> <li>○ must be kept as a signed copy for at least one year</li> <li>○ may be waived if the freestanding ER determines that the patient will not be billed for the services</li> <li>○ prohibits misleading language or images in advertising that may be wrongly interpreted to mean that the freestanding ER is in-network with certain health plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>HB 2041 states that each violation may only be penalized for up to \$1000 but allows for each day of a continuing violation to be a separate violation. It also removes cap on the total accumulated penalties on a single facility for continuing or separate violations</p> <p>Often, consumers are unaware of the differences between freestanding ERs and hospital ERs. Particularly in a time of emergency, an individual may not have the time or capacity to seek out such information. This makes those who visit freestanding ERs particularly vulnerable to misleading advertising and information, leading to surprise bills later on.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
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			<p>HB 2041 offers both transparency and education for patients that is easily accessible and digestible at a time of emergency.</p> <p>There are concerns that such price transparency may lead to patients making health care decisions based on finances rather than the potential seriousness of the medical emergency. This concern is especially viable if freestanding ERs are the only option, such as at certain times or in certain locations. There are also concerns that the narrow scope of this bill exempts hospitals from such strict regulation regarding network status with health plans.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3650</b> By: Turner, Chris</p>	<p>Relating to an agreement between a school district and public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to high school students enrolled in the district.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Purchasing college textbooks and material can add on to the pile of debt students across the nation are facing, and often the cost of accessing textbooks and material can impact a student's ability to complete assignments. Students who cannot afford to pay upfront the cost of textbooks and materials often delay the purchasing of them until they can financially afford them, if they can. Open Educational Resources (OERs) are a way for students to access material freely as a means for students who cannot otherwise afford to purchase textbooks and material.</p> <p>Currently, for students enrolled in dual-credit courses school districts are not required to purchase textbooks and material for the courses their students are taking. This decreases the number of students willing to enroll in dual credit courses and is a restriction of access to dual-credit courses for those same students.</p> <p>HB 3650 requires school districts and institutions to come to an articulation agreement to consider the use of free or low-cost OERs for the dual-credit courses, so the students can access openly licensed textbooks and materials.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3118</b> By: Schaefer   Springer   Paddie   Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the titling of certain off-highway vehicles purchased outside this state.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3118 enforces the collection of use tax on all-terrain vehicle or recreational off-highway vehicles purchased out-of-state and requires proof of payment of applicable use tax in order to secure a title. This enforcement mechanism would likely benefit Texas retailers by decreasing the amount of revenue lost to out-of-state retailers with seemingly lower prices due to current lax remittance practices. The comptroller office does note that titling of recreational and all-terrain vehicles is voluntary so it is possible that this could merely result in fewer owners of out-of-state vehicles seeking titles.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3911</b> By: Vo</p>	<p>Relating to the examination by the commissioner of insurance of certain insurers' network quality and adequacy.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3911 amends the Insurance Code to require the commissioner to examine for quality and adequacy of PPOs (preferred provider organization) and EPOs (exclusive provider organization) networks that are provided to consumers. Language would be included to have an examination every three years for the quality assurance of the network of the preferred provider plan. These examinations are currently done on HMO (health maintenance organization) products and would just be expanded.</p> <p>HB 3911 would provide more consumer protection and transparency about quality of care that one may receive through the network of the plans available.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2402</b> By: Geren   Goldman   Krause</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of certain events to receive funding through the Major Events Reimbursement Program.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2402 would amend eligibility for funding through the Major Events Reimbursement Program (MERP) to include a certain conference and certain National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) events, as well as adds the NRCHA and CONVRG/Encore Live to the list of site selection organizations. The NRCHA has demonstrated a committed investment to the Texas economy since relocating its headquarters here in 2013 and many of its major events thereafter. Similarly, Encore Live has contributed to the Ft. Worth and Texas economies with entertainment events since 2010. This bill would allow for the organizations to use the same funding source as many out-of-state entities like NASCAR and the Academy of Country Music.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2416</b> By: Frullo   Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of a</p>	<p>International Relations &amp;</p>	<p>HB 2416 requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish a pilot program by which adults can receive their high school diploma. The program will allow entities which grant high school diplomas to apply with the TWC to be providers for this workforce diploma program. These entities should have at least 2 years of experience in engaging</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon</p>

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	workforce diploma pilot program.	<p>Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>with adult students and offer initial assessment/evaluations, courses in literacy and math, as well as courses for career and development skills. The TWC will approve providers of the program for the following year and the provider will be approved to continue through all subsequent years unless the TWC removes them from the provider list.</p> <p>Providers of the program will be reimbursed based on achievement milestones for the students such as if the student completed an industry-recognized credential with training hours or an employment skills certification program. The providers may be reimbursed anywhere from \$250 to \$500 for certain milestones. The provider will be reimbursed \$1,000 for each student who receives their high school diploma. HB 2416 states that reimbursements will only occur to the extent that funds are available to the program. Providers will submit their students' achieved milestones each month for reimbursement, and in the order they're received, the TWC will reimburse for those achievements.</p> <p>Each provider will submit a yearly report containing the number of students who achieved reimbursable milestones, the number of credits earned by the students, the number of employability skills certification programs completed, the number of industry-recognized credentials, and the number of students who obtained a high school diploma. The TWC will establish minimum performance standards which each provider will need to meet. These minimum standards should include a graduation rate of at least 50% and not cost more than \$7,000 per graduate. The TWC will review each provider on a yearly basis and place providers on a probationary status if they do not meet these standards. If a provider doesn't meet the standards for 2 consecutive years, that provider will be removed from the provider list. The TWC will submit a report as to the effectiveness of the program and a recommendation if it should be continued, expanded, or ended.</p> <p>Around 1 in 6 working age individuals in Texas do not have a high school diploma. High school diplomas result in greater access to quality and high paying jobs and make it easier to apply for a 2 or 4-year college. While this pilot program may incentivize programs to participate, these programs are already providing assistance to adult students without the added incentives. In addition, there are many existing programs which are free to adult students. This workforce diploma pilot program should consider only accepting providers that do not charge for their services as the cost of services can be a significant barrier for low-income individuals to pursue their high school diploma.</p>	515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
<p><b>HB 3300</b> By: Murr   Wray   Meyer   Smith   Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to an award of costs and attorney's fees in a motion to dismiss for certain actions that have no basis in law or fact.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In the 82nd legislative session, language was added to the government code requiring the Texas Supreme Court to adopt rules to provide for the dismissal for causes of action that did not have any basis or fact. The language in the government code states that a court shall award the necessary attorney's fees for the winning party of these suits. These mandatory attorney fee awards discourage honest citizens from bringing a suit forward since they might be held responsible for these fees if the case is dismissed.</p> <p>HB 3300 amends the Civil Practices and Remedies code by changing the shall to a may and allows the courts to have discretion if a case is dismissed due to lacking basis or fact to award attorney fees. HB 3300 allows for honest suits to be encouraged to be brought forward without the guarantee that attorney fees are going to be awarded by the judge's discretion.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 4116</b> By: Zwiener</p>	<p>Relating to a voluntary financial assurance program for permit holders under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>Fighting over discharge permits can be expensive and frustrating to all parties involved. Cities and landowner groups both lose out on time and money going back and forth.</p> <p>HB 4116 offers an approach to these inevitable fights by offering a voluntary financial assurance program for discharge permits administered by TCEQ. It allows permit applicants to negotiate with interest groups upfront and reach an agreement backed up by bonding, a letter of credit, and an escrow account. HB 4116 requires TCEQ to allow</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		<p>o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to deposit evidence or money in escrow to be used if the discharge causes environmental damage to invoke a sense of trust with constituents and disincentivize discharge. TCEQ would monitor the terms of the agreement and if the terms are broken, TCEQ would funding from the financial assurance instrument to alleviate the situation. This would provide permit application with a model for public buy-in.</p> <p>HB 4116 aims to avoid costly contested cases and provide interest groups with an enforceable tool. HB 4116 is not designed to override TCEQ and it is voluntary.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2321</b> By: Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of oyster harvesting; increasing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>HB 2321 enhances the penalties for unauthorized harvesting of oysters. It would increase the penalty for repeat convictions regarding the harvesting of sub-legal, or undersized, oysters and while this particular method of illegal harvesting appears to be on the decline in general, this bill also seeks to address the increasing illegal harvesting particularly from closed or restricted areas. After HB 51 of the 85th legislature implementing sub-legal penalties, illegal harvesting has been on the rise in restricted areas and fines are not sufficient to deter the practice as many harvesters simply factor current fines into their cost of business.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3167</b> By: Oliverson   Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to county and municipal approval procedure for land development applications.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The current law around a jurisdiction's ability to approve or disapprove development plans often causes delays in the developmental process. Each time a developmental plan is denied the process restarts which leads to a delay and increases cost of development, which leads to a higher cost of housing or operating a business on developed land. When plans are denied, the reason for denial is often generic and does not provide sufficient information for the developer to make the necessary changes needed for approval or makes changes to original plan after amendments have been made to correct initial errors. The prolonged process for the third phase of site development has become a burdensome, extensive, and complex process for all parties involved.</p> <p>HB 3167 creates strict timelines and restrictions on the jurisdiction's ability to unreasonably deny and prolong the development plan approval process. HB 3167 gives the jurisdiction 30 days to evaluate the developer's initial application thoroughly and advise of any issues that need to be amended. Once the developer makes these amendments to the plan, the jurisdiction then has 15 days to review only the amended changes. Once the original plan has been corrected there cannot be any other amendments requested by local entity that were not caught on the initial evaluation. Failing to comply with these set timelines will result in automatic approval for the site development plan.</p> <p>Although the intentions are to create a more effective system to develop Texas, there are unintended consequences that raise concerns. HB 3167 eliminates the jurisdiction's ability to deny a resubmitted plan for code conflicts that were not presented in original plan. For example, if requested changes are made to original application that creates new issues, such as non-compliant intersection or street alignment, fire access requirements, impacts floodplain or major drainage way, etc., in other sections of the initial application, the oversight ability of the jurisdiction to request this be corrected, is prohibited. The language in the bill prohibits them from requesting any changes to the original application that were not advised in initial review. Creating this barrier will eliminate the jurisdiction's ability to effectively ensure public safety is fully protected. Automatically approving development plan if timelines are not met can cause public safety issues as well if the plans are not compliant with public safety restrictions.</p> <p>Although HB 3167 creates much needed changes to expedite the permitting process and eliminating cost increases to consumers and developers, the ability of the jurisdiction to ensure public safety is fully protected could be heavily compromised.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p><b>HB 3753</b> By: Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a county fire marshal to provide fire-related training programs for first responders.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2169 amend the local government code by including First Responders to receive firefighting and fire prevention training. Currently, Texas law does not explicitly state that First Responders should receive any training that centered around fire-related matters. HB 2169 would allow the law to expressly state it within the context of the law.</p> <p>HB 2169 allows county commissioners to authorize the fire marshal to provide fire related training to first responders.</p> <p>Proponents of the HB 2169 seem to believe that it would raise the competency level of first responders so they can sufficiently respond to any disaster.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p><b>HB 1848</b> By: Klick   Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to prevention of communicable diseases in certain long-term care facilities.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1848 requires that each long-term care facility establish an infection prevention control program. The program is aimed to monitor infectious agents in nursing homes, specifically multidrug-resistant organisms. Residents in long-term care facilities have weak immune systems and are medically fragile. In addition, these residents are exposed to a myriad of potential diseases in close living quarters by other residents, caregivers, and visitors. Multidrug-resistant organisms can be very dangerous to these residents and lead to further negative health outcomes and in some cases, death. Tracking these organisms and other infectious agents will help inform how to best prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Within this program, long-term care facilities will also be required to make rapid flu tests readily available to its residents. Flu related illnesses lead to many deaths each year especially for elderly residents.</p> <p>In addition, HB 1848 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to create an advisory committee to manage antimicrobial stewardship in long-term care facilities. Antimicrobial stewardship promotes the appropriate usage of antibiotics to reduce microbial resistance and decrease the spread of infections by multidrug-resistant organisms. The committee will consist of doctors, directors of nursing facilities, knowledgeable public health officials, and anyone else interested.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 3529</b> By: Gutierrez</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a family violence pretrial diversion pilot program in Bexar County.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Pretrial diversion programs are typically specific to certain types of crimes and rehabilitation. A suggested pretrial diversion program is one tailored to treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence who suffer with chemical dependency and substance abuse disorder.</p> <p>HB 3529 establishes a domestic violence pilot program in Bexar County to reduce family violence recidivism rates. The pilot program will take place in Bexar County because of disproportionately high domestic violence occurrences here compared to the rest of the state. TDCJ and judges in Bexar County will collaborate over family violence cases involving substance abuse and establish a family violence pretrial diversion pilot program. The pilot program will include assessment instruments, a comprehensive substance abuse treatment program, a procedure for rapid response to pilot program participants who fail to comply, and a video conference system to reduce costs and facilitate communication. TDCJ will report findings for the 87th Legislative Session summarizing the status, results, effectiveness and accordingly make requests for federal dollars to expand the program. The results of the longitudinal study will be valuable on a national level in providing protective efforts for victims of domestic violence and preventing repeat offenses.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2454</b> By: Price   Sheffield   Minjarez   Thompson, Senfronia   VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to continuing education requirements for certain health professionals regarding pain management and the prescribing of opioids.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2454 requires certain health care providers to complete at least two hours of continuing medical education concerning management of pain and prescription of opioids and other controlled substances. The health care providers this statute applies to includes those who have the authority to prescribe controlled substances such as opioids -- certain physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and dentists.</p> <p>The continuing education activities must include components that teach reasonable standards of care, how to identify and respond to drug-seeking behavior, and how to best communicate with patients regarding the prescription of controlled substances.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>For physicians, the two continuing education hours must be completed in the first two renewal periods after the physician has initially been granted a registration. After the first two renewal periods, the required continuing education only needs to be completed once every eight years. The two hours of continuing education regarding controlled substances may be counted towards existing requirements for continuing education required by the Texas Medical Board, but may not be counted toward education required for certified pain clinic personnel.</p> <p>For qualifying nurses, physician assistants, and dentists, the two required continuing education hours must be completed annually.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3980</b> By: Hunter</p>	<p>Relating to a requirement that the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council prepare a report regarding suicide rates in this state and state efforts to prevent suicides.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Suicide is currently the 11th leading cause for Texans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017, Texas saw 3,778 deaths as a result of suicide. For those between the ages of 15 and 34, suicide has been identified as the second leading cause of death.</p> <p>HB 3980 seeks to address this by requiring certain reports on suicide events and related state prevention strategies. The initial summary report must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include statewide and regional data on suicidal thoughts, attempts and deaths</li> <li>the data must be categorized by county and category of risk and should contain information from 2000 to the present</li> <li>use collected data to identify the highest categories of risk</li> <li>list all state statutes, policies, and agency rules related to suicide, including prevention, intervention, and posttension</li> <li>describe all state agency initiatives since 2000 to address suicide as well as the agency responsible for each intervention, the funding source, and the years of operation</li> <li>include information provided by each state agency and institution of higher education that is a member of the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council</li> <li>have been created with consultation from a nonprofit group that has experience in statewide community-based suicide prevention plans and coordinates with both state and community-based suicide prevention initiatives</li> <li>be distributed to the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and the appropriate committees of both chambers of the Legislature.</li> <li>The Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating must use the summary report prepared by HHSC and DSHS in conjunction with input from stakeholders to create a legislative report with identified opportunities and recommendations. The recommendations must include ways for state agencies to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve statewide and regional data collection on suicide-related events</li> <li>utilize data to inform decisions and policies</li> <li>decrease state suicide rates and target categories of highest risk</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In addition to the legislative report, the council should create a stakeholder workgroup to assist with the creation of the report. The workgroup must include a representative of an appropriate nonprofit, representatives of groups with experience of suicide prevention activities in certain population and individuals who have survived a suicide attempt or experienced the loss of a family member to suicide. The Council may include any other representatives of groups as it deems necessary. The legislative report created by the Council must be distributed to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, appropriate committees of the Legislature, and the chief administrator of each state agency represented on the Council.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2245</b></p>	<p>Relating to trusts.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp;</p>	<p>The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law section of the State Bar of Texas conducts a biennial review of Texas law and</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p>

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<p>By: Wray</p>		<p>Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>makes recommendations as to how the law can be changed to be improved. The goal of the review and recommendations is to incorporate the rules from the estates code that apply to construing instruments and apply those to living trusts. A living trust is similar to a will and has trustees appointed to them. There are concerns that the law is not clear when a beneficiary dies prematurely or when a piece of property is missing at the time of the beneficiary's death. HB 2245 is an omnibus bill to clarify the Texas Property Code.</p> <p>HB 2245 amends the property code to clarify that a trustee cannot use a trusts exoneration to avoid paying back the compensation or attorney fees for said trust. HB 2245 applies the same laws to living trusts as well as wills, making it clear what is and is not allowed to do when a beneficiary dies prematurely.</p> <p>When decanting a trust, which is the distribution of assets from one trust to another with different terms, HB 2245 outlines that the same advisor can be used in order to save on costs and work on a relationship already established.</p> <p>HB 2245 amends the code in order to include that a trust created for a disabled minor can last the child's entire life. HB 2245 also allows the transfer of a trust from a private entity to be administered by a non-profit if a court rules that this is in the trusts best interest.</p> <p>HB 2245 clarifies the Texas Property code in order to allow for trusts to be clearly defined and allows for more transparency between the clients, trust advisors and the courts.</p>	<p>Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2246</b> By: Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the fiduciary status of a directed trust advisor.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>When setting up a trust fund, a trust advisor is usually appointed to help clients manage that fund and have the highest possible benefits and returns. There are concerns that there have been trusts created that do not have a true fiduciary between the trust advisor and the beneficiary. The concerns outline that the role of the trust advisor is not clear.</p> <p>HB 2246 amends the Texas Property Code to outline that trust advisors have a duty to the beneficiaries of the trusts unless outlined by very clear and limited circumstances. HB 2246 outlines that an advisor is a fiduciary regardless of the trust's terms except if the advisors only power is to remove or add trustees. HB 2246 addresses the concerns that trust funds can be set up without a fiduciary between the trust advisor and beneficiary allowing for more transparency in transactions and safer dealings within the trust.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1131</b> By: Cole   Ashby   Minjarez   Allen   Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a state financing program administered by the Texas Public Finance Authority to assist school districts with certain expenses; granting authority to issue bonds or other obligations.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>There are currently no additional financing options beyond traditional bond financing for public school districts that want to pursue a short-term project such as attain a new fleet of school busses or install an air-conditioning unit at a school.</p> <p>HB 1131 creates a state financing program within the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) and authorizes the TPFA to issue and sell obligations, that do not exceed 15 years, to assist school districts with funds for shorter projects to avoid additional bond proposals. It establishes the school district equipment and improvement fund outside the treasury as a trust fund to be administered by the comptroller of public accounts. The aggregate amount of obligations outstanding at a single time is capped at \$100 million.</p> <p>The obligations can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loans to eligible public school districts for eligible purposes</li> <li>• Purchase by TPFA the authority of vehicles, equipment, or appliances for sale, lease, or lease purchase.</li> <li>• A lease or other agreement that concerns equipment that an eligible district has purchased or leased or intends to.</li> </ul> <p>Costs associated with maintenance repair, rehab or renovation or facilities.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p><b>HB 72</b> By: White   Howard   Wu   Meza</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of Medicaid benefits to certain children formerly in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Once a child in the care of the Department of Family and Protective Services is adopted, they may receive adoption assistance until they are 18 years old if their adoptive family income is below 300% of the federal poverty level. Currently, if they were eligible for Medicaid prior to adoption but are no longer eligible, they may receive a subsidy each month for their health insurance premiums in the amount of \$150 until they turn 18 years of age. HB 72 expands language in code to state that the child is owed the subsidy if they are not receiving Medicaid instead of simply no longer eligible.</p> <p>Once a child in the care of DFPS is adopted and qualifies for Medicaid, their adoptive parent or permanent managing conservator has 60 days to choose between Medicaid managed care programs for their child to receive health coverage. However, in the meantime, the state chooses a default plan until that child is officially placed on the plan of their choosing. This can lead to significant gaps in coverage because with a switch in coverage, the child may need further pre-authorizations for services which they were already receiving under their previous plan. HB 72 requires HHSC to ensure that each child remains in the STAR Health program until they are officially enrolled in another Medicaid managed care program. This ensures the child continues to receive their current coverage and only needs to switch to a different coverage once. In some cases, once a child is adopted their adoptive family's income no longer allows the child to be eligible to receive SSI and they subsequently are no longer eligible for the heartier Medicaid programs like STAR Health or STAR Kids. HB 72 establishes a program by which recently adopted children who were receiving SSI while in care may choose to continue to receive Medicaid benefits through the STAR Health program or the STAR Kids managed care program. HB 72 also clearly states that HHSC shall ensure coordination between the STAR Health program and the Medicaid managed care program to which the child is switching; protecting continuity of care.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2363</b> By: Harris   Noble   Hefner   Longoria   Canales</p>	<p>Relating to permitting certain foster homes to store firearms and ammunition in the same locked location.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Current minimum standards for a licensed foster home require gun owners to store firearms and ammunition in separate, locked locations which the foster child cannot access. HB 2363 would remove this standard and allow firearms and ammunition to be locked in the same location. Storing firearms and ammunition in separate and locked locations is a best practice set forth by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (a firearms industry trade association) to ensure child safety.</p> <p>Children in foster care have experienced significant trauma in the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, family separation, or family violence. Children in care require highly qualified and experienced foster parents equipped to handle the behavioral symptoms of trauma in addition to provide safety and stability. Children in foster care are 3-5 times more likely than children not in care to have considered or attempted suicide. It is vital for children who experience suicidal ideations to have additional barriers to access a firearm. Children in foster care often have developmental delays or may have been exposed to substances in utero which results in decreased impulse control, increased risk-taking behavior, and a lack of understanding action and consequence. The majority of unintentional shootings occur in the home and it is the foster parent's responsibility to keep their child safe through necessary precautions.</p> <p>The state is entitled to require high safety standards for licensed foster homes given the unique needs of the children in their care. Licensed foster homes should continue to require best practices for gun storage with their firearms and ammunition locked in separation locations.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p><b>HB 4671</b> By: Goodwin   Bucy</p>	<p>Relating to the powers and duties of the Ranch at Cypress Creek Municipal Utility District No. 1.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Unlike other similarly situated municipal utility districts, the Ranch at Cypress Creek Municipal Utility District No. 1 does not have road powers. HB 4671 provides the District with road powers, allowing the District to use its operating and maintenance fund to repair or maintain streets or roads within the District's geographic boundaries. Repairing and/or maintaining the roads within the District will also by extension improve the conveyance of storm water.</p> <p>HB 4671 also allows this district to appoint an architectural committee which serves as a body that homeowners can apply to and request variances to the applicable deed restrictions. This legislation does not change any of the rights or powers stated in the deed restrictions that are presently recorded in the real property records of either Williamson County or Travis County.</p> <p>HB 4671 is local legislation solely impacting and supported by Williamson and Travis County. HB 4671 allows collaboration of local entities and involvement of the community in the development of the district.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
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