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LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS Calendar – Tuesday, April 30, 2019

HB 3063 By: Smithee Tinderholt Geren	Relating to the transfer of a retired law enforcement animal.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Currently, law enforcement animals go on sale after they fulfill their duties and are retired from their service since they are considered property and the government cannot make a transfer of property without authorizing a fee. These animals, while working as law enforcement, are usually handled by one person and get used to their commands. By putting them up for sale, it separates the animal from the handler who established a relationship with.</p> <p>HB 3063 amends a section of the government code that prohibits the gifting of animals, since they are considered property. The bill allows local and state governments to gift the law enforcement animals to their handlers free of charge. The goal of the bill is to allow the animals to stay with their handlers and avoid them from going to an unknown owner.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2 By: Burrows	Relating to ad valorem taxation; authorizing fees.	Ways & Means Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p><u>Per the Speaker's announcement on April 29, 2019, the House intends to take up SB 2 and substitute it for HB 2, which is on the Supplemental Calendar. For your convenience, please find the summary for SB 2 below.</u></p> <p>CSSB 2 would cap local taxing entities' ability to raise tax revenue without voter approval with a few key differences from HB2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current rollback rate is 8%. The Senate version as amended would allow for a revenue increase of 3.5% over previous year before triggering an election, rather than the original 2.5%. • School districts are not exempted in CSSB2 and would be held to a 2 % revenue growth cap, replacing the current 4-cent cap; and the House committee substitute of SB 2 would be contingent upon passage of HB 3, the school finance bill. • New development construction is still exempted, as are hospital districts, community college districts, special districts within declared disaster areas and small taxing units (tax levies less than \$15 million annually). • Emergency Service Districts or ESDs were not included in HB 2, but will be subject to the 3.5% cap in SB 2. • A Senate amendment would account for increased indigent criminal defense expenses within the revenue formula; call for representation on advisory boards by tax assessor collectors; and strike a provision exempting advisory boards from Government Code. • The House committee substitute would also provide for adjustment to the formula to recover revenue lost to local-option homestead exemptions. <p>As with HB 2, there are serious concerns over the reduction in tax revenues for essential local services needed to support a growing population and expanding economy. Local officials have warned that a 3.5% cap will not even cover fixed costs for the existing level of services for needs such as :public safety, road maintenance and improvements , parks, libraries and other basic needs needed to</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>maintain a quality of life essential to attract and retain businesses and good jobs.</p> <p>The 2% cap on school districts could also have a harmful impact on the state school funding formulas. School finance experts believe the proposed 2% cap on school districts will not fit with the tax rate compression in HB3 absent an additional, reliable state education funding source needed to avoid state funding cuts in future sessions</p> <p>SB2 also includes, along with the 3.5% cap for cities, counties and special districts, administrative and review requirements to increase transparency, accountability and credibility. SB2 would require the comptroller to review and verify all rates as well as prescribe appraisal manuals to increase consistency in methods and techniques. It establishes training requirements and qualification for Appraisal Review Boards (ARB) members and defines the ‘no-new-revenue rate’ and formula, similar to HB 2. Further, it would also establish definitions and provisions of a Substantially Completed Municipal Utility District (MUD), and the \$50 million minimum property value for Special ARB reviews.</p> <p>As substituted, SB 2 separates the appraisal notice process from the tax-setting process and increased accessibility and frequency of communication. The bill would also create a Property Tax Administration Advisory Board under the Comptroller and would additionally require each Central Appraisal District (CAD) to maintain a “real-time tax database.”</p>	
<p>HB 2748 By: Perez</p>	<p>Relating to regulation of the retail sale of fireworks.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas Law, there are restrictions on time frames when fireworks can be sold. HB 2748 seeks to address this issue by providing for the year-round sale of fireworks through a licensed jobber.</p> <p>HB 2748 authorizes a jobber to sell fireworks year-round who has a retail location and possess a licensed permit through the state fire marshal’s office.</p> <p>HB 2748 removes previous specifications that a jobber only purchases fireworks for resale to retailers and specifications that require you to become a licensed jobber due to the possession, storage, and/or selling of particular fireworks.</p> <p>HB 2748 eradicates deadlines and controls over time periods in which the commissioner’s court may restrict or prohibit the sale or use of fireworks.</p> <p>However, there are public safety and environmental concerns. More children will be at risk because of the increased availability of fireworks. In addition, dryer weather climates, in combination with the availability of fireworks year-round, is a breeding ground for massive wild fires. These decisions should be left for local jurisdictions to decide.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 4009 By: Toth</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment, operation, and funding of victim-offender mediation programs; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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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.

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.

LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar – Tuesday, April 30, 2019

<p>HJR 95 By: Capriglione</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HJR 95 proposes an amendment which exempts property taxation on precious metals held in a precious metal depository located in Texas, whether or not they are held for the production of income. Currently, taxes are collected only on those metals held for income and this bill would not only prohibit that tax practice, it would also remove the local taxing unit's jurisdiction to rescind the current exemptions as well. This would increase certainty and reduce confusion in our states precious metal market and increase our state's advantage comparatively. However, it could also result in reduced revenue to local units and strain on the school finance formulas.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE HOUSE BILLS Calendar – Tuesday, April 30, 2019


<p>HB 4214 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 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1528 By: Rose Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the reporting of certain information involving family violence offenses.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2817 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</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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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		1 Absent	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>HB 2811 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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In evaluating a patient with acute pain, HB 2811 requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration of whether a treatment meets the standard of care • the practitioner to obtain a medical history and physician examination that is focused on the acute pain • 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 • the physician to review the patient's prescription data and history prior to prescribing a controlled substance or dangerous drug <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"> • the risk of addiction, overdose, and misuse • the necessity of the prescription for the patient's treatment • the responsibility of the patient to keep the drugs in a safe location • methods for disposal • the patient's diagnosis • the proposed treatment plan • the anticipated results of the treatment plan as well as realistic expectations of the improvement of pain symptoms • potential alternative therapies • potential side effect and ways to manage them • the potential for impairment of judgement and motor skills <p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			There are concerns that HB 2811 might be too restriction for prescribers and, therefore, might prevent them from appropriately doing their due diligence as health care providers.	
HB 97 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 669 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 create the Rural Broadband Service Program and allows Texas Universal Service Fund (USF) funds to be dispersed for a broadband service provider to build and maintain networks capable of providing broadband service to families in much needed rural areas. Historically, there has been a tradition of using the USF to benefit rural areas in Texas and offset the high costs of delivering telephone service in rural areas and other places it was expensive to offer. Currently, the USF is funded through a fee levied on all telecommunication providers, most of whom are not eligible to receive this same subsidization. HB 669 stipulates that only providers opting to participate will be included in the charge for broadband, and only those funds will be used for the Rural Broadband Service Program. The stated goal of broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of Texas is important and opponents wholeheartedly support these efforts. The fundamental contention that is that to be properly funded, broadband deployment must be funded by as broad a base of all citizens as possible, not just telecommunication customers.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 103 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	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 4306 By: Biedermann Nevárez 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.	Unfavorable 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>HB 2384 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 & 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"> • 0-4 years- judges get the base pay of \$140,000 • 4-8 years- receive 10% increase • 8-12 years- receive an additional 10% increase • Over 12 years- receive an additional 10% increase <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>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 720 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 & logistical, and water quality challenges and barriers to doing so on a grand scale.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 133 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the payment of gratuities to certain employees.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</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 swipe fees for debit cards</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		2 Absent	<p>to the consumer. HB 133 attempts to provide the same protection to tipped employees for both debit cards and credit cards.</p> <p>HB 133 prohibits an employer from collecting 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.</p> <p>HB 133 makes it so that garnishing of tips for any reason, including for the payment of swipe fees, is considered to be wage theft and is punishable as such.</p>	
HB 406 By: Price	Relating to organ donor registration information when applying for a hunting or fishing license on the Internet.	Public Health Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	<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.</p> <p>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>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 1906 By: Burns	Relating to an exemption from or federal waiver of the annual assessment requirements for public school students with significant cognitive disabilities.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<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>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

<p>HB 3950 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>Will of the House Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 351 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 882 By: Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to the duration of a bingo occasion.</p>	<p>Licensing & 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>Favorable 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.	
HB 354 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2481 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 399 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"> fail to pay their employees for work done (including overtime, off-the-clock work, and working through meal breaks) pay less than minimum wage misclassify employees as independent contractors to pay lower than minimum wage 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

<p>HB 1243 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 441 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 & 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2050 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 2303 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 & 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2726 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 was unlikely that the passage of HB 2726 would change that until the committee substitute allows construction to begin once the Executive Director issues a draft permit. When TCEQ tried to adopt SB 1740 into their rules, EPA declared that at a minimum, there must be pre-approval the draft permit from the Executive Director could serve this purpose) and public notice of the pre-approval. The draft permit would trigger notice to take public comment. It is uncertain whether the changes to the bill will be acceptable to the EPA, but there is a better chance now.</p> <p>Current code (the code that is not being used yet) 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. This 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>It is a bad idea to begin entertaining the idea for entities to begin construction earlier in the process, before final permit approval. This will frustrate 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 its easier to include those before building has commenced.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2734 By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to an anatomical gift on behalf of a resident in a state supported living center.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049</p>

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		<p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>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 that the guardian passes on. This gives the state clarity and the form is kept in the patients file for record.</p>	<p>Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2983 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the administration to public school students in certain grades of state-administered assessment instruments.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 741 By: Davis, Yvonne</p>	<p>Relating to the notice of rights provided to an injured employee under the Texas workers' compensation system.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3542 By: Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the valuation of a retail public utility or its facilities as part of a voluntary acquisition.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2048 By: Zerwas Darby Krause Davis, Sarah Howard</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect more than 6 points for traffic offenses on their driver's license • Are convicted for driving without proof of insurance or without a driver's license • Are convicted of Driving While Intoxicated <p>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.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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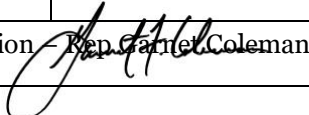
			<p>These drivers typically cannot afford insurance but need to drive a vehicle in order to go to work, school, and provide for their families. If a person who is charged with these surcharges under this program does not pay the surcharges, their license is suspended. Therefore, because of these surcharges, 1.5 million Texans have their license suspended and tend to continue to drive illegally.</p> <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"> • 1st offense: \$3,000 fine • 2nd offense: \$4,500 if the offense occurred within 36 months of the first offense • \$6,000 fine for any offense if the blood alcohol content upon arrest is .16 or higher. <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>HB 1191 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3582 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</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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	<p>certain intoxication offenses; enhancing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>o Absent</p>	<p>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>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>	
<p>HB 1895 By: Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to the investigation of municipal fire fighters.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<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>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1868 By: Lozano Anderson,</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Rural Water Advisory Council.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock</p>	<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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena</p>

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<p>Charles "Doc" Zwiener Stephenson</p>		<p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>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 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.</p>	<p>(956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2747 By: Ortega Landgraf Thompson, Senfronia Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of massage therapy.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<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>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2025 By: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to legislative oversight of the issuance of driver's licenses and certain other forms of identification in this state.</p>	<p>House Administration</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<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"> • the issuance of driver's licenses; • the issuance of personal identification certificates; • the issuance of election identification certificates; and • the registration of voters during the issuance or renewal of a driver's license or personal identification certificate. <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>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Raul Lopez (512) 787-7199 Raul@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2945 By: Perez Thompson, Senfronia Longoria Price Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to payment card skimmers on motor fuel dispensers and to creating a payment fraud fusion center; imposing civil penalties; creating criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<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"> • To prevent skimmer installation • Find and remove skimmers • Reporting skimmers to appropriate departments within 24 hours of discovery. • Cooperation with department/ law enforcement to enable an investigation. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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		1 Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violation of duties or violation of rules adopted by attorney general will incur a civil penalty ≤ \$5,000. • Negligence to report or has at least 3 reports in 24 months will incur a fee of between \$1,000-\$5,000 per violation. <p>HB 2945 establishes procedure and regulation over card skimmer crime which has increased recently due to the 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.</p>	
HB 1548 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>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 3231 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>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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			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.	
HB 1883 By: Bonnen, Greg	Relating to deferred payment of ad valorem taxes for certain persons serving in the United States armed forces.	Ways & Means Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 3012 By: Talarico Bernal	Relating to requiring the provision of course work to public school students subject to in-school or out-of-school suspension.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 888 By: Landgraf Phelan Cyrrier Burns Dean	Relating to creating the criminal offense of misrepresenting a child as a family member at a port of entry.	State Affairs Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	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 purpose 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. In essence, HB 888 casts too wide of a net and will catch immigrant family members who are entering the United States, or who have entered with a child, misrepresent the child but are not trafficking the child. Without this distinction of language in HB 888 is in direct conflict with Federal law as it preempts what is already a federally regulated area of law, specifically 8 USC Section 1325(a).	Will of the House Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 3124 By: Wilson	Relating to tuition and fees charged by The Texas A&M University System for certain national laboratory or national laboratory operator employees and dependents.	Higher Education Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	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&M University System recently partnered with the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) through the National Nuclear Security Administration and The Texas A&M University System is required to provide the LANL employees and their dependents with in-state tuition rates at any of A&M University System campuses. HB 3124 allows for The Texas A&M University System to provide LANL employees and their dependents with in-state tuition rates at any of A&M University System campuses once they are enrolled at the campus.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 3045 By: Nevárez	Relating to the provision of solid waste disposal services in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of certain municipalities.	Environmental Regulation Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays	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	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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		<p>0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>sure trash isn't outsourced, thereby keeping funding in the community.</p>	
<p>HB 2041 By: Oliverson 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"> • requires DSHS to collect data about freestanding ERs, including those that are administratively attached to a hospital • requires DSHS to collect data about freestanding image centers • stipulates that any fees or administrative penalties collected will be deposited in the freestanding ER facility licensing fund of the state treasury • this fund is to be used for the purpose of administration and enforcement of certain regulations imposed on freestanding ERs • 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 • 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 • 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 • 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 • prohibits the freestanding ER from adding or altering the language of the notice required in statute • requires a disclosure statement to be provided to the patient or patient's representative which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lists any potential observation and facility fees ○ 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 ○ should be in an easily readable font ○ is required to be in both English and Spanish ○ may not include any additional information that is not described in statute ○ must be provided to every patient, even if the patient refuses or is unable to sign ○ must be kept as a signed copy for at least one year ○ may be waived if the freestanding ER determines that the patient will not be billed for the services ○ 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 <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</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

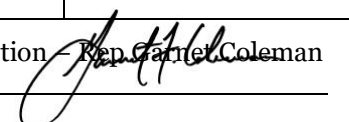
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			<p>emergency, an individual may not have the time or capacity to seek out such information. This makes those who visit freestanding ERs particularly vulnerable to misleading advertising and information, leading to surprise bills later on. HB 2041 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>HB 3650 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3118 By: Schaefer Springer Paddie Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the titling of certain off-highway vehicles purchased outside this state.</p>	<p>Ways & 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3911 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2402 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 & 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 2416 By: Frullo Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of a workforce diploma pilot program.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</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 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>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3300 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 & 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 4116 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 0 PNV 1 Absent</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 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 fund 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2321 By: Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of oyster harvesting; increasing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3167 By: Oliverson Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to county and municipal approval procedure for land development applications.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 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</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			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. 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.	
HB 3753 By: Harless	Relating to the authority of a county fire marshal to provide fire-related training programs for first responders.	County Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	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. HB 2169 allows county commissioners to authorize the fire marshal to provide fire related training to first responders. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 1848 By: Klick Sheffield	Relating to prevention of communicable diseases in certain long-term care facilities.	Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 3529 By: Gutierrez	Relating to the creation of a family violence pretrial diversion pilot program in Bexar County.	Corrections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

<p>HB 2454 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 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. 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>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>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3980 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 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. 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"> • include statewide and regional data on suicidal thoughts, attempts and deaths • the data must be categorized by county and category of risk and should contain information from 2000 to the present • use collected data to identify the highest categories of risk • list all state statutes, policies, and agency rules related to suicide, including prevention, intervention, and posttension • 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 • include information provided by each state agency and institution of higher education that is a member of the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council • 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 • be distributed to the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and the appropriate committees of both chambers of the Legislature. • 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"> • improve statewide and regional data collection on suicide-related events • utilize data to inform decisions and policies • decrease state suicide rates and target categories of highest risk <p>In addition to the legislative report, the council should create a stakeholder workgroup to assist with the creation of</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			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.	
HB 2245 By: Wray	Relating to trusts.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law section of the State Bar of Texas conducts a biennial review of Texas law and 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2246 By: Wray	Relating to the fiduciary status of a directed trust advisor.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 1131 By: Cole Ashby Minjarez Allen Guillen	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.	Higher Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

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			<p>The obligations can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loans to eligible public school districts for eligible purposes Purchase by TPFA the authority of vehicles, equipment, or appliances for sale, lease, or lease purchase. A lease or other agreement that concerns equipment that an eligible district has purchased or leased or intends to. <p>Costs associated with maintenance repair, rehab or renovation or facilities.</p>	
<p>HB 72 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</p> <p>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>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2363 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</p> <p>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>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			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.	
HB 4671 By: Goodwin Bucy	Relating to the powers and duties of the Ranch at Cypress Creek Municipal Utility District No. 1.	Land & Resource Management Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	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. 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. 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.	Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org
HB 2763 By: Flynn Murphy Paul Gervin-Hawkins Middleton	Relating to the police pension fund in certain municipalities.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2763 would add language increasing the Galveston Board of Trustees to eight members. There would be an increased amortization period being 25 years, language stating that the rate of contribution may not be reduced/eliminated, new monetary benefits payable by the pension fund may not be established, and money benefit from the fund may not be increased. Members who participate in the pension fund will see an increase to 12% of wages deducted for the fund, municipality contributions will be increased to 18% of payroll, and a study will be performed at an assumed rate of 7% to look at projected solvency of the fund. Additionally, the municipality would be required to pay into the fund if there was a short fall in funding via the reduction of police force contribution due to a cut in staff. HB 2763 establishes funding provisions as to increase the amount of available funds in police pensions and increase the actuarial soundness of the fund establishing an increased SafetyNet for retiring officers.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2625 By: Perez Longoria Moody Goldman	Relating to creating the criminal offense of mass fraudulent use or possession of credit card or debit card information.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2625 would add language to the Penal Code regarding the possession and use of fraudulent credit or debit card information. Current statute only allows for prosecution of individuals in possession of stolen card information under the identity theft penal code. HB 2625 would increase the penalty for the prosecution of individuals from third degree to first degree felonies based on the amount of information in possession upon arrest. HB 2625 would allow for more protections for those whose information was stolen and fewer individual steps on law enforcement's side as getting in contact with each individual victim of the card theft.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1063 By: Price Sheffield Rose Ashby González, Mary	Relating to telemedicine medical, telehealth, and home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.	Human Services Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Home telemonitoring services include services which track daily data transmissions (such as vital signs, blood sugar levels, weight, oxygen levels, medication compliance, etc.) as ordered by a physician. The data is reviewed by a nurse or another qualified health professional on a daily basis and involves check-ins with the patient especially if the data is outside of normal parameters. The physician must do a review of the transmitted data on a weekly basis. Home telemonitoring services assist individuals in health maintenance and prevent unnecessary problems from occurring; resulting in a potential cost savings to the state in emergency visits and lengthened hospital stays. HB 1063 requires HHSC to include not only utilization of these services in its yearly report to the legislature but also the cost savings associated with home telemonitoring services, telemedicine medical services, and telehealth services.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>Home telemonitoring services which are reimbursable through Medicaid are only available to individuals who are diagnosed with one or more of the following diagnoses: pregnancy, diabetes, heart disease, cancer, COPD, hypertension, CHF, mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, asthma, heart attack, stroke AND two or more risk factors such as frequent emergency room visits, frequent hospitalizations, history of poor adherence to medication regimens, history of falls, lack of support systems, living alone, or challenges to accessing care. Many of these requirements are not applicable to children who could benefit from home telemonitoring services. HB 1063 expands these diagnoses to include pediatric services for children who are diagnosed with end-stage solid organ disease, received an organ transplant, or have a mechanical ventilator. HB 1063 allows these medically fragile children to be monitored in their own home potentially preventing frequent hospitalizations or emergency room visits as a medical professional is able to track their health daily.</p> <p>Currently, home telemonitoring services will cease to be reimbursable through Medicaid in September of 2019. HB 1063 repeals the Sunset date for the reimbursable home telemonitoring program to make it indefinite. Utilization of home telemonitoring services in Texas has increased over the last few years and is vitally important for rural communities, specifically South Texas which has the highest utilization rates. Rural areas have a significant barrier to quality care due to the expansiveness of Texas and lack of providers in their area. Allowing the home telemonitoring program to continue to be reimbursable through Medicaid will ensure Texans can appropriately monitor their health and be advised by a health professional on a regular basis.</p>	
<p>HB 2826 By: Bonnen, Greg Leach Goldman Gervin- Hawkins Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to procurement of a contingent fee contract for legal services by certain governmental entities.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In order to sue for defects, physical defects caused from opioids or technical defects on a building, local governments must enter into a contingency fee contract with law firms in order to sue the companies. Under these contingency fee contracts, the local governments do not pay any fees until the case is won. If the case is won, the law firm gets a percentage of the fees awarded, if they do not win the case then the local government does not have to pay that law firm. However, there are concerns that the local governments are being charged more than the state governments for attorney fees since the state governments pay for an hourly fee rather than a percentage at the end of the case.</p> <p>HB 2826 addresses these concerns by consolidating power to the attorney general. Under HB 2826 all local governments must undergo a review by the Attorney General in order to enter into these contingency fee contracts. The bill guarantees that the state is not in conflict with local governments if they both bring similar suits against a company. HB 2826 also guarantees that local governments are not being over charged for attorney services. Under HB 2826 the attorney general reserves the right to deny the approval of the contract if the law suit addresses the similar issues that the state already addressed and can also refuse the lawsuit if a local government did not comply with notice and hearing requirements. A hearing must be held in order to notify the public the reasons why the local government is pursuing these actions against an entity, why the local government cannot use its own resources to pursue the matter rather than hiring a private attorney, and why entering into the contingent fee contracts would benefit the residents more than other legal services.</p> <p>There are concerns with HB 2826 because of the over reach by the attorney into local government authorities. Under HB 2826 local governments will not have the capacity to bring a suit forward against a company for defects since the Attorney General will need to approve it first. Even when the state has brought a suit forward against a company, and win the suit, the local governments should still reserve the right to bring a suit against a company since the local governments and state government have different needs.</p> <p>There are also other concerns that local governments will no longer be able to sue big pharmacy companies that</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>produce medications for the opioid epidemic occurring in the state. The opioid epidemic can be considered a physical defect and local governments are suing the big pharmacy companies for pushing their products onto the public. HB 2826 would not allow the local governments to sue anymore due to having to get approval from the attorney general. However, the state has already brought a suit against some of these companies and therefore the local government suits could be denied.</p> <p>HB 2826 gives the attorney general outright authority to determine who will represent a local government rather than its government body.</p>	
<p>HB 4296 By: Schaefer Guillen Phelan Morrison King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of plumbing, including the requirements to obtain a tradesman plumber-limited license.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, in order to get a plumber's license, one must pass the practical exam as well as the written exam. In order to test to receive the plumber's license, one must meet the requirements for classroom education hours as well as hands-on, practical training hours set out by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners. This ensures that those who do become licensed plumbers have the necessary knowledge and skills to perform the tasks of plumbers. There are concerns that there are too many requirements in order to become a plumber and some of those requirements could be removed.</p> <p>HB 4296 amends the occupations code in order to require the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners to develop an applicable license for high school students who complete a set of courses through their career and technology education program. HB 4296 allows for any high school student of any age to enroll in these courses and allows them to not have to register as a plumber's apprentice, pay for a registration fee, or have to comply with any other requirement of the Plumbing License Law that applies to participating in those courses.</p> <p>HB 4296 requires the plumbing examiners board to develop these courses and provide for an appropriate number of classroom hours as well as practical hours.</p> <p>There are concerns with HB 4296 that the high school students will not have sufficient training to go into the workforce. Although the bill requires for practical training to be included in the courses, it leaves it up to the board to decide how many hours are required. There are concerns that the practical requirements will not be enough and high school students will pass the written certification exam and go into the field inexperienced; which can cause public harm if a mistake occurs in the community.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2780 By: Wray</p>	<p>Relating to obsolete references to the Texas Probate Code.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law section of the State Bar of Texas conducts a biennial review of Texas law and makes recommendations as to how the law can be changed to be improved. In past sessions, the legislature codified the probate code as the estates code. However, language from the probate code stayed in the estates code and has been applied to different sections of the law but the probate code is obsolete.</p> <p>HB 2780 updates the Civil Practice and Remedies code, education code, estates code, government code, health and safety code, occupations code, and property code in order to no longer reference the obsolete probate code and make the law easier to understand. HB 2780 updates the current codes to reflect current laws.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3809 By: Goldman Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the accrual of and limitations periods for personal injury claims that arise from certain offenses involving child sexual abuse.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes</p>	<p>When someone goes through a traumatic experience such as child sexual abuse, it can take years for the person to realize exactly what happened and realize that they were preyed upon. Currently, the statute of limitations states that a child who has been sexually abused can bring a suit against the abuser only up to 15 years since the action took place. There are concerns that this statute of limitations may not be long enough and that victims need justice in order to heal, regardless of the timeline of the case.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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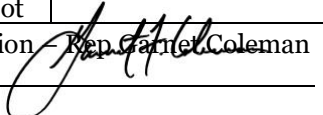
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nays o PNV o Absent 	<p>HB 3809 addresses these concerns by amending the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to increase the statute of limitations from 15 years to 30. This allows the victim to have more time to realize what truly occurred, heal, and still bring a suit against their abuser.</p>	
<p>HB 332 By: Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of a retired or former judge for assignment in certain proceedings.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes o Nays 1 PNV o Absent</p>	<p>When a judge is unavailable to serve on his bench in rural communities, a retired judge can be asked to serve in his place. Currently, the retired judge must have served for 96 months in order to be placed on the list of retired judges that may be called back to serve on the bench. There are concerns that in certain rural areas, there are not enough judges that can fill these positions when the judge cannot serve on his bench.</p> <p>HB 332 addresses these concerns by amending the government code to reduce the number of months that a retired judge must have served from 96 months to just 4 terms of office. HB 332 also changes language to decrease the requirements for the judge to be placed on the list of judges that can be called to serve on a bench. HB 332 states that a judge cannot have been charged with a felony or domestic violence in the past 10 years and allows for judges to serve on any bench that deems necessary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 300 By: Murr Lang</p>	<p>Relating to inquest summary reports and the preservation of evidence collected in the course of an inquest.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes o Nays o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In an effort to save both money and time of the courts, HB 300 would repeal the requirement that a justice of the peace deliver a certified copy of the inquest report that they prepare to the district court clerk. The justice of the peace will still retain a copy for safekeeping. HB 300 would have the all tangible evidence that the justice accumulates in the court of the inquest to deposit the evidence with the appropriate law enforcement agency to be stored in their property room for safekeeping. A district court clerk to destroy all certified copies of an inquest summary report received and maintained prior to HB 300's effective date. After the effective date all evidence, as soon as practicable, must be transferred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for safekeeping.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 642 By: Raney</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing an optional county fee on vehicle registration in certain counties to be used for transportation projects.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Traffic congestion doubles every 12-14 years in the Bryan-College Station metropolitan area, and it is one of the top concerns for residents. Surveys indicate that residents give high priority to addressing the traffic congestion and are willing to pay to help move projects along. HB 642 imposes an additional vehicle registration fee to fund long-term transportation projects by lowering the minimum population threshold from 1.5 million to 190,000 to trigger commissioners' court that is coterminous with a Regional Mobility Authority to impose an additional vehicle registration fee.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2737 By: Wu Dutton White Leach Frank</p>	<p>Relating to judicial guidance related to child protective services cases and juvenile cases.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>Currently, a judge who has authority over a jurisdiction over a juvenile or CPS case, can rule how they see fit. However, there is no current guidance across the state and different judges are ruling very differently on these cases in different jurisdictions and there have been many disparities with the rulings across the state.</p> <p>HB 2737 amends the government code to address these concerns. HB 2737 requires the Texas Supreme Court to annually provide guidance to judges who have jurisdiction over these cases in order to have more uniform rulings across the state. HB 2737 requires the supreme court to adopt any rules necessary to provide the guidance to the lower courts.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 788 By: Davis, Sarah White</p>	<p>Relating to a study on the assessments used by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make parole decisions.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles assesses inmates for parole. There have been horrendous incidents regarding inmates with bad histories who reoffended while on parole and remained on parole to eventually take innocent lives.</p> <p>HB 788 requires the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to collaborate with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to complete a study to determine effectiveness and what changes are necessary with specific focus on assessments for parole eligibility, parolee's recidivism, and offenses while on parole. HB 788 addresses concern with</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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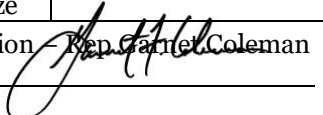
			the decision-making process at the Board of Pardons and Paroles after an incident in Houston but this was a special case and the Board of Pardons and Paroles work diligently to ensure that the right people are paroled.	
HB 918 By: White	Relating to providing discharged or released inmates with certain documents, including documents to assist the inmate in obtaining employment.	Corrections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Inmates leaving prison are oftentimes looking to become productive members of society. Finding employment is one of the hardest challenges that inmates face upon release from prison. It doesn't help that sometimes inmates are sent out into the free world without even a state-issued ID card. When people are released without official state identification, they don't have what they need for housing, employment, benefits, and more. TCDJ currently give inmates a TDCJ identification card, but this is not always recognized as sufficient identity proof in the real world. Equipping individuals with employment documentation, IDs, and resumes makes sense if the goal is successful integration and staying out of jail/prison. Texas also faces workforce shortages in various industries. Extinguishing this documentation and identification barrier could fill some gaps. The process of obtaining these documents is frustrating in general, for a new released inmate it can be dooming in the reintegration process. HB 918 enables released inmates by requiring the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to provide support packets for individuals exiting incarceration. Each packet is to include a copy of the inmate's job training record, state ID issued photo ID, birth certificate, Social Security card, resume, and documentation that they completed a pre-release practice job interview. The first few weeks after release is a critical time for preventing recidivism. Providing inmates with these documents is incredibly important, life-changing, and inexpensive; it will reduce recidivism, boost the Texas economy, and save taxpayer dollars.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 1059 By: Lucio III	Relating to a biennial report on stormwater infrastructure in this state.	Natural Resources Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1059 seeks to improve the way that stormwater is used and its benefits toward our environment by creating a mechanism for collecting and sharing green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) data. HB 1059 establishes that for each state biennium the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) shall appoint a Green Stormwater Infrastructure and Low Impact Development Report Group to prepare a report on the use of GSI and low impact development in this state. GSI, or low impact development, is designed to mimic nature in its ability to absorb excess water, filtering out sediment and pollutants before they reach waterways. The excess of runoff water has contributed to dangerous flooding, can cause severe erosion in our stream banks, which can diminish the recharge of groundwater, and it can also make our waters not safe for swimming (due to the pollution in the runoff). This has increasingly become more important as we develop more of our state and pave over places that would have naturally absorbed rainfall.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 963 By: Bell, Cecil Bernal Howard	Relating to a review by the State Board of Education of the essential knowledge and skills of the career and technology and technology applications curriculums.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	TEA has reported that there has been a growth of 12% in technology application courses since 2016 and this rate is only expected to increase throughout the following years. With the expansion of careers in the technology industry, Texas needs opportunities for students to thrive in technology related fields and school districts need funding to provide resources for their students enrolled in technology application courses. HB 963 requires State Board of Education (SBOE) to conduct of thorough review of the TEKS for career and technology and technology application curriculums as well as renames the career and technology education (CTE) allotment to career and technology education and technology applications allotment. HB 963 will provide an allotment to public school districts for students enrolling in technology application courses in grades 9-12.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 1273 By: Zedler	Relating to denial of payment for preauthorized health care services.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1273 Adds language to the Insurance Code to prohibit health care plan providers from deny services to enrollees that have been approved in the past. Language states this would only be avoided if a healthcare provider misrepresents health care necessity or fails to provide the care services. Denied coverage would only be applicable if there were an ongoing fraud investigation with private or public care such as CHIP/Medicaid. HB 1273 would facilitate the continuation of services for consumers without the burden of denied authorization. Consumer protection would be improved for those requiring repeated treatments.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 3852 By: Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to purchasing and contracting by governmental entities; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3852 clarifies and streamlines certain authority requirements for the state government procurement process as a way to improve efficiency, reduce duplicative work, and adds clarity to a number of provisions in current statute regarding the comptroller collecting a rebate, the use of state travel services contracts, and the application of the provisions to an attorney.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1353 By: Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to liability of volunteer health care providers and health care institutions for care, assistance, or advice provided in relation to a disaster.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>During natural or manmade disasters, volunteer medical providers are needed in order to assist with helping victims of the disaster. However, volunteer medical providers can be hard to find due to the current liability laws that expose the volunteers and they can be sued during a time of disaster. The current liability laws protect the actual healthcare practice more than the individual and therefore leave the volunteers exposed to liability when acting on their own.</p> <p>HB 1353 addresses these concerns by amending the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to grant volunteer healthcare providers complete immunity when providing health care services during a time of natural or manmade disaster. HB 1353 provides immunity to those doctors acting on good faith but excludes those who act on reckless conduct or intentionally hurt others. HB 1353 assists in having more volunteer healthcare providers available during times of disaster and provides quality healthcare to victims.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1362 By: Wu Frank Hinojosa Miller Walle</p>	<p>Relating to the caseloads of child protective services caseworkers.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) tracks the average caseload for their case managers and reports the average caseload by type of caseworker to the legislature (investigations, conservatorship, etc.). DFPS is currently looking at conducting a study on caseloads for their caseworkers in response to the pending federal lawsuit. HB 1362 will put into statute that the agency must develop and study the implementation of a scoring system to distribute cases equally between caseworkers. Cases vary drastically in complexity and demand and can't necessarily be counted numerically. HB 1362 requires DFPS to evaluate how a scoring system could improve the equitable distribution of cases and hopefully reduce stress and errors by caseworkers.</p> <p>HB 1362 requires DFPS to consider procedures for assigning cases, methods for managing caseloads, and factors considered when assigning scores to caseloads in the development of this scoring system. In addition, DFPS will determine the cost of implementing a scoring system which allows the collection of monthly caseload reports by region. DFPS will provide the results of this study and recommendations to the legislature by September of 2020.</p> <p>HB 1362 will provide further understanding of caseload numbers for various regions of Texas and hopefully inform a set median caseload for caseworkers.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1532 By: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of certain health organizations certified by the Texas Medical Board; providing an administrative penalty; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1532 states that the board's process of addressing complaints against a health organization that is certified under the Occupations Code must match the process for the addressing complaints against individuals. This means that board is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a system to organize and efficiently act upon filed complaints • Appropriately notify the health organization and allow the opportunity to respond to the complaint • Ensure that complaints are not dismissed without proper consideration • Establish methods to inform employed physicians of the proper avenues by which to direct complaints regarding the health organization to the board <p>Disposal and resolution of a complaint made against a health organization must also match the equivalent process for individuals.</p> <p>HB 1532 also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stipulates that information about or regarding complaints, reports, or investigations are confidential and not 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>subject to discovery or subpoena to those that are not involved in the investigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies that an individual may choose to or choose not to file a complaint with the health organization or the board in any combination of their choosing • Codifies that a health organization must have in place an anti-retaliation policy that ensures that a physician will not face employment consequences for filing a complaint, cooperating with an investigation, or for offering their best, independent medical judgement to a patient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The board may take action against any health organization that has failed to develop, implement, or comply with their anti-retaliation policy • Requires that health organization certified under the Occupations Code must submit their board fees with a biennial report to the board that includes the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A signed statement by the president or CEO with the name of and mailing address of the health organization, each of its members, each member of the board of directors, and each officer of the health organization as well as the disclosure of any change among the board of directors ○ Explanation of any amended certification of formation or bylaws with copies of each ○ A statement from each current director verifying their eligibility for their position; their adherence to independent judgement, compliance with all organizational and board rules; and all financial relationships with anyone in connection to the health organization • Requires the board to release all information in the first sub-bullet above on the board's website <p>All the other information must be available to the public and subject to disclosure in compliance with Chapter 552 of the Government Code.</p>	
HB 3041 By: Turner, Chris	Relating to the renewal of a preauthorization for a medical or health care service.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3041 would add language to the Insurance Code to facilitate smoother transitions between preauthorization requests for patients who require continuous care. This would apply to those who have reoccurring treatment such as chronic illness or long-term treatments that require preauthorization renewals. Currently, preauthorization's would expire before renewals can take place. As written, language would allow for doctors to request a renewal of preauthorization at least 60 days before expiration. HB 3041 would facilitate those who require constant care the ability to have access to uninterrupted health care due to preauthorization waiting periods.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1649 By: Kuempel	Relating to vehicle eligibility for the light-duty motor vehicle purchase or lease incentive program.	Environmental Regulation Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Parties have expressed concern regarding the light-duty motor vehicle purchase or lease incentive program funded by the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). Currently it is limited to vehicles with four wheels. HB 1649 includes motorcycles to benefit from this program, as well.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 1568 By: Hernandez	Relating to the authority of certain municipal employees to request the removal and storage of certain abandoned or illegally parked or operated vehicles.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, if a car is parked on a street for 72 hours, it is considered abandoned. A parking compliance officer must come out to the location where the car is parked and verify that the car has not been moved. This is usually done by visiting the site on different occasions, and marking the car to verify the time and date they came. If they verify that a car has not moved, then it can be towed. However, the parking compliance officer has to coordinate with local law enforcement to request the tow. The local police officer must then request the tow and be present with the car when the tow truck appears to tow the car. There are concerns that police officers sometimes have bigger emergencies to handle and can cause a delay for the cars being towed. HB 1568 amends the local government code as well as the occupations code to allow local municipalities to authorize	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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			a city employee to be able to request the towing of an abandoned car without the authorization by a local police officer. The city employee will still have to verify that the car has been abandoned. HB 1568 allows for the expedited towing of abandoned cars and the clearing of neighborhood streets without any delay.	
HB 1833 By: Wray	Relating to the authority to transfer real property in the name of an entity.	Business & Industry Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>With the growth of the internet, it has become easier to create businesses and have various networks of individuals and businesses who are all interconnected and nested. When this happens, it becomes difficult to determine which individual or business has the authority to sell real property. This is made particularly difficult due to the fact that the businesses may be reticent to share information or documentation due to concerns regarding privacy.</p> <p>HB 1833 addresses this issue by creating a statutory mechanism by which such entities may predesignate individuals as those with the authority to conduct real estate transactions on behalf of the business entity. Eligible domestic and foreign entities are given the authority to hold documentation in the form of an affidavit, that identifies one or more individuals with the authority to conduct real estate transactions. The designated individual must be at least 18 years old, authorized to act on behalf of the entity, competent to execute the documentation, and understand that the affidavit is made under penalty of perjury.</p> <p>The said affidavit must include the name of the business entity that holds the title to the real estate property and that the entity active with good standing under appropriate authorities. It must also include the address of the entity and a legal description of the property.</p> <p>The individual who is authorized to execute the affidavit must be in a professional position that is appropriate to the type of business entity they represent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the entity is a corporation, a director or officer • if the entity is a limited liability company, a manager or member • if the entity is a limited partnership, a general partnership • if the entity is a professional corporation or association, a director or officer <p>The individual who is identified in the affidavit as authorized to conduct the real estate transaction may not be the same as the one who is designated to execute the affidavit except in very specific cases that is enumerated in the bill. The affidavit is allowed to be kept at the county clerk's office in the county where the property is located. The county clerk's office may collect a fee for this service.</p> <p>The affidavit may be seen as conclusive for a purchaser, a mortgage servicer, or any third party who perceives the affidavit to be accurate. If the information contained in the affidavit is incorrect unbeknownst to any individual who acts on it in good faith, the individual will not be held liable.</p> <p>This statute does not apply to domestic nonprofits or foreign businesses that are federally tax exempt.</p> <p>Through these provisions, HB 1833 aims to minimize conflict and unnecessary litigation.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 1666 By: Martinez	Relating to the authorization by referendum on an optional county fee on vehicle registration in certain counties.	Transportation Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	<p>With Texas cities growing so rapidly, transportation needs outpace state funding and require new funding sources. In June 2018 the Rio Grande Valley was hit by a heavy rain event categorized as a 500-year flood that caused extensive damage. Aged flooding infrastructure left communities flooded for weeks and the damage to the Rio Grande Valley was estimated at \$100,000,000. The Rio Grande Valley needs flood infrastructure to improve public safety. Funds have been coming in slowly but there is need for other sources of funding because the cities and public transit are struggling to recover.</p> <p>HB 1666 allows Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties to vote on implementation of a \$2 vehicle registration fee for residents of the Rio Grande Valley to fund drainage, public transit, and other road projects. Half of the fee would go to the Council of Governments for public transportation services and half would go to municipalities for road or</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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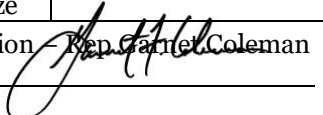
			drainage projects. HB 1666 provides another method of funding to the counties of the Rio Grande Valley for disaster recovery.	
HB 2104 By: Frullo	Relating to a limitation on life insurance proceeds for terroristic acts.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>HB 2104 would prevent beneficiaries of insurance policies from receiving full financial compensation at the full rate of plan value if the enrollee dies as a result of a terroristic act and was a perpetrator or participant/non-victim.</p> <p>HB 2104 allows an insurance company to limit proceeds of the policy to only the contributed premiums if the individual insured occurred due to terroristic act with the intent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; • influence the conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, this state, or a political subdivision of this state; or • significantly disrupt or interfere with lawful commerce or the right of lawful assembly. <p>In short, HB 2104 establishes that the beneficiaries' loved ones (e.g. wife/husband and children) shall bear the punishment for the sins of the perpetrator be limiting proceeds for a policy that has already been purchased.</p> <p>HB 2104 takes would take effect September 1, 2019, and would only apply only to an insurance policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2020.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2042 By: Stucky	Relating to postpayment audits conducted by the comptroller and annual financial reports submitted by state agencies.	State Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent	HB 2042 seeks to allow the comptroller to audit claims on a post-payment basis without the need of a contract, remove outdated language that compares the post-payment audit process to a pre-payment audit process, grants auditors access to necessary documentation without additional requirements imposed by state agencies, and allows the comptroller additional flexibility in the type of data and timing required for financial information reporting. The justification for these changes is that it will save time and resources, improve oversight of state agencies and remove cumbersome requirements imposed by state agencies under review.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 3612 By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding best practices for assisting students with autism spectrum disorder.	Higher Education Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	<p>According to the Center for Disease and Control estimates that 1 in every 68 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).</p> <p>People who are on the spectrum experience the world through the spectrum differently than those outside the spectrum. The range of the spectrum challenges those with ASD in everyday life in different ways and even more so throughout their academic endeavors. Currently, institutions of higher education may be inadequately prepared to help students who are on the spectrum enrolled at their campus and assist them with their higher education journey.</p> <p>HB 3612 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to conduct a study that would identify best practices, appropriate interventions and supports, to assist students with ASD enrolled at public institutions of higher education. The study will track students with ASD who graduate from secondary schools in Texas, enrolled at institutions of higher education, financial assistance to students with ASD, and would also identify and track the graduation rates of students with ASD from institutions of higher education. The study would also require the THECB to work with public school districts that have specialized programs for students with ASD and analyze how those programs can be implemented or extended to postsecondary institutions. This bill would directly impact students with ASD pursuing a higher education and allow for those public institutions to be adequately prepared to assist students on the spectrum by placing an emphasis into creating more accessibility programs for students with ASD.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2110 By:	Relating to state agency measurement and	State Affairs	HB 2110 seeks to modernize customer surveys used by state agencies, as it is required from a 1999 statute (SB 1563). Since the passage 20 years ago, customer service standards and performance measures have not been updated. HB	Favorable Evaluated by:

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Shaheen	management of customer satisfaction.	Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	2110 will update the current statute to include mobile and web applications among the ways that a state agency can gather surveys, and will update privacy standard to ensure that state agencies maintain ownership of the data they collect HB 2110 also includes that the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) or the Governor's Office of Budget and Policy may request the reported information and that they shall jointly develop a standardized method to measure customer service satisfaction and create standardized performance measures.	Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 2631 By: Johnson, Julie Oliverson Moody	Relating to physician and health care practitioner credentialing by managed care plan issuers.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2631 adds language to the Insurance Code to credential applying providers in reasonable time with notification to the applicant of failure to meet insurance credentialing requirements. Language would be included to hold the enrollee harmless in the difference of payment between in-network copayments paid to a provider who is not eligible for credentialing. Currently, newly licensed doctors may currently see patients while assessing out-of-network fees and risk a smaller clientele market. With the ability to retroactively bill as in-network, this would allow for consumers to have more choices when providers are in negotiation with health plan providers. HB 2631 would allow for consumers to have more choice not just in physicians, but tiers of expense when choosing medical professionals to see for healthcare, offering more flexibility for healthcare access.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2364 By: Darby	Relating to the provision of certain services through statewide technology centers.	State Affairs Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Current law restricts Data Center Services (DCS) Program from competing with the private telecommunications sector, yet, a need exists to clarify what service state agencies, institutions of higher education, and local governments can purchase through DCS program. HB 2364 clarifies that the DCS program can continue to offer electronic messaging services and outsources managed services as it has been seen as an avenue for cost-savings.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 1517 By: Coleman Ramos	Relating to a notification requirement if a public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, does not have a nurse assigned to the school during all instructional hours.	Public Education Vote: 10 Ayes 1 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent	Nurses play an integral role in providing basic health care to students who would otherwise go without it, and most parents assume there is always a nurse on staff, but this is not the case in some school districts. Current Texas law does not require public schools and open enrollment charter schools to employ a full-time nurse nor are they required to inform parents about the duration the nurse is at the school. Sometimes they may only be part time nurses and are only present for part of the regular instructional day. HB 1517 will require schools to inform parents if the school does not employ a full time, or the equivalent of a full-time school nurse, but does not require school districts to hire an FTE. Additionally, the school can post the notice on the school's website as a measure of informing parents. This notification requirement does not apply to school districts or open-enrollment charter schools with student enrolment of less than 10,000 students.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2691 By: VanDeaver	Relating to restricting the use of personally identifiable student information by an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application used for a school purpose and providing an exemption from certain restrictions for a national assessment provider.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	In 2017 there was a hacking group reported by the FBI that targeted a school district and were able to collect private student information to threaten them and members of their family for ransom. However, school districts are still currently allowed to contract with third party vendors with no standard of data protection statewide and there is no agreement for statewide data sharing. HB 2691 requires TEA approved vendors that contract with school districts to protect their student's data with a unique ID, established through the Texas Student Data System (TSDS), to add a layer of standard data protection statewide and will limit the data they are allowed to collect from their students.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 2545 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to franchise tax, oil production tax, and gas production tax incentives for certain desalination facility operations.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>As our state’s population grows, demand for clean water continues to increase. This becomes critically apparent during times of drought. To best leverage our state’s resources and reduce the over-appropriation of water, HB 2545 seeks to incentivize and advance properly permitted desalination in Texas of seawater, brackish groundwater and “produced water” from oil and gas extraction. To encourage private investment, HB 2545 would offer credits against franchise and oil and gas production taxes for production of potable water equal to 50 cents, \$1, \$5, or \$17 for each 1,000 gallons of source water treated, with the credit amount determined by the total dissolved solids (TDS) concentrations in the source water. HB 2545 also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specifies that water may only be counted once, • restricts a credit for the same treated water to one permit holder, • allows a franchise tax exclusion for amounts from the sale of minerals or materials extracted during desalination, • provides for a 5-year carryforward of the credit, • requires reporting to TCEQ monthly, and to the Comptroller. <p>Concerns have been expressed regarding degree of necessity given the potential for advancement in cost efficiency within the desalination industry and the increasing statewide need. Opponents contend the necessary incentive to lure desalination providers exists within the market currently. To ensure application matches legislative intent, the substitute would make the provisions effective starting September 2021, with a 4-year sunset review. Conservation concerns have been expressed over the TDS levels as proposed for the lowest credit level. While the substitute considers source water with 5,000 TDS, environmental organizations have called for higher initial thresholds of 10,000 TDS for source water to maximize credits and conservation impact.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2764 By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to minimum standards and caregiver training for substitute care providers for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2764 directs HHSC to conduct a review of minimum standards for licensed child-placing agencies, agency foster homes, and adoptive homes by the end of 2020 to create flexibility and simplify the process of licensure. The intent is that the number of foster and adoptive homes in Texas will increase with a simplified process.</p> <p>HB 2764 also allows DFPS to grant authority to child-placing agencies and Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCC) to waive certain pre-service trainings, annual trainings, and other requirements which aren’t directly related to the care of a child for foster and adoptive parents or foster homes which have no citations or violations.</p> <p>Each contract between a SSCC and DFPS will explicitly state that training requirements for foster parents may not exceed 35 hours. Current minimum standards require at least 35 hours for an individual to become a licensed foster parent with additional training requirements depending on the level of care they seek licensure for. HB 2764 caps training requirements and states that the department or SSCC may place additional provisions for training requirements. These additional provisions require child-placing agencies to provide competency-based, pre-service trainings based on the needs of a child being placed in their care including trainings for treatment of children with complex medical needs, emotional disorders, intellectual or developmental disabilities, and victims of human trafficking.</p> <p>HB 2764 expressly allows child-placing agencies to provide training which might meet eligibility standards for federal funds through the Family First Prevention Services Act.</p> <p>Texas has a shortage of qualified foster parents and the requirements in order to be licensed may be a deterrent for some families. The training requirements are especially difficult for prospective foster parents in rural areas as they</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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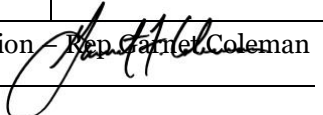
			<p>must travel further to access training. However, there are concerns in regard to capping training rather than having a minimum standard which must be met. Most child placing agencies for a basic level of care require well over 35 hours to be licensed in addition to annual trainings each subsequent year of licensure. As the level of care increases, the training also increases. While the majority of child-placing agencies have high standards, placing a cap on training requirements may allow some child-placing agencies to only do the bare minimum regardless of the needs of children in their care.</p> <p>HB 2764 has a provision which allows for additional training once a child with certain diagnoses are placed in their care. Child placement sometimes happens quickly with little notice and children often enter care without a formal diagnosis. If a child is placed in a foster home which hasn't been trained in developmental disorders or emotional disorders the foster parents may not be equipped to handle the child's behaviors and may not be able to identify that their behaviors are symptoms of a disorder which needs appropriate treatment.</p> <p>While training can be time consuming and cumbersome, appropriate and thorough training equips foster parents to handle the varied and often unknown challenges each child grapples with. Foster parents feel supported and confident when they have training which prepares them for the unknowns in foster care. DFPS should take the opportunity to review minimum standards and determine what standards actually protect and allow foster children to grow and develop to their full capacity. A review of minimum standards could also determine which trainings are necessary to adequately equip foster parents and which trainings are no longer relevant or effective; rather than placing a cap on training hour requirements.</p>	
<p>HB 2766 By: Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to electronic and other controlled substance prescriptions under the Texas Controlled Substances Act; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The National Institute on Drug Abuse stated that in 2017, Texas had 1,458 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. Currently, Texas has laws and regulations concerning the prescribing and dispensing of certain controlled substances. The regulations have been put in place to help reduce prescription drug abuse and fraud. With the increase in rates of prescription drug abuse, related deaths, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, it is imperative that Texas laws be amended to address the issue.</p> <p>HB 2766 addresses some of these concerns through regulatory measures. To do so, the bill first amends definition a for "designated agent" as an individual who a prescriber may designate to communicate instructions to a pharmacist in the case of an emergency as well as the definition for "official prescription form" to refer specifically to a prescription form that is used for prescribing Schedule II controlled substances. A Schedule II drug is one that has been federally defined as one with a high potential for abuse. Narcotics, opiates, and certain stimulants all fall under this category.</p> <p>HB 2766 specifies that, except in the case of an emergency, no person may dispense or administer a controlled substance without an appropriate electronic prescription. In the case of an emergency, current rules state that the prescriber or the designated agent must create a written record of the prescription. This bill adds that, if such an agent is designated in writing by an appropriate prescriber, they may communicate a prescription by phone. The practitioner will be responsible for the actions of the designated agent. However, the practitioner must be able to provide a copy of the written designation at the request of a pharmacist. Additionally, the prescriber provide the pharmacist with the information necessary to complete the electronic prescription record.</p> <p>In accordance with the progression of technology, HB 2766 moves away from current standards of controlled substance prescription and shows preference for electronic prescription. HB 2766 strikes statutes that allow for written prescriptions for certain drugs to be delivered in person or by mail. In addition, it allows for partial filling for</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>a Schedule II controlled substance only in accordance with federal law. Under these changes, prescriptions for Schedule II substances for hospice patients, whether for full or partial filling, may only be given through electronic prescription methods.</p> <p>HB 2766 specifies that a prescription for a controlled substance may be exempted from the requirement to be issued electronically and may be issued in writing in certain circumstances, including, among others, those in which the prescriber is a veterinarian, the electronic prescribing is temporarily unavailable, the drugs are under a research protocol, the prescriber and dispenser are in the same location or same license, the written prescription would be more practical and prevent a delay that would adversely impact the patient's medical condition.</p> <p>HB 2766 also includes the following provisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • language exempting a dispensing pharmacist from any obligation to ensure that a non-electronic prescription was appropriately authorized • a requirement that written prescriptions for controlled substances must include certain information • authorization for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) to assess a fee for sending official prescription forms to practitioners • a requirement that no more than one Schedule II prescription may be recorded on an official prescription form • requirements for physicians to take measures to ensure that official prescription forms are not misused • requirements regarding guidelines for the issuance of waivers from electronic prescribing by certain regulatory agencies • adds to the list of violations involving controlled substances to include use of a fraudulent electronic prescription • repeals of certain sections of the Health and Safety Code to be consistent with the provisions of the bill 	
HB 3207 By: Deshotel	Relating to the maritime port plans, reports, and programs prepared by the Port Authority Advisory Committee.	Transportation Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>It is hard to decipher requirements for the Port Authority Advisory Committee (PAAC)—a nine-member committee that advises and updates Texas Transportation Commission about policy and Texas maritime ports—because the ultimate report is similar to the Port Capital Program (which is another similar report); it would be beneficial to see some clarity on their separate roles.</p> <p>HB 3207 reduces ambiguity by combining the reports into the two-year Maritime Port Mission Plan—defines goals/objectives concerning maritime port facilities and intermodal transportation systems— which PAAC will submit to Texas Transportation Commission, Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker. This increases efficiency and minimizes duplicitous reports.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 2787 By: Springer	Relating to certain confidential or privileged information related to veterinary care or treatment.	Agriculture & Livestock Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>A veterinarian can disclose information about their clients and the care and treatment of their pets under very limited situations and circumstances. This is because veterinary medicine is held to the same standards as all other areas of medical practice regarding client privacy. Veterinarians can face consequences by the Texas State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners when privacy laws are breached, and currently under Texas law there is no exemption for the posting of client information on a public forum, such as Facebook review pages, regarding cruelty to or an attack of an animal or information about prescribing of controlled substances.</p> <p>HB 2782 adds language to existing Texas law that will allow for confidentiality of a client to be waived to the extent that the client publishes information in a public forum.</p> <p>HB 2782 will make clear that veterinarians can report information regarding animal cruelty, animal attacks, and the</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org

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			prescribing, dispensing, or requesting of a controlled substance to the proper government authority. <u>Furthermore, HB 2782 would make Texas the only state to participate in eliminating these aspects of client privacy and undermine the practice of veterinary medicine.</u>	
HB 2859 By: Capriglione	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of precious metal held in a precious metal depository located in this state.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2859 exempts property taxation on precious metals held in a precious metal depository located in Texas, whether or not they are held for the production of income. Currently, taxes are collected only on those metals held for income and this bill would prohibit that tax practice. This would increase certainty and reduce confusion in our states precious metal market and increase our state's advantage comparatively. However, it could also result in reduced revenue to local units and strain on the school finance formulas.	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 3228 By: Muñoz	Relating to certain hearings concerning title insurance rates and other matters relating to regulating the business of title insurance.	Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3228 adds language to the Insurance Code to allow public inquiry to the commissioner of insurance to change premium rates on title insurance. Currently, only title insurance companies, agents/associations, and government regulators have capacity in hearings. Language would establish that an interested person would be able to write in to the commissioner to request a public hearing to consider a new premium rate. The commissioner would have no more than 60 days to respond in writing denial or initiate the public hearing. HB 3228 would allow for more consumer input on current and new rates of title insurance rates. This would enable an industry with very little public input to have more consumer awareness and transparency.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 3082 By: Murphy	Relating to investigating and prosecuting the criminal offense of operating an unmanned aircraft over or near certain facilities.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Since recent technological advances, drones have really become a source of concern for law enforcement agencies. Drones can currently display a live feed to the pilot through their camera, can carry items and drop them, as well as record high quality videos. The Department of Public Safety has a current system called <i>Eyewatch</i> that monitors drone activities since regular law enforcement may not have the proper tools to track drones. However, there are concerns that DPS does not have enough tools to track or prosecute all suspicious activity. HB 3082 amends the government code by changing the language to add that a person commits an offense if the person with criminal negligence operates a drone over a correctional facility, detention facility, or critical infrastructure lower than 400 feet. HB 3082 also requires a peace officer conducting the investigation of said offense to notify DPS and they in turn can request more information about the crime from the peace officer if they deem necessary. HB 3082 allows DPS to work with peace officers to stop drone flights and allows for the prosecution of the pilots if they fly to close to these infrastructures.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 3526 By: Rose	Relating to the duties of and training for certain officers and jailers regarding the child safety check alert list.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In 2015, in response to a child's death, the Child Safety Check Alert(CSCA) List was created in order for law enforcement officers to assist Child Protective Services (CPS) in finding children who are listed as Priority 1 cases. CPS has 24 hours to make contact with the alleged victims in these cases, so law enforcement can assist by helping to locate these children. The CSCA is a database that allows law enforcement to know which children they need to be looking for. However, there are concerns that law enforcement agencies have not been using the database in order to find these children. HB 3526 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to expand language to include any officer, not just a police officer to be able to access this system and be able to find children. HB 3526 includes a peace officer, parole officer, juvenile probation officer, juvenile correctional officer, juvenile parole officer, or county jailer. HB 3526 also amends the family code in to include the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to include the CSCA training program to any officers considered under the new definition of an officer. HB 3526 helps CPS reach all of the children in the CSCA list by working with law enforcement and requiring law enforcement to actually check and follow up with the list.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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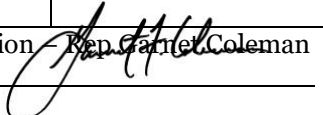
<p>HB 3233 By: Klick</p>	<p>Relating to the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3233 clarifies, and updates outdated information in the Judiciary Campaign Fairness Act that pertain to the contributions to the campaigns for judges. The updates and changes include replacing clauses that were deemed unconstitutional by the supreme court because they violated the first amendment by not allowing certain individual contributions to judiciary campaigns. HB 3233 places all previous and newly applied campaign caps and restrictions under one section in the election code to provide organization and accessibility to protentional contributors and candidates. HB 3233 does not include a condition on prohibition for joint campaign activities and whether the activity ensures a judicial candidate does not endorse another judicial or nonjudicial candidate. In urban areas where judicial candidates only have the option to coordinate campaign through the political party, this will create a loophole for them to individually duplicate what the party is doing to get out the vote efforts currently handled by the party for all candidates. HB 3233 provides much needed updates to contribution and expenditure limits to judicial candidates to ensure the integrity of the campaign process.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3132 By: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to staff development requirements for public school teachers who provide reading instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, third grade students get assessed with statewide measures for their reading capabilities. Currently, Texas ranks 46th in the nation for 4th grade reading levels and in 2018 there were 236,450 Texas 3rd grade students who did not reach the reading benchmark standards. Texas teachers have seen a reduction in staff development trainings leaving them with few recourses that are necessary to effectively teach literacy to their students. HB 3132 requires school districts to provide effective literacy professional development for educators of students in kindergarten – 3rd grade to assist with students who are struggling to reach reading standards. The training will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonemic awareness • Phonics • Fluency • Vocabulary and comprehension 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3420 By: Lambert Raney</p>	<p>Relating to liability coverage for certain vehicles provided by certain automobile repair facilities.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3420 would add language to the Insurance Code to require coverage of loaned vehicles under the driver’s existing liability auto insurance policy. Language would cover vehicle repair facilities may loan consumers while a personal vehicle is in repair. Those who are subject to the coverage of the consumers existing policy would maintain the same level of coverage provided by the policy that was previously offered on the personal vehicle. HB 3420 would provide improved consumer protection when utilizing a loaned vehicle during strenuous times. Texas currently require auto coverage on all personal vehicle and the inclusion of loaned vehicles would improve driver safety on roads and peace of mind for those engaging with loaned vehicles.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3258 By: Minjarez Bernal Pacheco Allison Gervin- Hawkins</p>	<p>Relating to an authorization to increase the sales and use tax collected in an advanced transportation district of a metropolitan rapid transit authority.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3258 allows for an additional 0.5% Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) sales tax for advanced transportation and mobility enhancement in advanced transportation districts (ATD). The tax increase would have to be petitioned for, and approved at an election, and would not count against the two-cent hard cap on combined local sales tax rates. The bill lays out election requirements and procedures and prohibits the adoption of an increase if it results in more than 2.5 percent combined local tax rate in any location in the district. Currently, San Antonio ATD is the only district with a transit authority imposed sales and use tax at 0.25%; the 0.5% increase would yield roughly \$155 million in annual revenue. While this is the first permitted increase over the two-cent local sales and use limit, the bill provides the local voters the chance to determine the solution to a local problem.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 3630 By: Meyer González, Mary Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting the use of certain behavioral interventions on students enrolled in public school who receive special education services.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Under current Texas law, school districts are legally allowed to use dangerous restraints and seclusion techniques that could harm students with disabilities. There are students who received special education services that have been subject to these types of restraints and have been physically and emotionally harmed by them.</p> <p>HB 3630 will ban the use of harmful restraints and seclusion techniques that are legal in Texas for students with disabilities. HB 3630 will protect students with disabilities and ensure that TEA will rid school districts ability to use these restraints for behavior management. HB 3630 will prohibit the use of aversive interventions for the purpose of discipline, convenience or as a substitute for federally protected educational or behavior supports and services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4150 By: Paddie Dean</p>	<p>Relating to safety and inspection requirements for certain utilities that provide electricity.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>On August 5, 2017, a group of boy scouts was sailing along Lake O' the Pines when their catamaran came in contact with a live power line in the Alley Creek area of the lake due to negligence and a lack of mandated safety standards. HB 4150, in response, would ensure that an electric utility, municipally owned utility or electric cooperative shall meet specific clearance requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code Standard ANSI in the construction of any transmission or distribution line while bringing any that are currently not in compliance up to those clearance standards. A number of reports, mostly regarding safety and compliance, will be required to be sent by the utilities to the Public Utility Commission (PUC).</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3512 By: Pacheco</p>	<p>Relating to conditions of community supervision and procedures applicable to the reduction or termination of a defendant's period of community supervision.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The complicated and burdensome probation system leads to some defendants opting to serve sentences in state jail for fear that they won't survive through the costs and requirements of probation. Incarceration in state jail is costly to the state, damages families, and does not rehabilitate the same way supervision can. The less people beginning and completing supervision means more people engaging in crime and ending up reincarcerated.</p> <p>HB 3512 incentivizes completion of community supervision and helps defendants by revising probation conditions to facilitate the process. HB 3512 allows judges to authorize supervising officers to modify conditions of community supervision based on defendant's risks and needs assessment AND progress in supervision. Also, HB 3512 changes requirements for controlled substances regarding defendants who are not otherwise required to be drug tested to allow controlled substance testing only when the supervision officer has reasonable suspicion. HB 3512 also simplifies how the court can require defendants to avoid questionable people and places in order to reduce temptation to base it off of the risks and needs assessment instead of just prohibiting time with people who are active members of criminal street gangs. HB 3512 also includes faith-based, volunteer, and community-based programs as options for treatment and rehabilitation programs to be counted for supervision time credits if the court has approved the program. This helps individuals to transform so they can return to their communities and live crime-free.</p> <p>Furthermore, HB 3512 allows judges to reconsider whether defendants have sufficient income/resources to make payments each time the defendants financial status changes or the required payments change. If the court determines that the defendant does not have sufficient resources to pay, the court can push back the date that payment is due, install a payment plan, waive it completely, add community service, or a combination of these.</p> <p>If there is a case where a defendant got in trouble for not paying restitution or going to counseling/treatment, HB 3512 requires supervision officers to notify the court as soon as the defendant catches up on everything so the court can review their record and consider reducing or terminating community supervision. If the judge didn't reduce or terminate community supervision, HB 3512 requires that the court review the defendant's record again sometime between the 180th and 270th day following the review.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

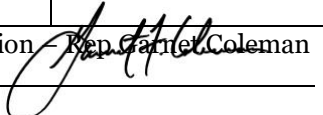
<p>HB 3838 By: Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to a disclosure in certain offers to purchase a mineral or royalty interest.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In effort to prevent fraudulent sales of mineral and royalty interests, often guised as leases and aimed at vulnerable targets, HB 3838 would require a specified disclosure on certain offers to purchase a mineral or royalty interest. The bill applies only to a conveyance of a mineral or royalty interest that is titled lease or has other words that indicate that the transaction is a lease of a mineral or royalty interest; and has the effect of transferring all or a portion of the owner's mineral interest in lands covered by an existing oil, gas, or mineral lease or the owner's royalty interest in production from an existing oil, gas, or mineral lease. It would not apply to top leases or actual oil, gas and mineral leases.</p> <p>The bill would allow a person to bring suit (including coverage for court costs, royalties and bonuses paid, and possible exemplary damages) for up to four years from date of conveyance.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3721 By: Deshotel</p>	<p>Relating to an independent review organization to conduct reviews of certain medical necessity determinations under the Medicaid managed care program.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3721 requires HHSC to contract with an independent review organization to make determinations in regard to disputes for appeal challenging the medical necessity denial by a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO). HHSC will determine how the IRO will settle disputes, when in the appeals process the IRO can be used, and the actions available after the IRO makes a determination. The IRO must collect all necessary records, make their review in a timely manner, protect confidentiality of the patient's medical records for the review, and set minimum standards for physicians making review determinations on behalf of the IRO. Physicians or health professionals conducting the review will be assigned with no input from the MCO, provider, or patient. When selecting an IRO to contract with, HHSC should take into consideration the relationship and potential conflict of interest between the IRO and MCOs in question. Through HB 3721, the IRO must give notice of a review determination and the clinical basis for the determination.</p> <p>The IRO will provide the following information grouped by MCO to HHSC upon request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of requests for reviews • number of independent reviews conducted • number of review determinations made in favor of the MCO or the patient • number of review determinations which resulted in the MCO covering the service • summary of the disputes undergoing review • summary of the services which were the subject of the review • average time the IRO took to complete the review determination <p>HB 3721 will provide a process for patients to appeal their medical necessity services denial through an independent reviewer who isn't affiliated with the MCO and has no financial interest in the outcome of their appeal. This provides added protection for Medicaid recipients and ensures they are getting the services they are owed. HB 3721 provides external regulation and transparency of the MCOs appeals process and holds MCOs accountable.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3904 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to public school accountability, including certain performance standards and sanctions, and to providing alternative methods to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In prior legislative sessions there have been measurable steps to improving public school accountability and student assessment systems. However, there are gaps to close and modifications to be made to improve the systems for public school accountability performance standards and for individual graduation committees (IGCs).</p> <p>Dropout Recovery School Modifications HB 3904 allows the commissioner to assess dropout recovery schools under the state's alternative accountability system and require the commissioner to solely consider performance based on an "approaches grade level" standard in the Student Achievement and School Progress domains for the dropout recovery schools.</p> <p>Intervention Modifications HB 3904 authorizes the commissioner to order the reconstitution and implementation of strategic staffing at a</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>campus that has underperformed and has yet to meet certain standards and been assigned a campus intervention team.</p> <p>IGC Modifications HB 3904 removes the expiration date for statutory provisions related to IGCs and allows them to continue.</p> <p>HB 3904 modifies the systems for public school accountability performance standards and for individual graduation committees (IGCs) to satisfy public high school graduation requirements. HB 3904 will modify the following:</p> <p>HB 3904 will require the commissioner to assign a masters level credit in the accountability system for students that satisfy end-of-course (EOC) assessment requirements through a substitute assessment, such as SAT, ACT or AP/IB tests and adopt indicators within the Student Achievement domain that account for students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earn dual course credits in ELA, mathematics, science or social studies; • participate in extracurricular activities; • are in the 9th grade and academically on track to graduate with their cohort; • participate in full-day PreK; and • participate in elementary literacy and mathematics academies. <p>HB 3904 will prohibit the commissioner from attributing more that 50 percent of any domain performance rating to STAAR results.</p> <p>HB 3904 will require the commissioner to identify a methodology for giving credit under the Student Achievement domain for students that successfully complete a coherent sequence of courses to earn their industry certification. The commissioner will be responsible for determining the scores for districts and high school campuses in the Student Achievement domain by using these weights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 percent for STAAR results; • 40 percent for college, career and military readiness indicators; and <p>20 percent for graduation rates.</p>	
<p>HB 4003 By: Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to a study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board concerning a shortage of primary care physicians in this state.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has one of the highest rates of uninsured people in the nation and the ratio of physicians per person in certain areas of the state is steadily declining which adds to the barriers many Texas face. There is a shortage of primary care physicians across the state and many efforts have been underway to address this issue.</p> <p>HB 4003 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to conduct a study that would investigate the prevention of the shortage of practicing primary care physicians across the state. This study would identify methods, such as physician education loan repayment, to potentially prevent physician shortage in areas that are typically medically underserved. HB 4003 requires the study to conduct an analysis of the feasibility to provide funding for medical residencies for rural and community-based hospital practices for primary care positions.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3668 By: Walle Darby Hernandez Rosenthal Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to grants for disaster response by nonprofit food banks.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>During a time of emergency or natural disaster the food banks located in communities assist with providing food to the victims of said disaster. This in turn causes the food banks to completely deplete their supplies in a shorter time span than expected, leaving them without food. The food bank must then submit a request to the Texas Department of Emergency Management to request from FEMA. FEMA selects a vendor and then delivers the food to the food bank. There are concerns that the current process is not cost efficient to the state and has not had the food delivered in a timely manner. It took 8 weeks from the request from the food bank for the food trucks from FEMA to get back to the food bank with food.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o PNV o Absent 	<p>HB 3668 addresses these concerns by amending the government code to require the governor’s office to establish a program that gives grants to non-profit organizations for the distribution of food to food banks as well as expanding the capacity of the food banks. The money should be allocated by the governor’s office with the money they already have available and it should be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain an inventory of emergency food boxes to prepare for a disaster • purchase, store, and transport food during a disaster • purchasing equipment necessary to operate during a disaster. <p>HB 3668 requires the office of the governor to establish a procedure for granting the money allocated and enter into contracts with the non-profits. HB 3668 streamlines the food banks response time in times of disaster as well as allows food banks to not completely deplete their inventory when a disaster occurs.</p>	
<p>HB 4008 By: Frullo Moody Cyrier Krause Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to plans required to be submitted to be eligible to receive funding through the Major Events Reimbursement Program.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes o Nays o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4008 requires organizations seeking funding through the major events reimbursement program to submit a plan regarding the prevention of human trafficking and in connection with the event, to the office of the attorney general and the chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management. If the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) determine ineligible solely because of untimely filing of that plan, the event may still receive the funding if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the plan is submitted no later than seven days before the event; • the plan is implemented at the event; and • the event meets other program requirements, including the remission of certain local tax revenue to the major events reimbursement program fund. <p>Human trafficking is a serious problem around major event. Requiring organizations to comply with clear deadlines and plans to prevent human trafficking is not too burdensome to ask.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3647 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of a child's criminal records related to certain misdemeanor offenses.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes o Nays o PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There are currently duplicate statutes in different sections of the code dealing with the confidentiality of records for fine-only misdemeanors by a child (not including traffic offenses). These repetitive statutes are unnecessary and could potentially lead to confusion. HB 3647 amends statute to remove the duplicates and ensures these sections match language already in place throughout code. HB 3647 ensures that children who are charged with or convicted of a fine-only misdemeanor (not including traffic offenses) are able to keep their record confidential from the public as originally intended by the legislature.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3078 By: Thompson, Senfronia Moody Parker White Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the review of clemency applications from certain persons who were victims of human trafficking or family violence.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>In some case, the criminal justice system incarcerates individuals who committed crimes while victimized by human trafficking or intimate partner violence. Human trafficking survivors are often arrested and convicted of crimes resulting from their victimization. Of 130 surveyed human trafficking survivors, 91% reported having a criminal record because of their coercion with human trafficking. Most victims meeting law enforcement are still under the control of their abusers. Having a criminal record makes reintegration supremely difficult on the lives of survivors. After breaking loose from constant harassment that is trafficking, having trouble finding a job or renting an apartment is enormously depleting when the real solution is rehabilitation, recovery, and reintegration. HB 3078 initiates a specialized panel of human trafficking/intimate partner violence experts to review clemency applications and recommend who should receive clemency based on case information. The panel will give recommendations to the Governor regarding clemency grants to individuals coerced into offensive behavior. Then, the Governor will make informed decisions based on what the panel had to say about the case. HB 3078 gives survivors of human trafficking or intimate partner violence a chance at escaping a criminal record which victimizes them for life.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>HB 3009 By: Talarico Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to civics instruction in public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There is a lack of emphasis on civics education throughout the nation, and in Texas classrooms. Lack of access to a quality civics education primarily affects students of lower-income.</p> <p>HB 3009 will re-prioritize civics education in Texas classrooms to ensure that students across the state have access to understanding the importance of democracy and civic participation. HB 3009 will pave the way for students to advocate for, and participate in, change for their community, which is the goal of civics education. HB 3009 will allow school districts to develop local civic projects and offer project-based civics instruction within social studies to students twice from grades K-12.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4498 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of excess costs incurred by a recipient of certain grants awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Sometimes small cities and counties receive grants for transportation projects from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). It has been noted that sometimes projects cost more than the amount awarded by the grant and this leaves counties or cities with unexpected and burdensome bills.</p> <p>HB 4498 requires TxDOT to reimburse grant recipients for costs that exceed the grant amount in counties or municipalities with populations below 15,000. This only applies when TxDOT managed the construction of the project.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3044 By: Klick Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to political expenditures made by a corporation to finance the solicitation of political contributions to a political committee.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas does not allow charitable match solicitation programs. These programs were designed to allow corporations to donate to 501(c)(3) non-profits charity that partially or fully matches a contribution made by an eligible employee to their company's Political Action Committee (PAC). Federal Elections Committee prohibits PAC donors and corporations from receiving a charitable deduction for PAC match donations, however this is not outlined with specifics pertaining to state PAC contributions. HB 3044 would codify state law with federal law which would allow Texas to participate in the charitable match solicitation programs. The choice of charity would be solely made by the employee who made the initial PAC contribution.</p> <p>However, this program provides an unfair advantage for corporations to persuade more people to donate to the PAC in exchange for a donation to an eligible charity. This will give PACs the ability to control who gets elected and possibly what legislation will be filed in favor of their general-purpose committee which is used to support, or oppose one or more ballot measures or candidates. Since Texas has been disallowed by the TEC to participate in the charitable match program, it is important to ensure that the prohibition of charitable tax deductions applies to State and Federal PAC match programs.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2003 By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to the review and approval of contingent fee contracts for certain public agencies.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>For all agencies governed by the Texas Water Code, (which includes a city, a district, a public agency, a river authority, and a treatment facility) in order to enter a contract for a project, the agency must have approval from the Comptroller's office for contingent fee contracts. The comptroller must review the contracts and make sure they are acceptable to conduct the business. The attorney general currently oversees several other public entities contracts for services.</p> <p>HB 2003 amends the Local Government code in order to transfer the responsibility of overseeing the contract approval from the comptroller's office to the attorney general. Under HB 2003, the Attorney General has the responsibility to approve the contingent fee contracts for legal services. However, there are concerns with the transfer of responsibility due to the attorney general having the authority to deny a contract and therefore deny a lawsuit to occur. This takes the local control away from local governments and consolidates the power of the attorney general. HB 2003 takes away local control and grants it to the state government for local government issues.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>