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LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business – Monday, April 8, 2019

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 747 By: Stucky	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to propose a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district.	Urban Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The City of Corinth currently utilizes the Lake Cities Fire Department which serves not only Corinth, but also several smaller surrounding cities and the unincorporated parts of Denton County. In total, the Lake Cities Fire Department serves over 37,000 people. Because the area has seen significant population growth, roughly 15% since the last census, the city is experiencing a higher strain on their fire department. In February of 2019, Corinth built a third fire station to address this need. This resulted in a 30% increase in operation costs for the fire department. HB 747 allows for a creation of a fire control, prevention, and emergency medical services district for the City of Corinth. Doing so would allow the city to put forth a ballot proposition to redistribute the city's current sales tax to allot .25 cents of every penny to go to the special district. This would produce an additional \$410,000-820,000 of funding annually. No state funds will be solicited, nor will the city's residents suffer a tax increase.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 1588 By: Metcalf	Relating to the deadline for certain economic development corporations to file a certain report with the comptroller.	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Currently, Type A and Type B Economic Development Corporations (EDCs) are required to submit annual reports to the Comptroller's office by February 1st of each year. Subsequently, the Comptroller uses this information to compile a report for the Legislature in November. EDC annual reports must include the corporation's objectives, detailed revenues and expenditures, a list of the corporation's assets, and anything else the Comptroller might request. Oftentimes the administrative tasks to audit their finances and organize this detailed information is a burden to many EDC's; leading to noncompliance. According to the comptroller's office, only 51% of the EDC's had submitted their reports on time for 2019, resulting in increased work for Comptroller staff to contact the EDC's to get the reports. To increase compliance and efficiency of the Comptroller's office, HB1588 moves the deadline from February 1st to April 1st; allowing small businesses sufficient time to submit the reports and allow comptroller staff to focus on other priorities.	Will of the House. Evaluated: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 260 By: Blanco Anchia Romero, Jr.	Relating to the creation of a cross-border motor vehicle traffic congestion web portal.	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Traffic congestion at ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border contribute to significant economic losses particularly for Texas. Manufacturers and shippers experience costly losses with even minute backups or delays at these ports of entry. These losses are eventually placed on consumers. According to the Comptroller, ports of entry account for almost 90% of trade throughout Texas. The Texas A&M Transportation Institute has previously done research which correlates real time delays at ports of entry with economic impact on Texas. HB260 directs the Texas Department of Transportation to work with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (in addition to other government agencies) to develop a cross-border traffic congestion web portal which is accessible to the public for both general and company use. It is anticipated that the cost to develop the portal can be assumed by current funds through the Texas Department of Transportation. The web portal should provide information regarding real time delays, wait times, and traffic conditions with the intent to decrease congestion and allow planning for cross border traffic.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, April 8, 2019

<p>HB 1300 By: Hunter Lucio III Phelan Cyrier Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to cultivated oyster mariculture; authorizing fees; requiring a permit; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>This bill amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to establish a commission and program for the governing of cultivated oyster mariculture. It would require coordination by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) along with Department of Agriculture, Department of State Health Services, the General Land Office and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to adopt rules including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and size of mariculture operation • Taking, moving, selling of cultivated oysters • Taking, moving, possessing of broodstock oysters • Marking of structures for cultivation • Fees and conditions for use of public resources <p>This bill would prohibit a person from engaging in operations without a permit (or lease if on public coastal land) as well as prohibit selling/bartering of cultivated oysters except as authorized by the provisions. It would create a Class B misdemeanor for violation of the above offenses in addition to required application/permitting fees to be deposited in the game, fish and water safety account (20% designated for cleanup of abandoned/illegal mariculture operations). The committee substitute clarifies language requiring a lease or easement on public land and clarifies provision establishing requirements for marking structures. This bill will ensure that oyster mariculture is done in a safer and more sustainable way.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 770 By: Sarah Davis</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of an electronic database for settlement agreements for certain suits involving minors or incapacitated persons; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>In some civil lawsuits, the case is settled before it ever reaches trial. These settlements are usually private and the amount for the settlement is kept confidential. In instances of minors settling cases or incapacitated adults who have guardian ad litem, a third party, such as guardian ad litem or the attorneys themselves keep the settlement documents in order to keep them safe. However, sometimes these documents are lost, attorneys retire, or may even pass away. These instances make the settlement agreements inaccessible to the parties.</p> <p>HB 770 aims to address these concerns by allowing the Office of Court Administration to create a settlement agreement database to store these settlement documents. The online database would be administered and maintained by the OCA and it is a completely voluntary service. The documents would remain confidential and only be accessible to the parties and the attorneys from the suit. The database would be maintained by creating a \$50-dollar fee in order to store the documents.</p> <p>The goal of HB 770 is to properly maintain confidential agreement settlement documents years after the suit has settled and when attorneys may not have the physical documents anymore.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirmigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1136 By: Price Clardy Krause King, Ken Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to territory included in a common characteristic or use project in a public improvement district established by a municipality.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>A public improvement district (PID) allows for a local government to leverage a property tax to allow for various services and improvements to the community such as maintenance, security, or beautification. Often, these changes can offer a significant benefit in infrastructure and economic growth. A tourism PID (TPID) is created and overseen through the local government but may be managed by an external organization. Often, businesses, particularly hotels, will petition a city for the creation of a TPID as a partnership to boost the economy of the city. Currently, the creation of PIDs related to the promotion of a hotel business is limited to certain population brackets and to certain hotel sizes.</p> <p>CASHB 1136 expands the list of municipalities eligible to create public improvement districts by removing the population and hotel size restrictions from the eligibility requirements. This allows for municipalities of all sizes to have the option to create TPIDs by petition – that is, if 60% of the hotel businesses and a majority of the city council</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			is in approval. Additionally, it allows for hotels which opened after the creation of the TPID to be included. TPIDs offer the opportunity for a positive economic impact for an area. CSHB 1136 would make all Texas cities eligible for that benefit.	
HB 446 By: Moody Stickland Oliverson Frullo	Relating to the criminal consequences of engaging in certain conduct with respect to certain instruments designed, made, or adapted for use in striking a person with a fist.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Under current statute it is illegal to possess certain items that are defined as weapons, including “knuckles.” It is considered a Class A misdemeanor (up to one year in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$4,000) if you are found to be in mere possession of such an item. HB 446 would remove knuckles under the current classification of prohibited weapons. Simple possession of “knuckles” would not be a criminal offense, but this bill would not change the law relating to assaulting another person with “knuckles.”	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 226 By: Krause Murr Goldman Moody	Relating to the creation of a commission to review certain penal laws of this state and to make certain recommendations regarding those laws, to criminal offenses previously compiled in statutes outside the Penal Code, to repealing certain of those offenses, and to conforming punishments for certain of those offenses to the penalty structure provided in the Penal Code; increasing the punishment for the criminal offenses of sedition, sabotage, and capital sabotage; imposing a civil penalty.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In 2015 a commission was created to address the 1500 laws outside of the Penal Code in which you could be held criminally liable. HB 226 lays out the certain recommendations made by the commission regarding those laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers from the Business & Commerce Code to the Penal Code provisions relating to a pyramid promotional scheme and provisions relating to identity theft by an electronic device. • Transfers from the Government Code to the Penal Code provisions establishing the offenses of sedition and sabotage and amends those provisions to remove the specified fine and confinement punishments for the offenses and to make those offenses second degree felonies. • Amends the Government Code to remove the county jail confinement punishment for a thrashing pecans offense. • Amends the Local Government Code to change the penalty for violating a courthouse parking lot rule in certain counties from a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$1 nor more than \$20 to a Class C misdemeanor. • Amends the Natural Resources Code to change the penalty for unauthorized herding and line-riding from a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 and confinement in the county jail for not less than three months nor more than two years to a Class C misdemeanor. The bill changes the penalty for a violation of statutory provisions relating to the control of oil property from a felony punishable by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for a term of not less than two nor more than four years to a third degree felony. The bill decreases the penalty for criminal offenses relating to certain oil tanker vehicle cargo documents from a third degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor. • Amends the Occupations Code to remove the specification that a person commits a separate offense for each day a person violates the prohibition against practicing or offering to practice dentistry or dental surgery or representing that the person practices dentistry without a license. The bill decreases the penalty for a violation of statutory provisions requiring registration of a dental laboratory and relating to filling a prescription to prepare or repair a dental prosthetic appliance from a third degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor and enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of those applicable offenses to a third degree felony. The bill decreases from a state jail felony to a Class A misdemeanor the penalty for the unlawful appointment, employment, or retention of individuals with certain convictions as a peace officer or reserve law enforcement officer, public security officer, telecommunicator, or county jailer. • Repeals the statutory provision establishing a Class B misdemeanor penalty for committing a frivolous claim offense relating to auctioneers and adds a provision that instead subjects a person who engages in conduct constituting that offense to a civil penalty. The bill changes the penalty for certain violations relating to the 	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org


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notification of and excessive charging of hotel lodging rates from a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 or more than \$100, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed 30 days, or both the fine and confinement to a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$100. The bill repeals provisions:


- specifying that each day a person practices acupuncture in Texas without a license constitutes a separate offense;
 - establishing criminal penalties for certain conduct relating to the sale of secondhand business machines;
 - creating a recordkeeping offense in relation to theaters;
 - creating an offense relating to a theater's discrimination against reputable productions; and
 - creating an offense for overcharging for parking a vehicle in a parking facility in connection with a special event in a specified amount.
- Amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to revise the penalties for the following offenses by establishing penalties ranging from a Class C Parks and Wildlife Code misdemeanor to a Parks and Wildlife Code state jail felony depending on the actor's requisite state of mind and previous convictions, as applicable: hunting with a light; interference with a buoy, marker, or fence used to designate or enclose a private oyster bed or related location; certain offenses relating to oyster licenses, night dredging, and oysters taken from restricted areas; and certain shrimping offenses. The bill repeals provisions requiring an applicant for or holder of a floating cabin permit to sign certain documents under penalty of perjury.
 - Amends the Penal Code to include as conduct constituting a capital murder offense the conduct set out in a Government Code provision, which is repealed by the bill, that constitutes capital sabotage. The bill includes as conduct constituting a third degree felony tampering with a governmental record offense the conduct set out in an Education Code provision, which is repealed by the bill, that constitutes interference with operation of a foundation school program.
 - Amends the Tax Code to decrease from a third degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor the penalty for the following offenses: an offense relating to previously used or old cigarette tax design stamps, an offense relating to the transportation of tobacco products with respect to the associated tax, and an offense for possession of tobacco products on which a tax of more than \$50 is required to be paid. The bill enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of those applicable offenses to a third degree felony. The bill decreases from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class C misdemeanor the penalty for the offense of possessing tobacco products on which a tax of \$50 or less is required to be paid and enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of such an offense to a Class A misdemeanor.
 - Amends the Utilities Code to decrease from a third degree felony to a Class A misdemeanor the penalty for a person who wilfully and knowingly violates the Public Utility Regulatory Act and for a person who knowingly violates the Gas Utility Regulatory Act.
 - Amends the Business & Commerce Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Government Code to make conforming changes.
- H.B. 226 repeals the following:
- Alcoholic Beverage Code provisions prohibiting the possession or display of certain indecent graphic material on premises licensed under that code;
 - Business & Commerce Code provisions establishing criminal penalties for certain deceptive trade practices, for the unlawful sale of plastic bulk merchandise containers, and for the prohibited use of crime victim or motor vehicle accident information;
 - Labor Code provisions establishing offenses relating to restrictions on the length of hoe handles; • Revised

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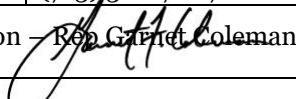


			<p>Statutes provisions relating to free pass transportation law, reduced transportation rates for officers, an offense for discrimination against a person seeking employment on account of participation in a strike, and an offense for peddling certain printed matter; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes provisions relating to penalties for conducting certain activities near a certain superconducting super collider facility. 	
<p>HB 2846 By: Larson Metcalf Zerwas Price Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to the sale of the Allens Creek Reservoir project.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>By January 1, 2020 the City of Houston would be required to enter into an agreement with the Brazos River Authority to transfer over ownership interests in the Allens Creek Reservoir project, including all required water permits, and the responsibility to construct the project, which is subject to the Brazos River Authority obtaining all necessary federal permits. In addition to these provisions, the contract must also include, but not exceed, a \$5 million transfer from the Brazos River Authority to the City of Houston, even though the latter has put in \$23 million of its own money into the project. Another provision would reserve 20,000 acre-feet of water in the reservoir for the City of Houston as an option to purchase for a period of one year after project completion.</p> <p>The City of Houston has reached out to the Brazos River Authority stating that they are in fact willing to continue to move the project forward and be in negotiation to make agreements as needed to produce the water supply that Allens Creek Reservoir can bring to Southeast Texas. If HB 2846 were to be passed, it would be the first time in legislative history for the state to take water rights away, and Houston will lose its secure future water supply.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3226 By: Geren Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the terms of dissolution of an oil or gas pooled unit.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>A pooled unit is multiple, separately-owned tracts of land combined in consideration for drilling permitting. The land must meet certain requirements and respective owners must apply for approval of a pooled unit by the Commission. The pooled lease can be terminated by the Commission; dissolved with consent of the owners; or automatically dissolved after a period due to completion or lack of production. This bill amends the terms for automatic dissolution of an oil or gas pooled unit under the Mineral Interest Pooling Act from one year after its effective date to two years, if no production or drilling operations have been had on the unit or adjacent surface location for the unit. This better aligns the statutory provision with modern drilling practices.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 102 By: Bernal Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to a school district assigning a mentor teacher to a new classroom teacher.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Teacher mentoring programs are beneficial for new teachers to improve their effectiveness, performance, and decrease turnover. HB 102 amends the Education Code to require new teachers to be assigned a mentor for their first two years.</p> <p>Currently, Texas has an average loss of 40,000 teachers per year which has a negative effect on our students. According to the State Board for Educator Certification, replacing a teacher costs the state, on average, \$3,000-4,000 per teacher.</p> <p>This bill provides funding and requirements for a program that is beneficial to decrease the turnover rate of our Texas teachers, but has a fiscal note of \$4,660,465 in order to fund the recommendations by the Texas Teacher Mentoring Advisory Committee. HB 102 recommends the state develop a formula-based allotment to provide funding for the districts that choose to participate in the Teacher Mentoring program that will support new teachers in their first two years of their teaching career.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>


<p>HB 2129 By: Murphy Burrows Price Martinez Fischer Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the extension of the expiration of certain parts of the Texas Economic Development Act.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2129 extends the expiration date for tax provisions under Chapter 313 “Texas Economic Development Act,” from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2032. While Chapter 313 agreements provide an important economic incentive in the form of property tax exemptions for certain business investment and development, critics argue the tax exemptions are not the determining factor when choosing to invest in Texas and the ten-year extension period could exponentially undercut school funding. The comptroller estimates a \$9.6Billion loss in school property tax revenue over the life of these agreements with a \$1.6Billion loss in the upcoming biennium alone.</p> <p>However, without chapter 313 many businesses would not move into Texas. Meaning that even though there may be a loss in tax revenue from these businesses, there would be no tax revenue to lose in the first place if these businesses did not move to Texas.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1558 By: Paddie Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the severance tax exemption for oil and gas produced from certain inactive wells.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1558 clarifies eligibility criteria for the two-year inactive well exemption on oil and gas production taxes. These exemptions are intended to incentivize the use of orphaned wells and reduce the state’s financial obligation and liability in addressing abandoned sites. The bill specifies that a well does not qualify if it is part of an enhanced oil recovery project; was drilled but not completed; or has no record of hydrocarbon production. The bill would also reduce the duration of the tax exemption from ten years to five years, as well as remove obsolete statutory provisions relating to the designation of three-year inactive wells.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1651 By: González, Mary White Anderson, Charles "Doc"</p>	<p>Relating to the care of pregnant women confined in county jail.</p>	<p>County Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1651 requires the Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) to adopt rules on the manner in which to treat pregnant prisoners. Among those rules, HB 1651 prohibits the use of restraints on a pregnant prisoner for the duration of the pregnancy and 12 weeks after pregnancy, unless a medical professional or supervisory personnel determine the use of restraints is necessary for the health and safety of the prisoner, staff, or member of the public.</p> <p>In addition, HB 1651 requires each county jail to submit a report to TCJS detailing the circumstances in which use of restraints were used within the last year on any pregnant prisoner or who gave birth in preceding 12 weeks.</p> <p>HB 1651 also ensures that a county jail’s health services plan specify that the minimum requirements apply to county jails and that medical care considerations include OB-GYN care. HB 1651 adds minimum requirements for a county jail to identify when a pregnant prisoner is in labor and provide appropriate care to the prisoner, including promptly transporting the prisoner to a local hospital</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140</p>
<p>HB 1409 By: Ashby Bailes Paddie White Clardy</p>	<p>Relating to the qualification of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as timber land or restricted-use timber land.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1409 offers protections on property tax exemption determination for timber or restricted-use timberland. Regarding the qualification for productivity appraisal, it would prohibit the chief appraiser of a district from determining to what extent the land is being utilized for timber purposes or from considering whether portions of the land are being used accordingly for associated timber purposes (roads, buffers, firebreaks) or subject to right-of-way through eminent domain. This bill further states that if a portion of the parcel qualifies, the remainder of the parcel shall be exempted.</p> <p>HB 1409 would also permit the continuation of eligibility for timber use and restricted-use when an oil and gas lessee conducts operations under the Railroad Commission of Texas, if the remaining land on which oil and gas operations are not being conducted otherwise qualifies for appraisal.</p> <p>Both extensions of the exemption could reduce taxable property values and the related costs to the Foundation School Fund could be increased.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 809 By: Thierry</p>	<p>Relating to measures to assist students enrolled at public institutions of higher education who are homeless or who were formerly in foster care.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Students who are enrolled at institutions of higher education and are experiencing homelessness, or were formerly in foster care, face difficult barriers throughout their educational career in comparison to their peers who are not of these groups. HB 809 adds language to the Education Code to allow institutions of higher education to designate an employee to serve as a homeless liaison officer to assist students experiencing homelessness. Additionally, this bill requires the students housing facilities to make sure students who are homeless get priority access to them.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 692 By: White Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the suspension of a student who is homeless from public school.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>More than 110,000 students have experienced homelessness in the last year. Unsheltered, doubled up, living in a hotel or motel, and instable home status are all the various definitions of homelessness a student can be defined as. Homeless students have limited access to basic needs, and often school is their refuge where they can receive meals that may be their only source of food. When that student who is homeless has disciplinary issues at school and is placed on out-of-school, or in-home suspension, they are at risk of more danger rather than staying in school. HB 692 amends the Education Code to restrict out-of-school, or in-home suspension for students who are homeless and allows the campus behavior coordinator to work with the homeless education liaison in a trauma informed manner to choose another form of disciplinary action for the student.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 811 By: White Wu</p>	<p>Relating to determining appropriate disciplinary action to be taken against a public-school student who is in foster care or who is homeless.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Homeless youth and foster children are the most vulnerable members of society, but often are disciplined disproportionately in schools. Children who are in foster care are 3 times more likely to be disciplined than their peers, and some disciplinary actions include out-of-school, or in-home suspension. Both homeless youth, and children in foster care are groups of children that have limited access to basic necessities and school districts should consider a students' foster or homeless status before out-of-school, or in-home suspension as a disciplinary action is placed on a student. HB 811 amends the Education Code by adding language that allows for school districts to take into account a student's homeless status or their status in the foster care system.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 463 By: Springer</p>	<p>Relating to reciprocity agreements between air ambulance companies operating a subscription program.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Medical emergencies are expensive. If the emergency necessitates an air ambulance, it becomes even more expensive. Between 2010 and 2014, the median price for air ambulance services doubled from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Knowing this, air ambulance companies currently offer memberships that drastically decrease the cost, should the need arise. Those in rural areas with limited available medical services and those with a known possibility for a medical emergency often purchase air ambulance memberships to attempt to mitigate the effect of the medical bill that a potential emergency could incur. However, one area may be serviced by multiple air ambulance companies. If a patient only has a subscription to one, it's likely that the air ambulance which arrives in an emergency isn't owned by a company that matches the patient's subscription. Because providers don't turn away patients, no emergency responder will turn away an air ambulance for the sole reason that the company does not match the membership the patient carries. HB 463 attempts to resolve this issue by adding a subsection to the Health and Safety code which creates a reciprocity program between all ambulance companies in Texas with a subscription program so that an individual's membership benefits for one air ambulance company is also applicable to others. This reciprocity program would not be subject to the Texas Insurance code.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 444 By: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for insider trading and other misuse of</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes</p>	<p>To further discourage the misuse of official information for personal financial gain, HB 444 will establish a tiered system of increased criminal penalties for such an offense committed by public servants by adding value ladder amounts of pecuniary gain to each criminal penalty level. If the net pecuniary gain is less than \$150,000 the offense is a third degree felony; if the gain is more than \$150,000 but less than \$300,000 the offense is a second degree</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007</p>

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	official information by public servants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nays o PNV o Absent 	<p>felony; and if the gain is more than \$300,000 the offense is a first degree felony.</p> <p>HB 444 would also remove the exception of a public servant, including a school administrator, for coercing someone into suppressing or failing to report information to a law enforcement agency as a Class C misdemeanor and increasing it to a felony offense.</p>	Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 71 By: Martinez	Relating to the creation of regional transit authorities; granting the power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds and charge fees; creating a criminal offense.	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>There is demand for better regional public transportation services in the Rio Grande Valley considering that bus ridership in the Valley is above 3 million trips per year and the routes in high demand are regional—population of students going to UT is growing rapidly, for example. HB 71 authorizes creation of a Regional Transit Authority in the Rio Grande Valley amongst Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties to further develop sustainable regional public transit. Some neighborhoods receive little or no service at all, this will help those areas of economic development and commerce.</p> <p>The goal is to coordinate, develop, and maintain mass transit: bus and rail. HB 71 authorizes an authority to coordinate plans and implementation of a public transportation system while coordinating with a municipality. The authority is allowed by HB 71 to issue bonds and collect fares. If the bill received a 2/3 vote of all members in each house, the authority can also exercise eminent domain—which is a tool that can be used in good and bad ways; eminent domain is a concern to constituents. HB 71 also allows a maximum fine of \$100 for people who use a public transportation system of an authority without properly paying bus/rail fares. HB 71 further allows the authority of an entity that operates an international bridge to set an agreement with the regional transit authority to impose a fee on pedestrians, commercial trucks, and passenger vehicles for use of the bridge and the revenue goes to transportation projects/complementary transportation services, rail mass transit, and regional high capacity transit.</p> <p>HB 71 allows elected officials and transit experts to decide how it runs by delegating the Executive Committee of the RTA to consist of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Developmental Council, the local Council of Governments (elected officials from all 3 counties). HB 71 allows current municipal bus providers (including Brownsville, McAllen, South Padre Island) to continue operating their lines and allows coordination of services with the RTA.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
HB 347 By: King, Phil Huberty Bell, Cecil Canales Larson	Relating to eliminating distinctions in the application of consent annexation requirements.	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, counties with a population of 500,000 or more (Tier 2) no longer reserve the right to forcibly annex land outside city limits. Any county with less than 500,000 (Tier 1) still has this authority unless 10% of registered voters sign a petition to place this on a ballot in a county-wide election held to omit that authority. The author added an amendment to SB 6 (85(1)) that prohibited forced annexation only in the 10 largest counties in Texas. <u>HB 347 eliminates forcible annexation for all counties, continuing where SB 6 left off last session by removing the distinction based on county size, and requires cities to negotiate deals with landowners before annexation.</u> HB 347 seeks to protect the property rights of land owners in rural counties. However, there are laws in place to protect landowners in rural areas after annexation to ensure they are protected from the cities land use authority (i.e. Agriculture Protection Act).</p> <p>The annexation process allows for the necessary growth required to keep up with the needs of Texas families. Legislation that would stifle the expansion of cities by unincorporated subdivisions will place a chokehold on Texas cities and begin the process of economic decline. Annexation has proven to be a valuable tool for city planners. State annexation rules are already complex and limit how much property cities may annex. In addition, while the annexation of an area could ultimately occur through an election, holding an election cost the taxpayers additional money and create an unnecessary financial burden on an already limited budget. If HB 347 passes, Texas would be the only state in the nation that denies both state financial assistance and annexation authority to its cities.</p>	<p>Unfavorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

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The consequences faced by cities not having the right to forcibly annex areas that are benefiting from the public services within the city will be detrimental to the city’s economic development. Cities were given the authority to expand city limits to expand their tax base which in turn spreads the costs of those services to those who benefit from them.

Historically, when cities have curtailed the ability for cities to annex, they saw a deterioration of their populations and economies. Please see the chart provided by the TML regarding the historical implications of annexation on cities.

Three cities that did not grow through annexation

	Land Area Sq. Mi.		City Population		Population Change
	1950	2010	1950	2010	
Detroit	140	139	1,849,568	713,777	-61%
Cleveland	75	78	914,808	396,815	-57%
St. Louis	61	62	856,796	319,294	-63%

Three Texas cities that grew in area through annexation

	Land Area Sq. Mi.		City Population		Population Change
	1950	2010	1950	2010	
Houston	160	600	596,163	2,099,451	252%
San Antonio	70	461	408,442	1,327,407	225%
Dallas	112	341	434,462	1,197,816	176%

HB 1483

By: Frank | Goldman | Deshotel | Miller | Rose

Relating to a pilot program for assisting certain recipients of public benefits to gain permanent self-sufficiency.

Human Services


Vote:
9 Ayes,
0 Nays,
0 PNV,
0 Absent

In 2018, 3.8 million participants received benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and 55,800 recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Texas. Texas’ assistance programs have asset tests and eligibility requirements which are assessed throughout an individual’s participation. TANF eligibility requires that a family of three cannot make more than \$188 per month and currently has an asset limit of \$1,000. The maximum benefit this family could receive is \$295 per month while the average benefit amount in 2018 was \$190. SNAP eligibility requires that a family of three cannot make more than \$2,858 per month and the maximum they can receive is \$505 in benefits per month. Currently, benefits are removed all at once when the participant is deemed no longer eligible. This leads to participants moving on and off of assistance as participants are unable to amass savings in preparation for loss of benefits or any unforeseeable costs.

HB1483 creates a pilot program to study the impact of providing additional resources and revised eligibility requirements to individuals receiving SNAP or financial assistance (like TANF) and determine how those additional resources lead to self-sufficiency. HB1483 will direct HHSC to select a city or office to run the pilot out of in Texas and will work with the Texas Workforce Commission to provide work-based resources. Local community organizations and workforce boards will provide the wraparound case management and implement casework requirements as directed. The program will serve no more than 500 eligible families each year and may increase the participants by 20% if the program reached capacity the previous year. Each participating family will be randomly placed into a research group including a control, families without casework services, and families who receive waived

Favorable, with concerns

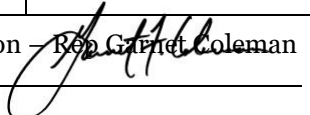
Evaluated by:
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			<p>requirements in addition to casework services. Data will be collected throughout the duration of the program including information which might not be available in traditional records but is gathered through casework management. The program will compare outcomes of the various groups and determine the most efficient means of providing benefits. Reports will be provided to the legislature including a cost-benefit analysis of the program, an evaluation of the program's efficiency, a third-party research impact evaluation, and recommendations regarding continuation of the program.</p> <p>Eligible families include individuals who are over 18, but under 62 years-old, able to work, and whose income is less than a living wage in their area of residence. The program will extend, for participating families, their government assistance for at least 24 months and up to 60 months. Their income and asset eligibility requirements will be waived from the current requirements; allowing the family to have \$1,000 in assets per family member.</p> <p>The program aims to recognize which requirements actually hinder self-sufficiency for Texas families receiving benefits. Families will meet with an intake caseworker to determine their eligibility to participate in the program. Once determined eligible, members of the family will have access to casework services to determine barriers to self-sufficiency, provide necessary referrals, and plan how to use their benefits to the fullest capacity throughout the program.</p> <p>Currently, if a family no longer qualifies for benefits, their benefits are removed all at once. This program would gradually reduce benefits based on the family's resources with the eventual goal of being completely self-sufficient. The family's employment, living wage, debt, and savings will all be considered in phases to gradually reduce benefits until the family can provide for their needs without those benefits. The program will follow these families up to 6 months after the program to evaluate if they return to government assistance.</p> <p>This pilot program could help inform how Texas programs can provide benefits and services in the most efficient way possible. However, while having a control group for research purposes is important, these families would greatly benefit from wholistic casework services and waived eligibility requirements. The study should consider using data from individuals who are not participating in the pilot program but still receiving benefits as their control group. The pilot program requires local community providers to implement wraparound casework services which are proven to be effective. While private organizations are already supporting families in need, they are unable to fully support them without additional resources from government assistance. Data from this pilot program should be used to determine how to best combine local services with government assistance programs and not rely completely on private services. In addition, during implementation, casework services should be built around the participating family's ability to meet-up in person taking into account their potential lack of transportation, availability, etc. Implementation of the pilot program should ensure that participants are not penalized for their inability to complete the program or gain self-sufficiency in the time outlined.</p>	
<p>HB 1506 By: Perez</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing a regulatory authority to establish reduced water and sewer utility rates funded by donations for the benefit of certain low-income customers.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1506 will give regulatory authority to authorize a utility to establish reduced water and sewer rates solely to customers who are 65 years of age or older, who receive assistance from Medicaid or supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefits. HB 1506 will also authorize the regulatory authority to establish requirements for determining the eligibility of customers to receive reduced rates. These rates will help alleviate concerns over water and sewer access to a vulnerable population of people.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 869 By: Hefner Collier Moody Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of organized criminal activity involving the interception, use, or disclosure of certain communications.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 869 will make credit card skimming, including prosecutable under the Texas Organized Crime statute, which would make the offense 1 degree higher than if convicted otherwise. The unlawful interception, use, or disclosure of certain communications is currently punishable by a state jail or second degree felony.</p> <p>One skimmer can easily compromise millions of dollars of data in a week, and with improving technology a thief no longer needs to go back to retrieve the physical skimmer itself after installation--the data can now be collected through long-range Bluetooth capabilities. This has made it attractive to those involved in organized crime. A fleet card company has noted that 42% of their losses are in Texas due to the increase in credit card skimming in this state.</p> <p>Compromised debit and credit cards create significant losses for both consumers and financial institutions. HB 869 would make it easier to effectively prosecute this crime by allowing law enforcement to charge skimmers for the offense of engaging in organized activity.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 476 By: Howard</p>	<p>Relating to certain duties of public institutions of higher education and the Department of State Health Services regarding policies on the use of epinephrine auto-injectors by public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There are current laws in place regarding epinephrine auto-injectors on campuses of higher education and HB 476 aims to address unclear policy issues by requiring that the Department of State Health Services have copies of the polices and publish them on institutions of higher education for epinephrine auto-injectors.</p> <p>This bill amends the Education Code by requiring the adopted epinephrine auto-injectors policy regarding storage, administration, and disposal to be tracked at institutions of higher education and requires adopted policy on campus to be submitted to the Department of State Health Services and published in the student hand book as well.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 304 By: Paul Button Thompson, Ed Middleton</p>	<p>Relating to the governance and operation of municipal management districts.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>A municipal management district (MMD) is a political subdivision of a state that operates as a layer of local government which supplements other local, state, and federal agencies. It is generally self-governed, but only upon approval by the host municipality. To create one, property owners in the area must seek a sponsored bill in the legislature. The services provided by the MMD is funded through various taxes and fees assessed by the district, as approved by the district board. There is concern that the creation of an MMD can result in giving up of some public control of certain geographic areas to the private sector.</p> <p>HB 304 makes several changes to attempt to improve transparency for MMDs. Firstly, it changes the nature of signatures required for a petition for the creation of an MMD to include not only owners of property within the property district to those whose property would be subject to assessment by the district. These same property owners will be able to make nominations for the board of directors. The bill enumerates that the purview of the MMD must benefit the property in the district regardless of whether the improvements or services take place inside or outside the MMD area. Additionally, HB 304 removes the requirement that the district director must be a resident of the district.</p> <p>Removing the requirements for district residency for an MMD board could negatively impact affordable housing efforts, particularly in MMDs that have mixed use property rather than just commercial property.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1175 By: Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to investments by state banks to promote community development.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services Vote:</p>	<p>HB 1175 would increase the cap on aggregate investments in public or community-based projects from the current 10% of unimpaired capital to 15%. The bill would remove the specification of investments subject to the cap by including loans and commitment for loans. To increase investment past 25% of the banks unimpaired capital there will need to be written authorization in response to application by the banking commissioner. HB 1175 increases the initial cap of allowable investment into community project would allow banks to invest more locally and improve communities in which they serve. This would create more community structure and accountability.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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		<p>11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>		
<p>HB 596 By: Hernandez Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 596 would require two elected members of the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System of Texas to be members of the employee retirement system. A third member would have to meet this requirement and be a current retiree. With the placement of this language, it would increase input from those effected by the board itself in decisions made and create more awareness of what would benefit those participating on the system. HB 596 would create more consumer awareness and enhance accountability of the organization.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1597 By: Lambert Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>According to the TEA there was an estimated 87, 776 military-connected students who enrolled in a Texas public or open-enrollment charter school in the 2017-2018 school year. Military families often are required to move around a lot, and on average students in these military families will move 6-9 times throughout the course of the student's education. With all the moving around a family must do, their ability to enroll in a school of their choosing at non-traditional enrollment times can be negatively impacted by current proof of residency forms.</p> <p>HB 1597 will help military families by allowing a Permanent Change of Station order to be considered as a form of proof of residency by amending the Education Code as long as the order shows the military member is the parent or guardian of the child and is transferred to an area within or adjacent to the attendance zone of a charter school that the student will enroll in.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2261 By: Walle Schaefer Zerwas Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the physician education loan repayment program.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas ranks 47th in the nation for ratio of Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) to the relative population and rural areas experience a disproportionate shortage of medical care compared to urban areas. The Texas Physician Education Loan Repayment Program is a program that allows medical students to work in medically under-served areas across the state upon graduation and they will receive help repaying their loans in return for a 4-year commitment. However, the funding for the Texas Physician Education Loan Repayment Program has been inconsistent.</p> <p>HB 2261 addresses funding inconsistencies to increase physician retention in under-served areas in Texas by increasing the maximum loan repayment amount available from \$160,000 to \$180,000.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1689 By: Deshotel</p>	<p>Relating to disclosure regarding the existence of a gestational agreement in a suit for the dissolution of a marriage and standing of an intended parent under a gestational agreement to file a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>A gestational agreement is an agreement between a married couple (the intended parents) and a third-party person who agrees to carry and give birth to the child. Currently, gestational agreements do not need to be validated and therefore, creates problems in the event of a divorce between the intended parents as a court might not be aware of a gestational agreement. HB1689 requires petitions for divorce to include pregnancies and gestational agreements, giving court notice for items to be addressed in the divorce proceeding. In addition, HB1689 provides standing for intended parents to file to establish a parent- child relationship in a gestational agreement. The intended parents must file jointly unless an intended parent is filing against the other intended parent in the gestational agreement.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1556 By: VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to school district purchasing of and contracting for goods and services.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There is a current law regarding aggregation that requires local school districts to endure a bid process to receive their small purchases. The time it takes to receive these purchases is lengthy and lessens the time that the students and teachers can use them in the classroom. HB 1556 intends to make the purchasing process easier for local school districts by removing the phrase in the aggregate and this change in language improves efficiency and allows for smaller purchases to be made faster. This bill additionally removes the timeframe language of no later than 45 days for school districts to evaluate and rank the material proposal that is submitted in the vendor process selection.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1514 By: Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Olive Oil Industry Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas ranks second in the nation for olive oil production, behind California. With olive cultivation being the fifth highest in acreage of any fruit crop in the state and accounting for \$53.3 millions of projected revenues by 2022, the industry sees a need for an advisory board to help ensure its growth. HB 1514 responds to the needs of the quickly-expanding olive and olive oil industries of Texas and aims to create a 9-member Texas Olive Oil Industry Advisory Board. This board will assess the olive and olive oil industries in Texas to identify potential avenues for improvement and methods by which to enhance their marketing strategies. Additionally, the board could work to help decrease the issue of products wrongly marketed as being from Texas, thus increasing the authenticity of the Texas olive industry. To do so, the bill language authorizes the board to accept any gifts and grants from any source deemed necessary by the board. All nine members of the board would be appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and would serve staggered 6-year terms.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 559 By: Senfronia Thompson</p>	<p>Relating to written agreements incident to divorce or annulment.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB559 aims to keep the confidentiality of detailed divorce agreements or annulments which may include assets and financial information from the public. Currently, some courts are required to attach the divorce agreement or annulment to the final order which makes that information available to the general public. HB559 allows the court clerk to not file the agreement with the final decree if the agreement is simply referenced in the final decree; keeping the involved party's information private.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1579 By: Cain Guillen Romero, Jr. Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of first responder for immunization purposes.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of State Health Services provides vaccinations for uninsured first responders to ensure that the responders are appropriately protected against communicable diseases when deployed for an emergency and to prevent the spread of diseases. Currently, Texas military forces are not included in the codified definition of first responder. HB 1579 changes the Health and Safety code to categorize Texas military forces as first responders.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 360 By: Murphy Price Martinez Fischer Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the extension of the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>This bill extends the expiration date of current Tax Code Chapter 312 abatements, under the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act, through 2029. Under Chapter 312, local taxing units (other than school districts) are authorized to provide temporary tax abatements for improvements to existing property so long as the property is in a designated a reinvestment zone and meets other eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 114 By: White</p>	<p>Relating to providing public high school students information regarding the availability of college credit awarded for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, high school counselors are required to provide information regarding postsecondary options to their students including information about universities, financial aid, etc. HB114 would require school counselors to provide information regarding available college credit for training, education, or experience received during military service. Many students who might want to enroll in the military do not know they could receive college credit; potentially deterring them from enlisting. With HB114, school counselors will not only provide information regarding college credit for military service experiences, but also explain the materials to students interested in enlisting. The materials and info packets will be developed and provided by the Texas Workforce Commission on an annual basis in congruence with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1048 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the use of a county early voting polling place by a political subdivision.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the law requires that political subdivisions holding elections on the November uniform election date, but not jointly with a county, must use the permanent early voting polling locations designated by the county. HB 1048 would allow these subdivisions to establish additional early voting polling locations, but only if they are also using all of the early voting polling locations designated by the county already. It also would expand this rule to apply not just to the November uniform election date, but to all uniform election dates on which a political subdivision holds an election not jointly with a county. HB 1048 requires that political subdivisions that hold early voting will have to choose an eligible polling location set by the county, which includes county approved mobile voting locations. This mandate applies to November and May elections. If there are not any county elections being held in May, political subdivisions must choose an eligible county polling place from the most recent November election. HB 1048 increases voter accessibility to local elections, increases voter turnout, and reduce confusion associated with having separate polling locations.</p>	<p>Favorable. Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2338 By: Noble</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption from the taxes imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle for certain motor vehicles used for religious purposes.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2338 seeks to align determinant criteria with current practice for the tax exemption on the sale, rental, or use of certain motor vehicles used for religious purposes. This bill would remove the conditions below thereby expanding the criteria to any motor vehicle used primarily by a church or religious society (and not used primarily for the personal or official needs or duties of a minister). To be removed from current code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the vehicle is a trailer or is designed to carry more than six passengers; • the vehicle is sold to, rented to, or used by a church or religious society; and • the vehicle is not registered as a passenger vehicle. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>