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LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business – Tuesday, April 9, 2019

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
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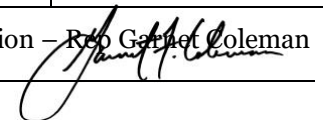
LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 1523 By: Nevarez	Relating to the continuation of the regulation of land surveyors and the transfer of the regulation to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, following the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; changing fees.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>Committee Substitute House Bill 1523 is the sunset bill for the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying, the board that is responsible for regulating the practice of land surveying and ensure that Texas residents have real property boundaries that are documented correctly. This protects Texas residents from legal battles and allows for legal transfers of land from one owner to the other.</p> <p>The Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying has been in practice since 1979 and had their last sunset review in 2003. However, since 2003, the sunset commission has found that the board has not addressed some of their key issues and recommends for the board to be absorbed by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and change the name of that board to the Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.</p> <p>The sunset commission outlined some of the issues that the board is facing and are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint resolutions are resolved in an average of 2 years • The board has 170 open complaints • The board does not have proper complaint investigation policies • The board does not have consistent accounting and licensing data therefore the there is a limited ability to analyze operations to make improvements <p>The Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying attributes its inability to fix some of their issues due to insufficient funds, but the sunset commission found that the board lapsed over \$423,000 dollars that went unused in 2012. CSHB</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>1523 accepted all the following recommendations from the Sunset Commission as well as made the following changes to the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveyors and the Texas Board of Professional Engineers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate the board of Professional Land Surveying with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers- The board of engineers has a regulatory structure more states use than the board of surveyors. • Remove the residency requirement for licensed state land surveyors- this would allow for licensure requirements to be lowered to match model standards • Allow the board to set a biennial license term • Replace the boards exam advisory committees with general statutory authority to establish advisory committees • Authorize the agency to outsource exams- this would allow for applicants to have fair and consistent exams • Clarify statute to re align the agency’s complaint intake with model standards- This would allow licensees to be treated consistently and fairly • Review application standards to match statute and policy (this is a management action not statutory) • Allow the board to adopt a staggered renewal system for licenses (this is a management action not statutory) • Direct the board to conduct an analysis regarding the adoption of the practice exam and the jurisprudence exam (this is a management action not statutory) • Publish disciplinary history online (this is a management action not statutory) <p>CSHB 1523 addresses every sunset commission recommendation by taking into account the sunset report and makes respective changes in the occupations code. Through these changes, the Texas Board of Engineers would change its name to the Texas Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors and would become responsible for regulating the practice of land surveying.</p>	
<p>HB 1962 By: Lambert Thompson, Senfronia Flynn Paddie Nevárez</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1962 extends the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) for another 12 years, as well as addresses the following recommendations outlined by the Sunset Advisory Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve strategy for management of resources to maximize access • Refocus record management to ensure effective handling and; • Increase transparency and fairness in TSLAC’s grant program <p>The bill would require TSLAC develop a strategic plan targeting backlog and to report regularly on progress. It would also authorize TSLAC to distinguish between types of information requests as well as adopt a fee schedule for Public Information Act (PIA) requests (versus the less labor-intensive research requests).</p> <p>Regarding record management, the bill clarifies process and confidentiality protections for legislative records; authorizes TSLAC to transfer custody of certain local records; and directs TSLAC to create an advisory committee regarding issues, and to complete an assessment concerning statutory changes.</p> <p>To increase transparency of the grant process, the bill would direct TSLAC to openly solicit peer grant reviewers; adjust grant award criteria and scoring to better disperse funding to a wider pool of libraries; and prohibit grant reviewers from applying for grants within the same categories they score.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise TSLAC member training requirements and materials. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorize TSLAC to use funds to promote services and to sell replicas for purposes of preservation, digitization, archives information services, and education. 	
<p>HB 1501 By: Nevarez</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and to the continuation and transfer of the regulation of psychologists, marriage and family therapists, professional counselors, and social workers to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council; providing civil and administrative penalties; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>In 2018, the Sunset Advisory Commission released a report on the state's four behavioral health licensing boards: the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (TSBEP), the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners. This report stated that the current functioning of these boards was inefficient and lacking, as evidenced by the backlog of complaints for the latter three agencies, as well as the limited fingerprint background check capabilities, and unnecessary barriers to licensure, among others. The Commission determined that these issues negatively impacted the public to an unacceptable extent and so determined that consolidation offered the capability of improvement for each of these bodies.</p> <p>HB 1501 amends the Occupation Code and adds Chapter 507 to create an umbrella licensing agency which consolidates the four-state behavioral health licensing boards under one executive council, the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) Currently, the all but TSBEP are housed under HHSC. TSBEP operates as its own agency.</p> <p>The Behavioral Health Executive Council will consist of 9 members. Each board will have the ability to appoint one member and one public member. The last public member will be appointed by the governor and will act as the presiding officer of the council. HB 1501 enumerates the members' eligibility requirements, which includes a mandated training, and the grounds for dismissal.</p> <p>HB 1501 limits the jurisdiction BHEC and prohibits it from creating rules regarding licensing qualifications, scope of practice, standards of care and ethical practice, continuing education requirements, or sanctioning authority. This limitation can be circumvented only if the appropriate board has proposed the change. Should any such rule be proposed by a board, BHEC will only retain the authority for adoption. If not adopted, the rule will return to the appropriate board for revision with an explanation of reasoning.</p> <p>BHEC will also have the authority to recognize, prepare, or administer continuing education programs for license holders under the licensing boards. Additionally, the administration of licenses will be moved from the individual licensing boards and housed collectively under BHEC. HB 1501 enumerates the necessary fees and procedures for this process. BHEC must also maintain an updated registry of all license holders that fall under its jurisdiction. Along with this, BHEC must have a process to search national databases to verify whether an applicant for licensure or re-licensure has had any disciplinary action taken against them in any state.</p> <p>In addition, HB 1501 also stipulates that BHEC must provide administrative resources for examination requirements and notifications. Each of the four licensing boards, however, will still maintain authority to issue licenses to their respective professions.</p> <p>BHEC must also create a system by which to address filed complaints. These complaints may be concerning individual license holders, the licensing boards, or the Executive Council itself.</p> <p>If a license holder is found to be in violation of BHEC rules, the rules of the licensing board, or state laws regarding the license holder's profession, BHEC has the authority to deny, revoke, suspend, or refuse renewal of a license. BHEC may also impose a monetary penalty of no more than \$5000 with the option of appeal.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>This raises the concern as to the disciplinary power of BHEC and whether sister-professions' executive council members have the authority to judge the actions of an individual from another sister-profession. HB 1501 does stipulate that the appropriate board must take action before the executive council gets involved.</p> <p>The Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact will be created to regulate the practice of telepsychology and situations in which temporary exemptions for psychologists to practice across state lines are necessary. HB 1501 enumerates the requirements and enforcements for each of these practicing options.</p> <p>To help assist with the transition, HB 1501 establishes the Texas Behavioral Health Incubation Task Force.</p> <p>There is an anticipated need for the influx of funding, particularly towards the beginning of the transfer. This is necessary to facilitate the transfer and maintenance of case backlogs and data. Once these needs have dissipated, the removal of duplication is expected to improve efficiency as well as the fiscal impact.</p> <p>HB 1501 also offers clean up language in the Occupations Code to ensure that the state Code is consistent.</p> <p>The TSBEP, which according to the sunset report is "is a well-functioning agency," will be negatively impacted by this consolidation, as it is forced to make an unnecessary consolidation</p> <p>Additionally, concerns have arisen regarding the representation of subfields within each profession on BHEC. Because these fields, psychology and social work in particular, have broad fields, different license-holders may practice within various cross-sections of populations, communities, and settings. For example, a forensic psychologist may have a different practice implication for a particular issue than a research psychologist might.</p>	
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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, April 9, 2019

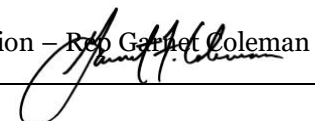
<p>HB 1915 By: Zerwas Capriglione Button Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to a state plan for education on and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Dementia affects 380,000 Texans, leaving the state fourth in Alzheimer's cases and second in Alzheimer's deaths. 1.4 million unpaid Texan caregivers provided care to these individuals -- an equivalent of 1.6 billion unpaid hours and a cost of \$20.2 billion per year.</p> <p>With this in mind, in 2010, the state of Texas established a state plan on Alzheimer's to strategize how to best research, educate, prevent, and treat Alzheimer's as well as provide support individuals who have been affected by it. However, the plan has since been allowed to lapse. Though Texas was one of the first states to create one, it is one of very few states to have neglected to update the Alzheimer's plan every five years.</p> <p>HB 1915 would update the state plan on Alzheimer's and mandate that DSHS seek out input from stakeholders twice a year and apply their findings when amending the state plan every five years. These stakeholders include those of the following in relation to Alzheimer's or any related diseases: Any member of the public affected by this or related diseases, state agencies who provide services to those with this or related diseases, advisory boards, public advocates, health care providers, and researchers.</p> <p>DSHS must ensure that the strategies enumerated in the plan are a result of consultation with Texas-licensed healthcare providers who have experience caring for individuals with Alzheimer's. Additionally, DSHS must submit a report to the legislature concerning any updates or important developments to the plan.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
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<p>HB 359 By: Moody Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to the employment of certain peace officers, detention officers, county jailers, or firefighters who are injured in the course and scope of duty.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 359 prohibits employers of certain government employees from terminating an employee with an inability to work due to a certain injury incurred through their course of work. The injury must be a compensable injury under the Labor Code. The employer may only proceed with termination if a doctor who is eligible to conduct medical examinations under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, a designated doctor, determines that the employee will be unable to return to work due to the sustained injury. HB 359 applies to certain government employees including peace officers, detention officers, county jailers, and firefighters. Should this mandate be violated by an employer, the employer will be subject to pay out up to \$100,000 in damages to the employee. However, the burden of proof will be on the employee.</p> <p>There is concern among county governments that this mandate, particularly the damage award sum of \$100,000, may have a disproportionate fiscal impact on smaller counties. Additionally, if a department is not allowed to terminate an employee that HB 359 applies to and if the employee is unable to work, the department will be using up their locally-allotted FTEs while simultaneously being understaffed. To remedy this, the county would have to go to ask the commissioner's court for additional FTEs -- a difficult process that may not result in approval.</p> <p>There may also be some costs incurred through the workers' compensation program as necessary to obtain medical examination by qualified doctors.</p> <p>The author intends to amend HB 359 to address these issues. The amendment will carve out civil service counties. Additionally, the requirement for a designated doctor's decision will be changed so that the employee may use the decision of a treating doctor. The option of a designated doctor would still be available to those employees who have concerns with the treating doctor's decision and would like a second opinion.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1378 By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Lubbock County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the <i>Special District Local Laws Code</i> regarding Health and Hospital Districts within Chapter 1053 does not relinquish power solely to the Lubbock County Hospital District to employ any officer whose duties are centered around or correlate to public safety. HB 1378 seeks to amend Chapter 1053 and <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will add an additional section under <i>Subchapter C of Chapter 1053</i> by granting the board the authority to employ peace officers; • Define the jurisdiction of peace officer which includes anything owned or controlled by the district • Grants peace officer's the same Authority under Chapter 14 of the <i>Code of Criminal Procedure</i> • Expand <i>Code of Criminal Procedure, Art. 2.12 (18)</i> by including Lubbock as a county authorize to commission peace Officers. <p>Presently, the county's method of hiring armed security officers is done by third party with the oversight of the Texas Department of Public Safety. If this law becomes passed legislation, it will allow the county to have more control over the selection process of the armed officers.</p> <p>Proponents of HB 1378, which include top decision makers of the UMC Health system, appear to believe that it gives the Hospital District a range options to tailor their security needs more specifically to address existing safety risks and future increased safety risk.</p> <p>HB 1378 will allow the Lubbock Hospital District to follow suit with other Hospital Districts that reside in Texas such as Dallas County, Tarrant County, Bexar County, and El Paso County.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>

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<p>HB 1388 By: VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to indicators of achievement under the public-school accountability system.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Career and Technology Education (CTE) courses are vital to keeping Texas on track for the 60x30 plan, which is a plan to have at least 60% of Texans, ages 25-34, hold a certificate or degree. There is a current language in the 2018 Accountability Manual that states CTE credit for coherent course sequence completion will be gone by 2021.</p> <p>HB 1388 amends the Education Code by allowing schools to continue to receive credit for the completion of coherent CTE course sequences, expands the A-F measures for career readiness to allow for measurement of preparedness and accountability, and removes the percentage measure on student completion and instead measures for the number of students.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1180 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the agreement requirements for receiving a scholarship under the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.</p>	<p>Higher Education Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) is a program that is designed to inspire students to be a part of the Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, Texas Army National Guard, United States Coast Guard, United States Merchant Marine, or become commissioned officers in any branch of the armed services of the United States. The program, however, currently requires students to enter military service upon graduation with a bachelor's degree and has no mention of allowing students to pursue higher degrees such as a masters or doctoral degree before enlistment.</p> <p>HB 1180 will amend the education code to allow students who qualify the opportunity to pursue a higher degree, of their choosing, after their bachelor's degree completion before enlistment.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 721 By: Larson Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the duty of the Texas Water Development Board to conduct studies of and prepare and submit reports on aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Water supply projects known as aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects is a proven method of relocating water underground in aquifers that have the capacity for excess storage for the purposes of an alternative water supply and management strategy. Along with the benefits of water storage it is said that ASRs can also provide flood mitigation and subsidence benefit. However, pilot testing studies are still needed and important to determine the feasibility of ASR projects as they require certain conditions in order to be sustainable.</p> <p>HB 721 would require the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to conduct studies of aquifer storage projects, aquifer recovery projects, and aquifer recharge projects and report on the result of those studies to regional water planning groups and interested parties. The TWDB would also need to conduct a statewide survey to identify the suitability of various major and minor aquifers for the use of ASRs based on certain requirements. The report will be submitted no later than December 15, 2020 to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. This requirement of the TWDB will expire January 1, 2021.</p> <p>Legislative Budget Board has estimated that the two-year net impact to the general revenue related funds for HB 721 a negative impact of (\$1,200,882) through the biennium ending August 21, 2021.</p> <p>It is important for the State if Texas to seriously consider alternative ways to store water in an effort to support climate resilient infrastructure.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 650 By: White Klick Howard Neave Meza</p>	<p>Relating to female inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 650 addresses the need for reform regarding The Texas Department of Criminal Justice's (TDCJ) standards of care for incarcerated women. The specific areas in need of improvement and addressed by HB 650 involve treatment of pregnant inmates, educational resources for inmates on pregnancy and childcare, treatment by the TDCJ during childbirth and postpartum, inappropriate and demeaning search routines, lack of female hygiene products, and evidence-based treatment for incarcerated women.</p> <p>HB 650 is an effort to reform treatment of female inmates in state facilities. HB 650 addresses concerns mentioned above by requiring:</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corrections officers and all other department employees to complete training on medical and mental health care issues regarding pregnant inmates—including information on the use of restraints, placement on administrative segregation, and invasive searches. (HB 650 prohibits pregnant women from being sent to segregation 30 days following birth unless absolutely necessary). • A study to be conducted about visitation policies and how they can be improved regarding parental bonding and age appropriate visitation activities to strengthen relationships between female inmates/defendants and their children. There is already research; but this is still a step forward. • TDCJ to develop and provide educational programs for inmates to educate them about pregnancy and parenting skills. • Women who are pregnant not be assigned to a lifted bed/top bunk or put in restraints (as opposed to current law excusing only women in labor or delivery). • Pregnant women to be given a substantial, nutrient/vitamin rich diet. • TDCJ to allow women for 72 hours postpartum to bond with their newborn. • Limitations for certain types of searches: Searching room space of an inmate who is not fully dressed to be done by female corrections officers. Also, invasive body cavity searches may only be done by medical professionals with reasonable belief that the inmate is hiding contraband. <p>TDCJ to assess each female to determine whether they are suffering from trauma and refer them as needed for the appropriate medical or mental health services.</p>	
<p>HB 1709 By: González, Mary Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment of a surrogate parent for certain children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>School districts are required to appoint a surrogate parent for all children with a disability whose parents can't be located. Currently, foster parents are designated as the special education decision maker for a child who comes under their care with the Department of Family and Protective Service (DFPS). If the foster parent is unwilling or unable to serve as the decision maker, the school district appoints a surrogate parent to make education decisions for the child. Legislation states that the surrogate parent cannot be an employee of the state, school agency, or directly involved in the child's care. HB1709 seeks to clarify language to ensure that only state employees who are directly involved in the care of the child cannot be the surrogate parent; meaning agencies like DFPS or the school district. State employees whose agency is not involved in the care of the child may still be appointed the surrogate parent to make special education decisions.</p> <p>HB1709 also clarifies the communication between the school district, DFPS, and the court. If a surrogate parent making special education decisions is not performing their duties, the school district will confer with DFPS to determine if a new surrogate parent should be appointed. If DFPS agrees with the school district that a new surrogate parent must be appointed, DFPS shall directly notify the court presiding over that case. The court shall then review the case and provide any orders to ensure an appropriate surrogate parent to be the special education decision maker.</p> <p>HB1709 seeks to clarify processes of the school district and DFPS to ensure the 24% of the children in care receiving special education get education services they need.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 651 By: Springer Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to the creation and operations of health care provider participation programs in counties not served by a hospital district or a public hospital.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas State Law, counties that are served by a hospital district or a public hospital are able to receive federal funds to help meet the expense of essential health care needs that are disbursed by Medicare or Medicaid fund matching programs. HB 651 seeks to address the deficit of federal funds not received by counties who are not served by hospital district or public hospital by amending the Health and Safety Code within Title 4. HB 651 amendments create an additional chapter which grants, limits, and/or authorizes the following: (1) a commissioner's courts to establish a LPPFs; and (2) set mandatory payments required by hospitals at no more than 6% of the hospital's net patient revenue; and (3) Requires an annual public hearing on the amounts of mandatory payments and how the revenue should be spent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>

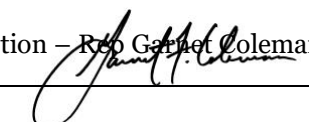
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			Proponents and stakeholders of HB 651 seem to believe that the proposed legislation will help enhance the livelihoods of its residents, especially those who would be considered indigent; help provide better medical resources that will allow more access to healthcare; and help ease the financial burdens of underserved counties by helping to drive federal funds to cover uncompensated healthcare.	
HB 1592 By: Smithee	Relating to health care professional liability coverage for certain public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The legislature currently has authorized the board of regents of certain public universities to self-insure medical professional liability funds to cover the costs associated with medical malpractice claims for all their staff in the university medical system. However, not all health professions are protected at those certain public universities and the coverage does not include nurses, pharmacists, or physician assistants to name a few. If the university system wanted to cover all their health professionals, including students and interns, they would have to privately purchase insurance coverage for them which can be costly. HB 1592 amends the Education Code to allow for the board of regents of certain public universities to have the ability to self-insure all health professionals and changes the language from medical to health professional to account for this coverage.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 1386 By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to training and development activities for persons who may interact with an individual with autism or other pervasive developmental disorder.	Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is currently required to provide training, training materials, and development activities for personnel who might interact with an individual with autism or another pervasive developmental disorder (PDD); including school, medical, and law enforcement personnel. HB1386 requires HHSC to provide these trainings and development activities to personnel with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). HB1386 also directs HHSC to ensure these trainings and activities are evidence based and relevant to each specific capacity of the personnel participating. These trainings, training materials, and activities should instruct personnel how to communicate and engage with individuals on the spectrum effectively. The commission will confer with a higher education institution once every 5 years to review and update their training methods and materials. Children with autism often have challenging behaviors and needs which a caseworker should be competent in. Individuals with autism or PDD communicate and process communication in different ways than neurotypical individuals. HB1386 helps provide extensive education and effective communication tools to DFPS personnel who will either be responsible for managing a case involving a child with autism or may interact with these children during a crisis situation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 477 By: Murphy Paul Metcalf González, Mary	Relating to the notice required before the issuance of certain debt obligations by political subdivisions.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	HB 477 would require ballot voting of debt bonds by political subdivision. This would include total amounts, description of the use, and what taxes would be imposed to pay for the principal amount and interest of the bond. Political subdivisions with at least 250 registered voters would have to provide documentation on each proposition to be voted on and post documentation online. HB 477 would require body to identify maximum annual increase of taxes imposed on homestead with appraised values of \$100,000. This would include amortization with current and outstanding debts, potential changes in future appraisal values, and assumed interest rates on proposed debt obligations. With increased voter participation and information readily available to the public on the issuance of debt bonds, this would create more public awareness of tax usage and issuance.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 286 By: Ed Thompson	Relating to promotion of the use of recyclable materials as feedstock for processing and manufacturing.	Environmental Regulation Vote:	HB 286 focuses on educating processing and manufacturing facilities and spreading info on the economic benefits of recycling. HB 286 educated how recycling and reusing saves money and resources—the economic focus could increase the number of people adopting the cause. HB 286 is a huge step in making a real movement toward recycling	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774

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		7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>infrastructure in manufacturing rather than just the recycling and collecting waste process that we see in communities.</p> <p>HB 286 requires the commission to join up with Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to produce a plan to promote the recycling market and stimulate use of recyclable materials as feedstock in processing and manufacturing. The plan requires research on current recycling by principal processors and manufacturers to identify where there is room for improvement and opportunity to use more recyclable materials. HB 286 also requires the commission to develop an educational program to be distributed VIA billboards, public service announcements, social media, etc., informing people about the economic benefits of recycling and how to avoid contamination of feedstock.</p>	Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 812 By: White	Relating to the amount of the health care services fee paid by certain inmates.	Corrections Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>In 2011 in an attempt to generate revenue and decrease frivolous healthcare a law requiring incarcerated people to pay \$100 service fees for acute care services. Most people in prison don't have the means to pay this type of fee for a doctor's visit. Inmates don't make any money in prison, so the fee typically falls onto family or friends. The expectation for revenue was much higher than what was collected. Instead, this legislation effectively led to inmates going to the doctor less leading to more outbreaks and more emergency treatments—which cost more over time than a preventative model would.</p> <p>HB 812 sets the fee back to \$3 per visit which is where it was before the fee increased to \$100 in 2011. Some prisoners are awaiting the passage of HB 812 so they can go to the doctor.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 1030 By: Moody	Relating to certain sentencing procedures in a capital case.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>HB 1030 clarifies language in jury instructions for death penalty cases. Confusion comes from jurors being told that in order to bring about a death sentence there must be a unanimous vote, and in order to vote against a death sentence there needs to be at least 10 jurors with the same vote. However, it is not within current capital jury instructions that if the vote for the death penalty has a single dissent the trial automatically results in sentence of life without parole.</p> <p>HB 1030 would remove from jury instructions the condition that 10 or more jurors must answer “no” to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the defendant likely to be a future danger to society? • If the defendant wasn't the actual killer, did he or she intend to kill someone or anticipate death? <p>HB 1030 also removes the condition that 10 or more jurors agree for the jury to answer “yes” to the question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there any mitigating evidence—like an intellectual disability—that the jury thinks warrants the lesser sentence of life without parole? 	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 723 By: Larson	Relating to a requirement that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality obtain or develop updated water availability models for certain river basins.	Natural Resources Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>HB 723 would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to obtain or develop updated water availability models (WAMs) for the Brazos River, Neches River, Red River, and Rio Grande River basins. WAM is a computer-based simulation that would predict the amount of water that would be in a river or stream under a specified set of conditions. These predictions are based on historic hydrology, and current legal and regulatory restraints, known as prior appropriation doctrine.</p> <p>The benefit of installing updated WAMs would provide TCEQ with the necessary information to make decisions about applications for surface water rights or for amendments to existing surface water rights. HB 723's provisions will expire September 1, 2023.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

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<p>HB 613 By: Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the date of the election for trustees of an independent school district.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Under current law, a school district can hold an election for trustees jointly with the election of members for the governing board of a public junior college district where the school district is entirely apart of or partly located. In certain rural school districts, this is an issue because they are required to hold a joint election with a public junior college located nearby, and this bill would allow the school district, in this example, to conduct their own election separately from the public junior college.</p> <p>HB 613 amends the Education Code by removing language that previously required school districts to hold their elections together with another municipal entity located in the school district. This bill does not interfere with the requirement that the elections must be held on a uniform day.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 598 By: Price Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the use of funds appropriated for the continuing legal education of certain appointed masters, magistrates, referees, and associate judges.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, only full-time appointed Judges, Masters and magistrates can access the judicial education training fund. The judicial education training fund is a budget allocated for judges in order to stay up to date with laws and best practices in their field. However, part time masters, magistrates and associate judges are not covered by this fund.</p> <p>HB 598 aims to address these concerns by extending the government code relating to these funds to include part time masters, magistrates, and associate judges. The goal of the bill is to make sure all appointed judges are up to date with current laws and current best practices.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 601 By: Price Collier Murr Moody White</p>	<p>Relating to procedures and reporting requirements regarding criminal defendants who are or may be persons with a mental illness or an intellectual disability.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Purpose of HB 601 is to clarify confusion regarding early identification procedures for criminal defendants who may have a mental illness or intellectual disability. HB 601 would require the applicable mental health or disability authority to interview and collect any information needed regarding the defendant, and to submit a report of the materials to the applicable magistrate. HB 601 will also establish that such a report is to remain confidential and not subject to disclosure under the state public information law but may be used or disclosed as it relates to early identification of a defendant suspected of having mental illness and/or and intellectual disability, and that the delivery of such report is required by a county that transfer a defendant to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to a designated officer. HB 601 amends the Health and Safety Code, along with the Government Code to make conforming changes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 759 By: Wu Miller Klick Hinojosa Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the availability of personal information of a child protective services caseworker, adult protective services caseworker, or investigator.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, information regarding peace officers, corrections officers, judges, etc. is confidential and not available to the public. Their home address, phone number, social security number, emergency contact information, and whether they have family members is all inaccessible to the general public. HB759 aims to add the following individuals to this exemption:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current and former Child Protective Services caseworkers, Adult Protective Services caseworkers, and investigative caseworkers through Department of Family and Services (DFPS) • current and former contracted employees providing caseworker services or investigative services for DFPS <p>Caseworkers are on the frontlines of potentially dangerous situations and need protection to ensure their information is kept private from individuals seeking retaliation for case related situations. For example, caseworkers often use their own personal vehicles when working in the field. HB759 would prevent an individual from looking up the caseworker's home address or phone number through a public records license plate search.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 410 By: White Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of certain low-volume livestock processing establishments.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas residents are prohibited from selling, gifting, or bartering excess rabbit meat. Though the Department of State Health Services has a poultry/rabbit exemption for this particular scenario, the exemption requires operating procedures equivalent to a large-scale meat processor – an extremely difficult feat to achieve for those who only take part in small scale transactions. Furthermore, this exemption is rarely granted. The restriction on rabbit meat transactions disproportionately affects those in rural areas.</p> <p>CSHB 410 defines the term "low-volume livestock processing establishment" as a processing establishment that processes fewer than 500 domestic rabbits in a calendar year. Originally, HB 410 offered a personal exemption for the sale or gift of rabbit meat or products. CSHB 410 removes that exemption and accomplishes a similar aim by amending the Health and Safety Code to provide for a low-volume livestock processing establishment exemption.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2820 By: Flynn</p>	<p>Relating to the registration and certification of certain investment products made available to public school employees.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Retirement System (TRS) is charged with regulating 403(b) products offered to teachers – a role <u>that is duplicative of existing state and federal regulation</u>. A 403(b) plan is a tax advantaged retirement savings plan that is similar in concept to 401(k) plans offered by corporate employers. Like 401(k) investment options, all 403(b) financial products are regulated by the state through the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) and the State Securities Board and/or by the federal government through the SEC, FINRA, the IRS, and the Department of Labor. This oversight includes registration, regulation and approval of these products, ensuring that strong consumer protection safeguards are in place. In addition, TRS board of directors has the power to set fees for 403(b) products, making Texas the only state that regulates maximum fees for 403(b) products rather than allowing the market to determine these rates.</p> <p>TRS contends it has limited funds and expertise to comply with these duplicative regulatory requirements, often turning to other state agencies and private consultants for assistance.</p> <p>HB 2820 streamlines and aligns Texas statutes with existing regulations. Transitioning state law to remove TRS from 403(b) product regulation will eliminate dual regulation already being conducted by other appropriate state and federal agencies.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2326 By: Meyer Button Neave Turner, John</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation of a health care provider participation program by the Dallas County Hospital District.</p>	<p>County Affairs Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2326 strives to lengthen the expiration period of the Dallas County LPPF from the current date of December 31, 2019 to December 31, 2025. If the proposed legislation is passed into law, it will allow the Dallas county to continue to serve its indigent and uninsured residents.</p> <p>Interested parties and healthcare stakeholders appear to provide statistics that demonstrate Dallas county has netted over \$200 million in new federal dollars to help offset healthcare cost. Proponents of HB 2326 seem to believe that extension of the expiration date will allow Dallas county to continue to consistently meet the expectations of county residents centered around healthcare.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 2263 By: Paddie Phelan Price Springer Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to the sale of electric power to certain public customers.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2263 removes the ability for the General Land Office (GLO) or certain soil owners to negotiate and execute contracts or any other instruments or agreements necessary to convert that portion of royalty taken in kind into electricity, and to prevent the sale of said electricity in the retail electric market to a public retail customer. HB 2263, under the Tax Code, will also prevent a tax to be imposed on the gross receipts from the sale of electricity to a public-school district, effective January 1, 2024. This it to primarily address the significant advantage that the GLO has in bidding against other electric providers, as well as their approximate two percent gross receipts tax exemption on all sales.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1188 By: Hefner Sanford Springer Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the appraisal of land for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land following a transfer between family members.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1188 amends the tax code to allow for the transfer of agricultural open-space land between family members. It specifies that the land remains eligible as open-space but the new owner must notify the appraisal office within 180 days of the transfer. The bill also adds new provisions allowing the appraisal review board to direct changes in the appraisal roll on motion of the chief appraiser or property owner. This would also apply to the two preceding tax years if certain requirements are met and the land would have been appraised as open-space. HB 1188 also stipulates a penalty on the taxpayer equal to 10% of the difference between appraised value and market value if it is determined that the change in appraisal roll results in delinquent taxes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 93 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the inclusion of a magistrate's name on certain signed orders.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 93 would require any signed order pertaining to a criminal matter that is issued under state law must include the magistrate's name in legible handwriting, legible typewritten form, or legible stamp print. Current law only requires a signature from a magistrate, which more often than is completely illegible. The lack of clarity of a magistrate's signature has promoted the fabrication of fraudulent documents. HB 93 aims to deter fabrication of signed orders such as search warrants, and court orders for custody of children.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2714 By: Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to the registration of liquefied petroleum gas container manufacturers and the regulation of liquefied petroleum gas licensees; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Energy Resources Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2714 streamlines regulation and provides for greater regulatory flexibility concerning liquefied petroleum gas (LP-gas) activities by setting provisions for the registration of LP-gas container manufacturers and the regulation of liquefied petroleum gas licensees by the Railroad Commission (RRC). HB 2714 removes the manufacture of containers for use in Texas as a licensed activity and instead provides for the annual registration of container manufacturers and fabricators.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2255 By: Darby Oliverson Price Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to newborn and infant hearing screening results and the provision of information following a screening.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>HHS estimates that in 2005, there were more than 3.8 million deaf or hard of hearing individuals in Texas. Though services and technology have made life easier for deaf and hard of hearing persons, early detection is still crucial to ensure that a child with any level of deafness has the condition addressed so as not to impede their development. To do so, the family must be directed to appropriate services and early intervention resources. Texas currently performs hearing screenings through the Texas Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NBHS) which was established in 1999 with DSHS oversight. However, there have been concerns that appropriate and timely information is not being provided by facilities to families whose infants do not pass the newborn hearing screening. HB 2255 aims to address this issue by mandating that certain information and resources for early intervention be provided to these families. It stipulates that, with the parents' consent, the provider facility must provide the screening results to the Texas School for the Deaf along with a referral. The screening results as well as information regarding services and resources, such as ECI, the Texas School for the Deaf, and Texas Early Hearing and Intervention, must also be provided to the parents of the infant. Additional information must be available to the public on request. These mandates are in addition to existing ones requiring the facility to assist in scheduling a diagnostic audiological evaluation for the newborn or infant. While there might be some costs associated with a potential influx of infants referred to state services, the early intervention is generally more cost effective than the alternative.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 1612 By: Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas to invest in certain hedge funds.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1612 would increase the total percentage value of investment cap from 5% to 10% that could be invested in hedge funds. In the past there has been a large increase in positive return on higher risk investments that has been very beneficial to the Teacher Retirement System. This has only been limited by the actual amount TRS is able to invest in these. <u>There is potential for higher returns with the increased ability to invest, however this would also be accompanied with increased risk, as there is more money being invested in these high-risk accounts.</u></p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2196 By: Harris Clardy Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages on certain property owned by the Texas State Railroad Authority.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas State Railroad is a privately-owned railroad that crosses through Palestine, Texas which is a dry municipality. Currently, the railroad is allowed to sell alcohol aboard the train but cannot sell alcohol on their two train stations that are in Palestine.</p> <p>HB 2196 aims to change statute in order to allow the Texas State Railroad to sell alcohol in their train stations as well. By changing the statute, this avoids the municipality from having a wet/dry election and saves the municipality money.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 121 By: Swanson Hunter Pacheco Oliverson Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to a defense to prosecution for the offense of trespass by certain persons carrying handguns.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 121 would allow for a defense to prosecution under the offense of carrying a handgun by a license holder, openly or concealed, on the property of another as it relates to the offense of trespass. This is said to protect those who could be prosecuted for mistakenly carrying a handgun onto premises that prohibits handguns, even if the individual leaves the property after receiving oral notice. Yet, there is little evidence that there is a high prosecution rate of this sort of offense. It is required for businesses to post large signs about their policy prohibiting guns on their premises, and it should be the responsibility of gun owners to look for and abide by these signs knowing they are a possibility.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 65 By: Eric Johnson</p>	<p>Relating to reporting information regarding public school disciplinary actions.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, there have been an estimated 402,000 suspensions across the state in our classrooms. Currently, the TEA is not required to report on the reason a student is placed on out-of-school suspensions, but they do put out a report containing information on expulsions and disciplinary alternative education programs. The more data that exists about out-of-school suspensions the more that conversations can happen surrounding disciplinary issues as well as potential mental health issues that could be the cause of the misbehavior.</p> <p>HB 65 would allow for the TEA to take a closer look at the records and behaviors of the students that are subjected to out-of-school suspension, such as number of days the student was out of school, demographic data on the student and provide a data on the reasons for out-of-school suspensions within the report on expulsions and disciplinary alternative education programs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3086 By: Cole</p>	<p>Relating to the sales and use tax exemption for property used in the production of motion picture, video, or audio recordings and broadcasts.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>This bill clarifies the Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax exemption on property used in the production of motion picture, video, or audio recordings and broadcasts. The bill would introduce the requirement that a recording or broadcast be considered a master recording, defined in the bill as the principal media on which images, sound, or a combination of images and sound are first fixed and from which copies are commercially made available for sale, license, distribution, broadcast, or exhibition for consideration. This would align the law with the original legislative intent to exempt purchases for commercial production.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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