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### LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS Calendar – Tuesday, May 21, 2019

<p><b>SB 1804</b> By: Kolkhorst  <b>Sponsor:</b> Nevárez   Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the entry into the Texas Crime Information Center of certain information regarding conditions of bond imposed in criminal cases involving family violence.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, if someone has a protective order against them because of crimes of sexual assault or family violence, Law Enforcement officers cannot access the bond conditions in order to know who has a protective order issued or why the bond condition was issued. Because of this lack of access, there are concerns that victims are still at risk and the offender has no accountability. SB 1804 amends the code of criminal procedure to require a judge who imposes a bond condition to send a copy of the order to the chief of police from the municipality where the victim resides. Once the law enforcement agency receives a copy of said order, they must enter the information into the statewide law enforcement system managed by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). The information introduced must include the details of the case and why the bond was created. This allows law enforcement officers to be able to access the bond conditions relating to sexual assault or family violence and be knowledgeable of possible offenders in their area. SB 1804 protects victims from possible re-offenders.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 449</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Wray</p>	<p>Relating to testimony by an appraisal district employee as to the value of real property in certain ad valorem tax appeals.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>SB 449 addresses a judicial preference for testimony by appraisal district employees (including licensed, certified, temporary out-of-state, or supervised trainee) in regard to the value of real property for excessive or unequal appraisal appeals. This provision was enacted by the 84<sup>th</sup> session and is set to go into effect in 2020.  SB 449 would repeal this section of the Tax Code regarding judicial preference that places the taxpayers at a disadvantage and thus would increase objectivity and credibility in the property value appeals process.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 212</b> By: Huffman  <b>Sponsor:</b> Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to a reporting requirement for certain incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking at certain public and private institutions of higher education; creating a criminal offense; authorizing administrative penalties.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>There have been efforts to provide a reliable reporting structure at institutions of higher education for victims and witnesses of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.  SB 212 establishes reporting requirements for public, private and independent institutions of higher education through the institutions Title IX coordinator. SB 212 creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for failure to make a required report. SB 212 provides for an administrative penalty for a noncompliant institution and establishes certain confidentiality standards when reporting. SB 212 would require the Title IX coordinator to create and submit a written report on the reports received to the institution's chief executive officer no less than once every three months. SB 212 prohibits a person, who acted in good faith who reports or assists in the investigation of a report of an applicable incident or who testifies or otherwise participates in a disciplinary process, from being subjected to any disciplinary action by the institution at which the person is enrolled or employed for any violation by the person of the institution's code of conduct reasonably related to the incident for which suspension or expulsion from the institution is not a possible punishment. SB 212 would exclude grant of immunity for a person who perpetrates or assists in the perpetration of the reported incident.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Goren (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p><b>SB 563</b> By: Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to the reporting of information about the use of federal money for flood research, planning, and mitigation projects.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>SB 563 creates a flood research, planning, and mitigation reporting that would require a state agency that uses or disburses federal money for flood research, planning, or mitigation projects to submit a report on a quarterly basis to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The report would need to include the original total of federal money received, the amount spent or disbursed to date, and the eligibility requirements for receiving the federal money. TWDB would also be required to maintain and make available on their website a publicly accessible version of the report to serve as a centralized location for stakeholders and local entities.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 194</b> By: Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Moody   Meyer   Collier   Leach   Beckley</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of indecent assault, to judicial protection for victims of that offense, and to certain criminal acts committed in relation to that offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>SB 194 would create the offense of indecent assault as a Class A misdemeanor (punishable by a fine not more than \$4,000, confinement in jail for up to one year, or both). A person commits indecent assault if they, without the consent of the other person and with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person: touch the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of another person; touch another person with the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of any person; exposes or attempts to expose another person’s genitals, pubic area, anus, buttocks, or female areola; or causes another person to contact the blood, seminal fluid, vaginal fluid, saliva, urine, or feces of any person. If the conduct constitutes an offense under another law, the actor may be prosecuted under the provision of SB 194, the other law, or both.</p> <p>Currently, Texas state law does not consider such serious sexual violations as an offense. Rather, they are only prosecuted as “assault—offensive contact,” which is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$500, and subject to a two-year statute of limitations. By comparison, Texas law makes similar conduct a second degree felony with no limitation period when committed against a child younger than 17 years of age.</p> <p>SB 194 would include the offense of indecent assault to be reflected in the current Code of Criminal Procedure’s Chapter 7A regarding the protective order for victims of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking; Chapter 17’s Bail’s article for a magistrate’s order for emergency; and Chapter 56’s article for rights of victim of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking. SB 194 also amends the Government Code to require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) bureau of identification and records to collect, in addition to the other types of information the bureau is required to collect concerning the number and nature of protective orders and magistrate’s orders of emergency protection and all other pertinent information about all persons subject to active orders, pertinent information about persons subject to conditions of bond imposed for the protection of the victim in any indecent assault case. SB 194 would require information in the law enforcement information system relating to an active order to include the conditions of bond imposed on a person to whom the order is directed for the protection of a victim in any indecent assault case. SB 194 authorizes DPS to adopt reasonable rules relating to active conditions of bond imposed on a defendant for the protection of a victim in any indecent assault case.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

**LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE Calendar – Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

<p><b>SB 11</b> By: Taylor</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Bonnen, Greg   Huberty   Metcalf  </p>	<p>Relating to policies, procedures, and measures for school safety and mental health promotion in public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 11 was filed in response to deadly school shootings and is intended to provide an educational environment for students and employers that is free from fear, stress and trauma that is not conducive to our students’ education. The bill requires schools to adopt a Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (MHEOP) and to form a school safety committee and assigns the Texas School Safety Center to verify the plans. School districts would be held responsible if they fail adopt a plan and appoint the committee.</p> <p>SB 11 outlines numerous matters that must be addressed to improve school safety, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requires the TEA Commissioner to adopt rules to ensure that building standards provide a safe and secure</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
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<p>Thierry   Price</p>			<p>environment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requires teachers, including substitute teachers, to receive safety training and also requires them to have access to a phone or electronic device to connect with first responders in the event of an emergency;</li> <li>• requires a mental health authority to employ a non-physician mental health professional to provide training and serve as a resource for school districts via their regional education service center. The non-physician mental health professional will act as a resource and provide training to school district personnel, but this person may not treat or provide counseling to a student or provide specific advice to school district personnel regarding a student;</li> <li>• requires districts to notify parents when a threat is received;</li> <li>• limits mandatory school drills to eight, including evacuation fire drills and lock down, lockout, shelter-in-place drills;</li> <li>• requires schools to establish threat assessment teams and a Safe and Supportive School Program and Team;</li> <li>• expands the behaviors that could result in the student receiving threat assessment to include threats of sexual harassment, dating violence, stalking, self-harm, bullying, cyberbullying fighting or possession of a weapon or assault;</li> <li>• adds language to allow for the anonymous reporting of dangerous, violent or unlawful activity which occurs or is threatened on school property or which relates to enrolled student or school personnel;</li> <li>• trains educators in trauma-informed care. Provides for locally adopted optional training in healthy interpersonal relationships;</li> <li>• allows schools to use bond money to retrofit vehicles for school safety purposes;</li> <li>• provides funding through a school safety allotment for security and mental health measures;</li> <li>• requires Community College Presidents to sign off on the MHEOP; and</li> <li>• requires school districts to incorporate instruction in digital citizenship and include information on the potential consequences of cyberbullying.</li> </ul> <p>Very importantly, the substitute also adds a provision to the multi-hazard emergency operations plan to ensure that students and district personnel with disabilities are provided equal access to safety during a disaster or emergency.</p>	
<p><b>SB 20</b> By: Huffman   Alvarado   Bettencourt   Campbell   Flores   Nelson   Paxton   Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Thompson, Senfronia   Krause   Collier   White  </p>	<p>Relating to the reporting regarding, investigation of, prosecution of, criminal and civil penalties for, and other consequences of prostitution, trafficking of persons, and related criminal offenses, to services and compensation available to victims of those offenses, and to orders of nondisclosure for persons who committed certain of those offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>SB 20 is based on the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force’s legislative recommendations to improve Texas’ response to human trafficking. All provisions are supported by the membership of the Task Force, which includes 59 state agencies, law enforcement entities, district attorney’s offices, victim-serving organizations, and regional human trafficking coalitions.</p> <p>The 14 recommendations that are addressed through SB 20’s provisions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expand Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation’s (TDLR) authority to conduct more comprehensive background checks under the Massage Therapy program, such as including fingerprint background checks for both new applicants and existing massage therapists, massage instructors, massage schools, and massage establishment owners.</li> <li>2. Require posting of human trafficking awareness signs in licensed massage establishments and schools as an effort to bring more awareness to the issue along with resources.</li> <li>3. Require additional reporting by massage therapy schools to identify fraudulent schools and students through measures such as issuing student permits, standardizing school reporting of hours, and determining examination eligibility, which are all current practices for Barbering and Cosmetology programs.</li> <li>4. Remove the five-year “sit-out” period for massage therapy licensees which will then allow TDLR to provide</li> </ol>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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Davis, Yvonne			<p>for reasonable analysis of a licensee’s criminal history before making a determination on the license.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Provide TDLR with authority to act more effectively in instances of sexual violations by massage therapy licensees.</li> <li>6. Provide enforcement provisions in the massage therapy statute similar to other TDLR programs.</li> <li>7. Provide Rape Shield Law protections for human trafficking and child sexual abuse victims.</li> <li>8. Include adult sex trafficking and adult sex crimes in the list of offenses where evidence of uncharged crimes is allowable for the purpose of showing the relationship between the defendant and the victim or the state of mind of the defendant or the victim.</li> <li>9. Provide prosecutorial tools to pursue state charges against online traffickers of websites similar to Backpage, similar to federal provisions from the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) and Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA).</li> <li>10. Include continuous human trafficking as a stackable offense.</li> <li>11. Make the definition of “coercion” found under the current Penal Code chapter related to trafficking of persons applicable to adult and child labor trafficking.</li> <li>12. Create a new process to protect commercial lessees from operating in the vicinity of human trafficking. This provision will allow for legitimates businesses to void their leases if their lessor also leases to an illicit massage business within the same mall, strip mall, shopping center, or office building.</li> <li>13. Enhance the nondisclosure process under the Department of Public Safety chapter of the Government Code for victims of human trafficking. This provision will allow for human trafficking victims to request nondisclosure of their criminal history record information on the grounds that their offense was solely as a victim of trafficking.</li> <li>14. Amend prostitution and related statutes to provide increased penalties for buyers and mandatory community supervision for sellers as an effort to decrease demand and to direct individuals at high risk of human trafficking to services.</li> </ol>	
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## LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar – Tuesday, May 21, 2019

<p><b>SJR 79</b> By: Lucio   Hinojosa   Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> González, Mary   Guillen   Sheffield   Murr   Walle</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>The Economically Distressed Area Program (EDAP), within the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), has been successful in providing safe, secure sources of water and waste water to many parts of Texas so far. However, there is a current need of over \$440 million in projected costs solely based on applications to the TWDB from economically distressed areas whose minimal needs are not being met.</p> <p>SJR 79 would amend the Texas Constitution in order to authorize the TWDB to, in addition to the bonds authorized for the EDAP account, issue additional general obligations bonds, at its determination, in an amount that does not exceed \$200 million. SJR 79 requires that the bonds be used to provide financial assistance for the development of water supply, sewer service, and drainage projects in economically distressed areas of Texas.</p> <p>SJR 79 authorizes the bonds to be issued as bonds, notes, or other obligations as permitted by law and requires the bonds to be sold in forms and denominations, on terms, at times, in the manner, at places, and in installments, as determined by the TWDB. The bonds shall bear a rate or rates of interest that will also be determined by the TWDB, and will make the bonds authorized incontestable after execution by the TWDB, approval by the attorney general, and delivery to the purchaser or purchasers of bonds. SJR 79 additionally sets out provisions regarding additional bonds that are authorized by the resolution.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
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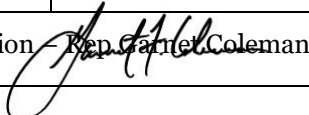
**LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE Calendar – Tuesday, May 21, 2019**

<p><b>SB 1991</b> By: Buckingham</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Klick</p>	<p>Relating to claims and overpayment recoupment processes imposed on health care providers under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas mandates that some home and community-based services under Medicaid use the electronic visit verification (EVV) system to document the precise time when services are provided. Using the EVV ensures that patients are getting necessary care and that Medicaid is being accurately billed for services provided. SB 1991 provides flexibility for providers by requiring Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop a system which removes administrative burdens placed on providers who use EVV and allow the providers to use new technologies within their EVV systems. This system must also determine how data is submitted for provider reimbursement.</p> <p>If an MCO or other entity discovers fraud or abuse, there are several steps which the managed care organization (MCO) can take in order to recover costs. SB 1991 adds into statute requirements to assist HHSCs development of procedures to allow MCOs to recover costs from fraud or abuse. It requires that the MCO engaging in payment recovery efforts to give written notice to a provider using the EVV system of their intent to recover overpayments and allow the provider 60 days to resolve any issues before the MCO attempts to collect the payment.</p> <p>SB 1991 requires rules to be adopted by the executive commissioner that standardize the process for MCOs to collect overpayments made to a provider which is discovered through an audit/investigation. This process shall include: Written notice of the MCOs intent to collect overpayments no later than 30 days after the audit or investigation is complete This notice should include the specific claims and EVV transactions that are the reason for overpayment, the provider's right to an informal resolution, and the process to appeal this determination of overpayment. Limited duration of audits to 24 months The recovery of an overpayment cannot be conducted before the provider has used all rights to an appeal, however, the provider must respond within 30 days of notice of the MCOs intent to claim overpayments.</p> <p>SB 1991 aims to reduce administrative burdens by providing flexibility and create procedures surrounding overpayment claims to ensure validity of the payment process between MCOs and healthcare providers.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2138</b> By: Hinojosa</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Health and Human Services Commission to retain certain money received by the commission to administer certain Medicaid programs.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p> <p>Vote: 21 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>SB 2138 authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to retain non-general revenue funds HHSC receives to operate 1115 Medicaid waiver programs or a directed payment program. These programs provide hospitals funding to offset costs of providing care for the uninsured and to help fill the gap between the costs of providing care to Medicaid enrollees and the amount Medicaid pays for those services. Currently, HHSC is allowed to retain funds to administer Medicaid Administrative Claiming, the School Health and Related Services (SHARS) program and the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP). SB 2138 allows HHSC to retain up to \$8 million per biennium to spend on necessary administration costs for the program for which the money is received. If HHSC determines additional funds are needed HHSC, with approval of the Governor and Legislative Budget Board (LBB), can spend an additional .25% of the total amount estimated to be received for the program.</p> <p>Additionally, SB 2138 requires HHSC to submit an annual report to the Governor and LBB that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details the amount of money retained and spent by HHSC under provisions in SB 2138</li> <li>• Contains a transparent description of how HHSC used the money</li> <li>• Assess the extent to which the money retained by HHSC covered estimated administration costs</li> <li>• Whether HHSC adjusted or considered adjusting the amount retained based on the assessment</li> </ul> <p>Currently, General Revenue dollars fund the state share of administrative costs for these programs. As these types of</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			programs increase in number and complexity and federal reporting requirements change, additional staff and resources are needed to administer these programs. SB 2138 would allow HHSC to provide greater support, make more timely payments, engage more providers, and make adapting to changing federal requirements easier.	
<b>SB 1519</b> By: Kolkhorst  <b>Sponsor:</b> Clardy	Relating to establishing a council on long-term care facilities and the duties of that council.	Human Services  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The Long-Term Facility Survey and Informal Dispute Resolution Council was formed during the 84th legislature to oversee the regulation of nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities or related conditions. This council was abolished in June 2017. SB 1519 creates a Long-Term Care Facilities Council that will stem from the previous council's provisions, but also expands those provisions to include the ability to oversee long-term care facility regulations. In addition, SB 1519 allows this Council to recommend best practices to make surveys, inspections, and the informal dispute resolution process less troublesome and more efficient for long-term care facilities. The Council may also review Medicaid quality-based payment systems or rate-setting methodology for these facilities. The Council will recommend uniform standards for all processes they oversee. SB 1519 establishes the council as a permanent advisory committee to Health and Human Services Commission, sets membership, and requires council to report to the legislature no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year. This Council can help ensure that Texas has high quality long-term care facilities to care for their vulnerable residents.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2553</b> By: Watson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Howard	Relating to the creation of the Save Historic Munny District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose fees.	County Affairs  Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	SB 2553 seeks to amend the Special Districts Local Law Code by explicitly expressing the allowance of creation and approval of the Save Historical Munny District in Travis County.  SB 2553 allows for the formation of an appointed five-member board and provides provisional requirements for the criteria the terms, composition, and size of the board of directors and appointing committee.  SB 2553 mandates the board must disband the district after unsuccessful elections or the district has not executed/engaged in a purchase agreement for preserving the land consistent with its fundamental purpose. SB 2553 also forbids the imposing of taxation or exerting of eminent domain practices.  SB 2553 does include provisions for powers and duties centered the issuance of bonds, fee assessments, and the ability to use available capital for project improvement and charitable organization memberships.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
<b>SB 1755</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Oliveron	Relating to the status of certain medical residents and fellows as governmental employees for purposes of the Texas Tort Claims Act.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Currently, only certain graduate medical residents at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston (UTHealth) receive immunity for services provided during their residency since they are employees of the state government. However, some students are reimbursed through the University of Texas System Medical Foundation and do not receive the same immunity since they are paid through the Foundation.  SB 1755 expands the immunity available for medical residents to all students, regardless of how they are paid. SB 1755 allows for all student residents to learn procedures within a hospital without having concerns regarding immunity.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

<p><b>SB 2272</b> By: Nichols   Creighton</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to the procedure for amending or revoking certificates of public convenience and necessity issued to certain water utilities.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Current statute allows for an expedited decertification process for a landowner seeking to leave a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity's (CCN) service area. Yet, due to concerns over how current procedure is being used, SB 2272 seeks to clarify the process. To be released from a CCN that a landowner is entitled to, SB 2272 establishes that if the landowner's property is located in a county with a population of at least one million; adjacent to a county with a population of at least one million; or with a population of more than 200,000 and less than 220,000 that does not contain a public or private university that had a total enrollment in the most recent fall semester of 40,000 or more; and is not located in a county that has a population of more than 45,500 and less than 47,500.</p> <p>SB 2272 will prohibit a certificate holder from initiating an application to borrow money under a federal loan program once the Public Utility Commission (PUC) has issued a decision on the petition. The PUC may require an award of compensation, if any, to be determined by a qualified individual or firm serving as an independent appraiser agreed upon by the certificate holder and the petitioner, makes the compensation determination binding on the PUC, and requires the costs of the independent appraiser to be borne by the petitioner. SB 2272 also have provisions if a certificate holder and petitioner cannot agree on an appraiser. The PUC shall ensure that the monetary amount of compensation is determined no later than the 60th day after the date the PUC receives the final appraisal; and the landowner pays the compensation to the certificate holder no later than the 90th calendar day after the date the monetary amount of compensation is determined.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2409</b> By: Menendez</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Moody   Martinez Fischer</p>	<p>Relating to the Internet domain name used by a website that sells tickets to events.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>There have been concerns that ticket vendors have been using deceptive website names to resell tickets at the retail price under the guise of an event venue or a performer. SB 2409 offers consumer protections by making such actions a deceptive trade practice.</p> <p>SB 2409 defines the terms "internet domain name," "URL," "ticket website," "website operator," "venue," and "performer." The bill goes on to state that a website operator is prohibited from using a website name in the ticket website's URL which contains anything similar to the name of a performer, an organization or association associated with a performer, a venue in Texas, or an event held at a venue in Texas. A website operator is exempted from this requirement if they have the authorization to use such a name to sell tickets. Any individual who violates this provision will be subject to the penalty for deceptive trade practice.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1219</b> By: Alvarado</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to human trafficking signs at certain transportation hubs.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Posting the National Human Traffic Hotline number and signage containing human trafficking awareness information could help with the war against human trafficking in Texas. Human Traffickers rely on transportation outlets to move victims in and out of state lines; posting informative signage at transportation hubs throughout the state could assist in capturing traffickers and freeing trafficked victims.</p> <p>SB 1219 requires signage at transportation hubs—including busses, bus stops, trains, train stations, rest areas, and airports. The signage must include, in English and Spanish, the telephone number and website address for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and key indicators that persons may be victims of human trafficking. SB 1219 places responsibility on the attorney general for design/content of the signage, the manner the signs must be displayed, and which transportation hubs will be required to post the signage. Transportation zones are key locations for victims to escape or bystanders to notice and report suspiciousness.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 502</b> By: Seliger</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Howard</p>	<p>Relating to requiring certain institutions of higher education to issue reports on the transferability of credit.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>When a student is enrolled in a public institution of higher education and attempts to transfer academic course credit from one institution to another institution of their choosing, their earned course credits are not always accepted by the receiving institution. Currently, it is not required for a credit receiving institution to inform the credit transferring institution why a course credit was not accepted, therefore transferring institutions are not able to make what could be simple changes to curriculum to address the issue in the future.</p> <p>SB 502 will require institutions of higher education to report to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		3 Absent	(THECB) how many and which credits the institution did not accept from a transferring institution and list an explanation of the reason why the transfer credit was not accepted along with the course name and type.	
<b>SB 1231</b> By: Bettencourt  <b>Sponsor:</b> Meyer   Leach	Relating to providing certain public and private school administrators with information regarding certain child abuse and neglect investigations and allegations.	Public Education  Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Under current law if the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) receives a report of alleged child abuse or neglect and an employee of a public elementary or secondary school is involved and the child is a student at the school TDFPS must orally notify the superintendent of the school district. Investigative reports are currently not required to be provided to a private school administration like public schools.  SB 1231 will ensure that public and private schools are given equal notification and report access to DFPS investigations and reports. SB 1231 will allow for the equal protection of children in private schools as well by requiring the release of information to the respective director of an open-enrollment charter school or the chief executive officer of a private school. Once information of the report is received then DFPS may begin the investigation, as SB 1231 removes the need for DFPS to be under the jurisdiction of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) when conducting these investigations.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 799</b> By: Alvarado  <b>Sponsor:</b> Murphy	Relating to the creation of a business advisory council to provide advice on economic recovery following a disaster.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	After Hurricane Harvey, the General Land Office (GLO) put out a report recommending that an advisory board of small businesses should be created to assist and guide local and state governments in the best way to provide disaster relief after a storm to assist small businesses, so they can return to normal operations as fast as possible.  SB 799 creates the Business Advisory Council within the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) to provide advice and expertise on actions that local governments can take to assist in disaster relief. The council will consist of 12 council members chosen by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house. The council will advise the TDEM on policies, rules, operations, resources, and solutions needed for state and local governments to address the impact of a disaster on a community's small businesses.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2452</b> By: Lucio   Hinojosa   Perry  <b>Sponsor:</b> González, Mary	Relating to the provision by the Texas Water Development Board of financial assistance for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.	Natural Resources  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	SB 2452 authorizes the Texas Water Development Board to use the economically distressed areas account to offer financial assistance to municipalities for water supply-related needs. The Board may also use money in this account to fund state participation in federal programs aimed to serve economically distressed areas. In effect, SB 2452 expands the financial assistance program to all political subdivision rather than just counties.  The Texas Water Development Board may also maximize the effectiveness of the constitutionally authorized general obligation bonds by using additional bonds alongside other sources of financial assistance. This pool of resources may also be used to provide financial assistance to municipalities. General obligation bonds may also be used to promote and support public-private partnerships are financially viable, will diversify the methods available financing, and reduce reliance on general revenue bonds.  The bill also requires that the application and plan by an applicant for financial assistance must include documentation that the municipality has not only adopted, but will enforce the model rules offered in statute. The application will be approved by the Board according to the criteria and standards that are currently existing in statute.  SB 2452 requires the Board to create a system for prioritizing financial assistance applications. This system should also include a way to determine whether or not a project qualifies for the programs. The highest consideration should be given to projects with the greatest impact such as those that will serve area determined by Board or by the Department of State Health Services to be impacted by dangers from water supply and sanitation issues. Such	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>projects may also include areas that have received admonishments from a governmental entity, such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), due to public health and safety issues resulting from water supply or sewer services. An applicant may only receive priority for the latter situation if the applicant municipality was not the cause or otherwise implicated in the violations. The board should also consider an applicant's ability to repay the financial assistance. An applicant may not receive funds from the Board if they have not received a permit for construction and operation from the appropriate authority. The Board is authorized to create any additional criteria. The approval of any plans should not only be approved by TCEQ but also by the Executive Administrator of the Board.</p> <p>If an applicant municipality would like to make changes to their proposed budget or plan, they must make a written request to the Executive Administrator of the Board. The requested changes may not include modification or change that increases the budget or change the project scope. No requested change may be implemented until it is signed by the Executive Administrator of the Board.</p> <p>The Board may not provide to the applicant any financial assistance without requiring repayment of at least 50 percent, but no more than 70 percent. The board may provide the repayable portion of the financial assistance from any eligible funds. The amount of repayment should be based on the municipality's ability to repay the financial assistance and should include consideration of the Board's ability to maximize the financial assistance for which the repayment is required.</p> <p>The Board is required to annually post on their website a report that includes details for each approved financial assistance project. The report should include a description and location of the project as well as the number of residents served, the amount of financial assistance provided, and the completion status of the project. It should also include the dates on which the municipality adopted the model rules and certified enforcement of those rules.</p> <p>The Texas Water Development Board is only required to implement the provisions of this bill if the necessary legislative appropriations are made in SJR 79. If sufficient appropriations are not offered, the Board may use other funds for the implementation of these provisions, but are not required to do so.</p>	
<p><b>SB 355</b> By: West  <b>Sponsor:</b> Klick</p>	<p>Relating to developing a strategic plan regarding implementation of prevention and early intervention services and community-based care.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Recently, the federal government passed the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). FFPSA provides Title IV-E funding for evidence-based prevention services for mental health, substance abuse and in-home parenting support for those at risk of being placed in foster care. Previously, Title IV-E funds were used only for children in foster care, but with FFPSA, these funds may be used for preventing entry into the foster care system. SB 355 creates a strategic plan that seeks to coordinate foster care prevention services with Texas' transition to community-based care. This plan must identify a network of service providers to supply mental health, substance use, and in-home parenting support for parents/caregivers of children at risk of entering foster care, the children themselves, and pregnant or parenting of foster care youth. The plan must identify methods of statewide implementation of foster care prevention services, including in regions that are transitioning to community-based care. The strategic plan must identify resources necessary for community-based care to implement foster care prevention services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers of services for mental health, substance use, and parenting support for children and their families/caregivers</li> <li>• Training related to IT services, financial services, and legal services</li> <li>• Enhanced training related to procurement, contract monitoring and enforcement services, information technology services, and financial and legal services</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A financial methodology to fund community-based care and foster care prevention service roll-outs</li> <li>• Resources to assist in the placement of children in placements which are eligible for federal funds</li> </ul> <p>SB 355 requires that the Department of Family Protection Services (DFPS) develop strategic plans which ensure foster care prevention services are coherent with federal law, maximize federal resources and directs DFPS to apply for other federal and private funds. DFPS is also directed to streamline and coordinate efforts in these matters by state agencies and determine eligibility standards for services. SB 355 directs DFPSs strategic plan to reduce recidivism back into foster care. This strategic plan must also have a method to notify the legislature of important federal and private funds and identify independent researchers to assist community programs in developing trauma-informed services.</p> <p>By the end of 2019, SB 355 requires that this developed plan be submitted to the legislature and to the committees with jurisdiction over child welfare issues.</p> <p>Texas has chosen to delay the implementation of FFPSA until the fall of 2021. With limited guidance federally, it is crucial that Texas review its programs/services and prepare for implementation in a short period of time especially as regions prepare to transition to community-based care. Including detailed requirements to be in DFPSs strategic plan will ensure that Texas receives as many federal funds as possible which is needed for Texas' foster care prevention services. SB 355 will better prepare Texas for the implementation of FFPSA in coordination with a transition to community-based care in various regions of Texas.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1412</b> By: Perry <b>Sponsor:</b> Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to accountability intervention provisions applicable to school district campuses, including the creation of accelerated campus excellence turnaround plans and the conditions under which a closed campus may be repurposed to serve students at that campus location.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 2 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, when a public school has endured underperformance for several years, the school district is subject to accountability interventions due to its performance ratings and is responsible for creating a turnaround plan for improvement. One of these plans is through the Texas Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program which is one of the largest statewide afterschool programs in the country. The ACE program is administered by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and is funded through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative of the U.S. Department of Education.</p> <p>SB 1412 authorizes a closed public school district campus to be repurposed to serve students at that campus location if the commissioner of education approves a new campus identification number for the repurposed campus and finds that the repurposed campus offers a distinctly different academic program. The campus must also be operated under a contract, approved by the school district's board of trustees, with a nonprofit organization exempt from federal taxation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a governing board that is independent of the district such as a privately operated board by a charter school</li> <li>• Has a successful history of operating public school district campuses or open-enrollment charter schools</li> <li>• Has been assigned an overall performance rating of a B or higher for the preceding school year</li> </ul> <p>The concerns with this bill relate to the flexibility SB 1412 creates by instituting a program of differentiated pay based on student assessment results. Any proposal that ties teacher pay to student assessments, particularly in light of the concerns regarding the state assessment itself, is a concern, as SB 1412 opens the door for more charter schools to take over underperforming schools instead of implementing resources for the campus. SB 1412 also gives the commissioner of education authority without any appeal process. Additionally, this will negatively impact teachers who do not meet SB 1412's requirement for 80% of teachers needing to be in the top quartile for their STAAR scores and using the evaluation of teachers through subjective student surveys tends to negatively impact teachers of color due to levels of biases.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p><b>SB 2283</b> By: Campbell</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of persons convicted of certain offenses to serve as a member of a board of trustees of a school district.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Under current Texas law, a school district trustee cannot be removed from office and does not forfeit the ability to hold office if they are convicted or have plead no contest, or guilty as an equivalent, of a felony or misdemeanor involving major offense. There is no law specific to school districts allowing the removal of a convicted trustee by the board, the public or the courts. However also under current law, a person is ineligible to serve as a school board member if they have been convicted of purchasing sexual services.</p> <p>SB 2283 includes a statutory requirement that would treat a convicted school board trustee the same and mandate their removal.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that SB 2283 allows permanent bars on public service based on past criminal history which is an injustice. SB 2283 extends the prohibition to people who have been convicted of, who have plead guilty, or plead no contest to any felony and would exclude those who completed deferred adjudication and were never convicted. SB 2283 does not work to advance a standard whereby the offense factors, rehabilitation factors, and time since last conviction are all considered.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 237</b> By: Nelson</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the criteria for review by the Sunset Advisory Commission of an agency that licenses an occupation.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 237 will require that the Sunset Advisory Commission determine whether the governing body of the agency being reviewed has made an evaluation regarding the type of personal information of licensees should be made available on agency's website based on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the type of information the public needs to file a complaint with the agency;</li> <li>• the type of information the public needs to locate an existing or potential service provide;</li> <li>• the type of information the public needs to verify a license; and</li> <li>• whether making the information available on the agency's website could subject a license holder to harassment, solicitation, or another nuisance.</li> </ul> <p>If the Commission were to determine that an agency has not done so then the Commission shall make a recommendation in their review that the governing body of the agency perform such an evaluation. The provisions of SB 237 are aimed to reduce reported instances of data-dumps, done sometimes by agencies in which a spreadsheet of all the information kept by that agency on its licensees is uploaded in the form of the spreadsheet, in which private information can be obtained and used at will.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1311</b> By: Bettencourt</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Raney</p>	<p>Relating to the electronic transmission of an invoice or notice of toll nonpayment by a toll project entity.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Some tolling companies use first class mail, the US Postal System, to communicate with drivers regarding invoices and fees but the collections system is becoming more technologically advanced. Mailing is problematic because people change addresses or move around and find themselves with fees and bills racked up unpaid.</p> <p>SB 1311 permits toll road authorities to communicate with customers in other ways by allowing all tolling entities to send electronic records of invoices or notices for nonpayment of tolls/turnpike projects as an alternative to sending by first class mail if recipients agree and accept the terms of electronic transmission. Customers will be given the option to opt-in and choose methods they would like to be contacted: phone calls, texts, emails, etc.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1636</b> By: Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Price</p>	<p>Relating to an annual report prepared by the Health Professions Council.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In an attempt to address the mental health workforce shortage throughout Texas, SB 1636 requires for the Health Professions Council to include in their annual report strategies to expand the Texas health care workforce. Such strategies may include methods for reducing licensing application times, methods for increasing mental and behavioral health providers, or any other recommendations for Council. SB 1636 also suggests that the Council seeks to expand the health care workforce in medically underserved areas.</p> <p>Currently, the Council is only required to send their annual report to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House. SB 1636 adds requirements for the report to also be sent to the chairs of the appropriate Legislative committees.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

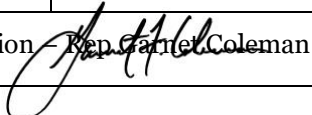
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<p><b>SB 820</b> By: Nelson</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to a requirement that a school district adopt a cybersecurity policy.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>School district information systems contain personal identification information, attendance records, and parent’s information. The Data Security Advisory Committee (DSAC) provides guidance to Texas education communities (K-12), maximizing collaboration and communication regarding information security issues and resources.</p> <p>SB 820 implements recommendations from the DSAC to help school districts keep student data safe from cyberattacks as well as directs each school district to develop and maintain a cybersecurity framework. SB 820 will require the superintendent of each district to designate a cybersecurity coordinator to be a point of contact for cybersecurity matters. SB 820 will direct the cybersecurity coordinator to report to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) any and every attempt, or incident as soon as practicable once discovered.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that SB 820 requires the reporting of every cyber-attack. Many attacks that are not major can pass a firewall and if every instance must be reported, as SB 820 would require, then this will create a burden on school districts.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1702</b> By: Whitmire</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the powers and duties of the office of independent ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice &amp; Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1702 clarifies the office of independent ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJJ) authority to provide oversight of facilities where children who are juvenile offenders reside. The authorization for the independent ombudsman for TJJJ expired January 1, 2019. SB 702 will allow for the office to operate in a manner consistent with previous operations.</p> <p>SB 1702 states that the authority of the office of independent ombudsman for TJJJ include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inspection of a facility operated by TJJJ</li> <li>• The inspection of a post-adjudication secure correctional facility</li> <li>• The inspection of a non-secure correctional facility</li> <li>• The inspection of any other residential facility a child who is a juvenile offender is placed in through court order</li> <li>• The investigation of complaints alleging any violation of the child’s rights committed to such a facility</li> </ul> <p>SB 1702 will help ensure the safety and security of all children in the juvenile justice system.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1754</b> By: Huffman</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Bell, Keith</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of the offense of taking or attempting to take a weapon from certain officers, investigators, employees, or officials.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1754 addresses the concern that the requisite for convicting a person who takes or attempts to take a weapon from certain officers, investigators, employees, or officials is too narrow in scope as an intent to harm would need to be proven. SB 1754 takes out the language of “with the intention of harming the officer, investigator, employee, or official or a third party,” and focuses the intent on whether or not the actor intentionally or knowingly and with force took or attempted to take a weapon.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 30</b> By: Birdwell</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to ballot language requirements for a proposition seeking voter approval for the issuance of bonds.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments &amp; Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 30 attempts to enhance ballot clarity when a bond is up for a public vote. If a bond is to be used for a sporting facility, performing arts facility, teacher housing, or technology/security equipment by a district the bond must be separated out in a separate ballot proposition.</p> <p>Additionally, the ballot proposition must include the principal amount of bonds as well as projected pay-off times and amounts. This would be in plain language for the voter.</p> <p>SB 30 would engage voters in the use of bonds when school districts endeavor on large scale projects which could be lumped together on a ballot vote. With the separation on a ballot, voters are better able to choose district bond use. However, the transparency ends at the cost and terms of the bond and does not require transparency when it comes to the benefits the bond might provide.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p><b>SB 1451</b> By: Taylor</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to the ability of public school teachers to maintain student discipline without being subjected to adverse employment consequences.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 1 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Under current law, teachers are allowed to remove students from the classroom if there are certain disruptive behaviors the teacher deems as unacceptable that might interfere with the teacher's ability to continue with the lesson in the classroom or if the behavior affects another student's ability to learn. The amount of times a teacher exercises the removal of a student is currently tracked and noted for the teacher's annual appraisal.</p> <p>SB 1451 aims to improve the employment-related protections for teachers by prohibiting a district from unfavorably evaluating or disciplining a teacher on the basis of disciplinary referrals or student conduct documentation, regardless of the bias the teacher may have within the documentation or reason for student removal.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that SB 1451 will increase the rate of in-school or out-of-school suspensions which will further impact students who are labeled at-risk or already disproportionately affected by disciplinary measures in the classroom such as students of color and students with disabilities. SB 1451 primarily puts students of color and students with disabilities at risk of disciplinary action without the checks and balances and accountability currently in place. Additionally, SB 1451 makes no consideration for allowances for a student's disability or a way to track and identify teachers who may be disproportionately disciplining students. If a single teacher is submitting a high number of disciplinary referrals to warrant the attention of a principal or superintendent to look into that teacher's employment, then there is reason to suspect an issue with the disciplinary system at large.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1083</b> By: Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to compensation to be paid to an emergency services district for a municipality's annexation of the district's territory.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1083 provides a formula to determine the amount of compensation to be paid to an emergency services district for a municipality's annexation of the district's territory, if the amount equal to the annexed territory's prorated share of district's bond and other indebtedness is not a greater amount. The formula creates a fraction dividing the property value of entire district plus the sales and use tax revenue collected by retailers within the entire district by the property value and sales and use tax collected by retailers in the annexed area.</p> <p>SB 1083 ensures emergency services districts for a municipality's annexation of district's territory are justly compensated for revenue loss within the district due to this annexation.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 384</b> By: Nelson</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to the reporting of health care-associated infections and preventable adverse events at health care facilities.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, health care facilities, excluding pediatric and adolescent hospitals, are required to report incidences of surgical site infections to DSHS only if it occurs after certain procedures. SB 384 changes this requirement to state that all healthcare-associated infections must be reported if federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to their facilities. If it is found and confirmed by laboratories, the health care facility must also report the pathogen which caused the infection. This requirement is not limited to facilities who participate in Medicare.</p> <p>HHSC is only required to implement the provisions of this bill if the necessary legislative appropriations are made. If sufficient appropriations are not offered, HHSC may use other funds for the implementation of these provisions but are not required to do so.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 569</b> By: Huffman</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of listed family homes.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 569 seeks to address the lack of minimum standards in listed family homes. Listed family homes can care for up to 3 unrelated children at a time. The lack of standards and regulation have resulted in the inadequate care of children. In 2018, 185 high-risk violations were reported in listed family homes, it is important to note that these homes are not regulated, and it is likely that more violations have gone unnoticed.</p> <p>SB 569 transfers regulatory authority of listed family homes from the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The executive commission of HHSC must adopt distinct minimum standards for listed family homes. These standards must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the health, safety, and welfare of children attending a listed family home</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote safe, comfortable, and healthy listed family homes for children</li> <li>Ensure adequate supervision of children by capable, qualified, and healthy personnel</li> <li>Ensure medication is administered in accordance with current law</li> </ul> <p>SB 569 includes listed family homes among facilities that an authorized HHSC representative may visit for an investigation, inspection, and evaluation, HHSC is required to investigate listed family homes after a complaint is received. In efforts to be transparent, a year minimum of investigative data for listed family homes must be provided to the public. If this data is determined to be false or lack factual foundation, the investigative information from HHSC must be removed from the website.</p> <p>SB 569 requires that family homes maintain \$300,000 of liability coverage for each occurrence of negligence, if unable to secure a policy, the family home must notify HHSC. HHSC cannot give a penalty, suspend or revoke a family home listing if they comply with the notice requirement. SB 569 also requires that an application for a family home submit proof of the successful completion of safe sleep training.</p> <p>HHSC is only required to implement sections of this bill if appropriated money for that purpose. Otherwise, HHSC may implement provisions using other appropriated funds. SB 569 will help close the gap in unregulated child-care facilities by protecting children in the care of listed family homes.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1177</b> By: Menendez <b>Sponsor:</b> Rose</p>	<p>Relating to offering certain evidence-based services in lieu of other mental health or substance use disorder services by a Medicaid managed care organization.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In the Texas Medicaid program, there is a lack of coverage for home and community-based services for children and youth with severe mental health challenges. SB 1177 revises the required contents of Medicaid managed care contracts to give managed care organizations (MCOs) the flexibility to offer medically appropriate, cost-effective, and evidence-based services from a list approved by the state Medicaid managed care advisory committee. These services include but are not limited to partial hospitalization day treatment and intensive outpatient therapy. Medicaid recipients reserve the option to use these services from the approved list instead of receiving current mental health or substance abuse disorder treatment.</p> <p>HHSC must prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of times during the previous year, a service from the list included in the contract is used</li> <li>Consideration the actual cost and use of any services from the list included in the contract that are offered by an MCO when setting rates for the MCO under that contract.</li> </ul> <p>In 2015, Medicaid served over 300,000 children with behavioral health needs. Mental health services for children are critical especially when there are gaps in services for children and youth. Mental health care, especially for children, is not a one- size fits all approach. SB 1177 will help to close these gaps in services to provide a full continuum of care by giving MCO's flexibility and Medicaid recipients more options for care.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 489</b> By: Zaffirini <b>Sponsor:</b> Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to personal information that may be omitted from certain records, licenses, and reports and to other court security measures.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Federal and State judges can remove their home addresses from personal financial statements since these are made available to the public. This protects the judges from having their address made public and their safety can be protected as well as their families. However, in the campaign filings that the judges must complete and file, their home addresses are not removed and therefore still made public. There are additional concerns that the judge's personal information is also not redacted from certain property-related documents that are filed publicly.</p> <p>SB 489 requires the Texas Ethics Commission to redact the residence of a state or federal judge from any report filed by the judge or on behalf of the judge if the judge applies for the information to be removed. SB 489 also requires the Office of Court Administration to provide a report to the legislature recommending safety measures that can be taken by the judiciary security division.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>SB 489 also amends the property and tax code to allow federal and state judges to have their personal home address information redacted from public files that anyone can access. SB 489 allows state and federal judges, as well as their spouses, to be able to file their public paperwork without the fear that anyone from the public will have access to their personal information.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1454</b> By: Taylor  <b>Sponsor:</b> Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the ownership, sale, lease, and disposition of property and management of assets of an open-enrollment charter school.</p>	<p>Public Education  Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1454 addresses concerns that have arisen regarding the disposal of property and assets of an open enrollment charter school that has been closed due to consecutive unacceptable academic or financial ratings. The bill clarifies the process regarding the disposition of property and the management of assets of charter schools by providing the appropriate state entities the authority to reclaim state assets from defunct charter schools, particularly real property.</p> <p>SB 1454 establishes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an open-enrollment charter school ceases to operate if the school's charter has expired or been revoked, surrendered, or abandoned or if the school has ceased operation as a public school;</li> <li>• all remaining funds of a charter school that ceases to operate must be returned to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and deposited in the charter school liquidation fund;</li> <li>• TEA may use funds exceeding \$2 million in the charter school liquidation fund from a high-quality educational grant program established by the commissioner of education to a grant program established by TEA for purposes of encouraging high school students to enter the teaching profession and assisting current paraprofessionals and instructional aides in pursuing the necessary credentials to become full time teachers;</li> <li>• requires the commissioner to issue rules regarding transactions involving a "related party;" and,</li> <li>• authorizes an audit by the commissioner of the records of a charter school, a charter holder, or a management company to include the review of any real property transactions between a charter holder and a related party if the aggregate amount of all transactions between the charter holder and the related party exceeds \$5,000.</li> </ul> <p>The bill also establishes that a charter holder may not transfer, sell, or otherwise dispose of any property purchased or leased by a charter holder with state funds without the consent of TEA if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the charter holder has received notice that the charter has expired and not been renewed;</li> <li>• the charter holder has received notice of the charter's revocation;</li> <li>• the charter holder has received notice that the charter school is under discretionary review; or</li> <li>• the charter school for which the charter is held has otherwise ceased to operate.</li> </ul> <p>SB 1454 also would allow a former charter holder that has ceased to operate to retain property purchased or leased with state funds if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the former charter holder reimburses the state with non-state funds; and</li> <li>• the former charter holder provides written assurance that the bill's requirements for the closure of charter school operations will be met and receives approval from TEA.</li> </ul> <p>SB 1454 also requires a charter school to provide an accounting of each parcel of the school's real property and the amount of local, state, and federal funds used to purchase or improve each parcel of property, and further requires a charter school for which the charter has expired, been revoked, or been surrendered or ceased to operate to submit a</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>final annual financial report to TEA verifying that all state property held by the charter holder has been returned or disposed of in accordance with provisions regarding property purchased or leased by a charter holder with state funds.</p> <p>The bill provides very important accountability requirements for the use of state funds by charter schools.</p>	
<p><b>SB 662</b> By: Campbell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to the availability of personal information of a statewide elected official or member of the legislature.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 662 attempts to address concerns that in an era of heightened political polarization, members of the legislature and statewide elected officials may face security risks and threats should certain personal information be made available. SB 662 seeks to provide for the confidentiality of certain personal information related to members of the legislature and statewide elected officials by amending the Government Code to except from public availability the requirement of state public information law related to the home address, home telephone number, emergency contact information, or social security number of a statewide elected officer or a member of the legislature. SB 662 also makes an exception for information that reveals whether such a person has family members, and also provides for the confidentiality of certain personal identifying information of peace officers and other officials performing sensitive governmental functions applicable to such an elected official.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 71</b> By: Nelson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a statewide telehealth center for sexual assault forensic medical examination.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>When someone is sexually assaulted and goes to the hospital, they receive care from a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). These nurses are specifically trained to administer specific exams while providing as much comfort and compassion as they can. However, there are concerns that rural counties do not have SANE nurses and the victims are administered exams by nurses who are not properly trained to administer these exams. Administering these exams appropriately is crucial for law enforcement and allows for reliable evidence to be collected for prosecutors.</p> <p>SB 71 establishes a statewide tele SANE program for sexual assault forensic medical examinations to be administered in underserved areas. SB 71 requires the Attorney General to create this program and to expand the SANE services and allows for a SANE nurse to provide training to a sexual assault examiner on conducting a forensic medical examination and the use of telehealth services and consultation services to assist a sexual assault examiner during a forensic medical examination.</p> <p>SB 71 requires the attorney general to develop operation protocols to address compliance with the telehealth services and standards of care for the system to be used appropriately and for records to be maintained. SB 71 allows for underserving communities to be able to have the same opportunities to have SANE exams administered in an appropriate manner through telehealth. This allows for certified SANE examiners to provide support through telecommunications without physically being present in the exam room. This allows for victims across the state to receive adequate care after a sexual assault.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 345</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Toth</p>	<p>Relating to the use of land in the William Goodrich Jones State Forest.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The William Goodrich Jones State Forest is an active forest owned by the state of Texas and overseen by the Texas A&amp;M Forest Service. Located in Montgomery County, the forest was originally established in 1926 to educate landowners, timber producers, forestry students, and various natural resource stakeholders about sustainable forestry.</p> <p>SB 345 will uphold the definition of Jones State Forest as real property owned by The State of Texas for the use of Texas A&amp;M University System under the Texas A&amp;M Forest Service. SB 345 will maintain protection of 100% of the land as a requirement. SB 345 will ensure the Jones State Forest remains in its natural, scenic, open-space, and undeveloped state.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

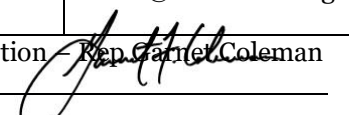


<p><b>SB 741</b> By: Hughes  <b>Sponsor:</b> Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to restrictive covenants regarding firearms or firearm ammunition.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety  Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, homeowners' associations (HOA) can establish rules for subdivisions restricting the possession, use, and storage of firearms within that subdivision. However, there are concerns that HOA should not have authority and homeowners should retain the ability to keep their weapons in their home.</p> <p>SB 741 amends the property code to prohibit an HOA from including and enforcing a provision in a subdivision that prohibits or restricts a person from owning or storing a firearm within their homes. The HOA is an elected board that is elected by the subdivision that it oversees. The homeowners elect their HOA board to represent what most of the homeowners in that subdivision want. If most residents want restrictions on weapons owned then it should be up to the subdivision to decide, not for the legislature to prohibit. SB 741 limits local control of HOA over the homeowners.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 405</b> By: Birdwell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the criminal offense of making a false report to a peace officer, federal special investigator, law enforcement employee, corrections officer, or jailer.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 405 will add "a corrections officer or jailer" to the current offense of making a false statement that is material to a criminal investigation with the intent to deceive. Other persons listed in which it is considered an offense to make a false report to are peace officers or federal special investigators conducting the investigation; and any employee of a law enforcement agency. SB 405 simply expands the criteria to include a correction officer or jailer as they are currently not protected.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 41</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to exemptions to reporting and list requirements for certain attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, amicus attorneys, mediators, and guardians.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, judges must use a rotation system when appointing attorney ad litem for their services. However, if an attorney wants to be appointed to a case to work pro bono, they must be put into this rotation and wait to be appointed to a specific case. There are concerns that this is causing a lack of participation in pro bono services by non-profits and private entities because they do not want to be put into the regular rotation system as other attorneys.</p> <p>SB 41 amends the Government code to exempt pro bono attorneys that provide services on behalf of a nonprofit organization from the rotation of appointment. SB 41 allows for attorneys to provide their free services to specific cases without having to wait their turn. This increases pro bono participation in ad litem cases.</p> <p>SB 41 also provides an exemption from the rotation of appointments during a time of disaster. This allows for judges to appoint attorneys who are ready and able to represent a client during a time of disaster and avoid any other delays within the court system if an attorney cannot be present because of the disaster.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1757</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to student loan repayment assistance under the math and science scholars loan repayment program.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The Math and Science Scholars Repayment Program was created to address the issue of a critical shortage of certified mathematics and science teachers in Texas public schools. Through the program, certified teachers could apply for repayment assistance on student loans in exchange for their annual service to teaching mathematics or science in a federal Title I school, where 40% of students are economically disadvantaged. To be eligible, teachers must meet certain eligibility requirements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an undergraduate or graduate program in mathematics or science.</li> <li>• Earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent.</li> <li>• Cannot receive any other state or federal loan repayment assistance.</li> <li>• Must agree to provide eight years of service. The first four years of service must be in a Texas public school that receives federal funding under Title I, while the other four years may be in any public school in Texas.</li> </ul> <p>However, between 2016-2018, a total of 78 applications had been submitted and only 19 teachers qualified for the repayment program. Of the 59 applicants that failed to qualify for the program during that time, 24 of them did not</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>meet the 3.5 GPA requirement.</p> <p>SB 1757 would adjust the 3.5 GPA requirement for eligibility to 3.0 GPA to be eligible which would increase the number of teachers that qualify for the Math and Science Scholars Loan Repayment Program. This would also improve recruitment and retention of math and science teachers in Texas.</p>	
<p><b>SB 65</b> By: Nelson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Geren</p>	<p>Relating to oversight of and requirements applicable to state agency contracting and procurement.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>State agencies usually contract most of their services to private contractors. During past legislative sessions, significant progress has been made to improve the contracting process between the state agencies and the contractors. However, further oversight is needed in order to improve compliance with contracting requirements.</p> <p>SB 65 amends the Government Code to allocate resources to provide more oversight during the stages of contracting applicable to state agencies. The bill amends the provisions to which contracts can be granted and repeals certain provisions that may be redundant for applying for contracts. SB 65 additionally outlines specific items that must be included when requesting a contract to accurately assess why the contract is needed and be eligible paperwork when an audit is completed on the agency. SB 65 outlines the rules and procedures for contracting requirements for contracts between state agencies and third parties are settled properly and consequently have the proper oversight from the legislature.</p> <p>SB 65 increases efficiency and effectiveness in the state's contracting progress.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 54</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to a study regarding the appropriate methods and standards to evaluate certain students participating in regional day school programs for the deaf.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, students who attend Regional Day School Programs for the Deaf are counted, for accountability purposes, as students of the district within whose physical boundaries the program is located, based on the school district in which their parents or legal guardians reside, even though the student may never attend a school in that district. School districts do not have authority over the instruction and assessment of these students, but they are held accountable for these students' academic outcomes.</p> <p>SB 54 proposes a study to be conducted by the TEA to determine the best way to evaluate the performance of students who attend regional day schools. SB 54 would align responsibility for the student with district accountability.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 64</b> By: Nelson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to cybersecurity for information resources.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Cybersecurity Act, from the 85<sup>th</sup> Regular Session (HB 8) was designed to provide feedback through assessments on how the state can better improve its cybersecurity policy. During the interim the Senate Select Committee on Cybersecurity, established by the Act, identified several areas for the state to put its focus on for both improvements and updates to better protect state agency data and how to effectively deliver key services. SB 64 addresses these areas through its provisions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioning a study to incentivize cybersecurity higher education degree programs.</li> <li>• Allowing cities to receive disaster funds to recover from a cyberattack.</li> <li>• Bring Employee Retirement System of Texas and Teacher Retirement System of Texas under Department of Information Resources (DIR) cyber oversight.</li> <li>• Allowing community colleges to receive DIR cyber support.</li> <li>• Encouraging cost-effective Information Security Officer (ISO) services for small agencies and local governments.</li> <li>• Removing barriers to establishing an Information Sharing and Analysis Organization.</li> <li>• Codifying the Prioritization of Cybersecurity and Legacy System study.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

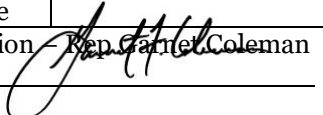
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reassigning vulnerability reports to the appropriate staff.</li> <li>• Analyzing cybersecurity incidents across agencies for DIR review.</li> <li>• Requiring agency heads to acknowledge cyber risks.</li> <li>• Relaxing occupational licensing requirements to foster the cyber workforce.</li> <li>• Improving electric grid integrity by formalizing cybersecurity monitoring at the Public Utility Commission.</li> <li>• Requiring the Public Utility Commission to provide guidance and best practices to utilities regarding third party vendors.</li> <li>• Ensuring ERCOT is complying with applicable cybersecurity and information laws.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SB 132</b> By: Hinojosa</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Longoria   Guerra</p>	<p>Relating to operation of the Texas leverage fund program administered by the Texas Economic Development Bank.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Leverage Fund (TLF), created in 1992 as an economic development loan program, is set to expire in 2022 (with the program's letter of credit set to expire August of this year). Currently administered by the Economic Development Bank within the Office of the Governor, the TLF was established by master resolution to allow for the leverage of financial resources in support of eligible, local development projects under Chapters 501 (Development Corporations) of the Local Government Code. With the imminent expiration of the program, no new loans are being processed.</p> <p>SB 132 provides for the continuation of the program, in addition to necessary revisions to avoid payment shortfall of active loans the mature after the current expiration date. The bill expands eligible projects to include those under 504 (Type A) and 505 (Type B) of the Local Government Code as eligible economic development corporations. This would permit eligible entities the use of pledged sales and use tax revenue from the corporation to secure a loan. SB 132 creates a dedicated Texas Leverage Fund outside of the state treasury. The Comptroller, as a trustee, is required to hold money in the leverage and in escrow and in trust on behalf of the Bank and certain revenue-based bond owners. The bank is required to establish and maintain accounts in same manner as the fund.</p> <p>The fund is sourced from proceeds of revenue-based bond proceeds, repayments of loans, interest earnings, and other sources received for the purpose of this fund. The bill authorizes use of funds for eligible projects, principal and interest on bonds, and related program administration costs. It also authorizes the comptroller to invest funds as permitted by state law and requires related earnings to be credited to the fund. Any revenue dedicated would be subject to legislative review.</p> <p>Additionally, the state's authority regarding the fund is limited to action specified in the bill and in accordance with Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) adopted resolutions. The bill authorizes the bank and TEDTO to issue, sell, and retire bonds (including obligations in the form of commercial paper), to provide funding for economic development, with the provision that the bonds do not constitute state debt.</p> <p>The provisions would take effect September 2019 or immediately if two-thirds majority achieved in both chambers. Implementation of the bill's provisions would be required if legislature specifically appropriates funds for this purpose. If no appropriations are made, the bill permits but does not mandate that the Comptroller, Texas Economic Development Bank, TEDTO, and the Attorney General to implement with other appropriations.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 241</b> By: Nelson</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to certain required reports received or prepared by state agencies and other governmental entities.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has recommended to the legislature, through its biennial review, the need to consolidate the amount of statutory reporting requiring for state agencies and institutions for higher education in order for these agencies to focus their resources on other priorities. SB 241 covers those recommendations through repealing unnecessary and redundant agency reporting so state agencies can focus on other priorities.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		4 Absent	<p>SB 241 removes the requirements for the State Office of Administrative Hearings to provide a monthly status of pending cases or a quarterly report on services by the office for tax hearings. The bill requires each state agency to include an organizational chart showing the structure of the personnel in management in its report to the Department of Information Resources (DIR).</p> <p>SB 241 changes the dates by which each applicable state agency must submit a copy of its information security plan to DIR and changes the recipient of the plan from the legislature to the standing committees with jurisdiction over the matters related. SB 241 removes the sunset commission as a recipient of an applicable state agencies plan for operation, the annual report from a state agency's state auditor and a copy of each audit report.</p> <p>Additionally, SB 241 amends the Education Code, Government Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code, Transportation Code, and Water Code to remove unnecessary reports from the state agencies and revise the recipients of the necessary reports to ensure that the appropriate state officials receive pertinent information. SB 241 streamlines the reporting mechanisms within state agencies in order to allow state agencies to focus on pertinent services they provide rather than be overwhelmed in paperwork.</p>	
<p><b>SB 322</b> By: Huffman</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the evaluation and reporting of investment practices and performance of certain public retirement systems.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments &amp; Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 322 requires the Pension Review Board (PRB) to perform a yearly review of public retirement systems as well as submit a report regarding the system performance. This includes the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). The data collected by PRB will be published on a public website regarding investment practices, gains, and other information. An independent firm will conduct the evaluation of the retirement system in review and the retirement is only subject to evaluation every three years if asset totals are valued at \$100 million +, or every six years if asset totals are under \$100 million but over \$30 million; if a pension system has less than \$30 million in assets it is not subject to evaluation.</p> <p>SB 322 would increase consumer transparencies with investment for the growth of a public pension fund an evaluation of the practice and publication of the funds' asset standing engages enrollees and improves protections for consumers by increasing transparency.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 511</b> By: Rodriguez</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Clardy</p>	<p>Relating to the installation of unsafe motor vehicle tires; providing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Tire blowouts, tire tread separations, and aging/bald tires cause motor vehicle accidents and threaten public safety, especially in warm states where tires wear faster. In the 85th session, HB 2774 by Phelan/Rodriguez created a Class C misdemeanor and a fine for retailers installing unsafe tires, but the Governor vetoed it.</p> <p>SB 511 provides a civil penalty for unsafe tire installation and prohibits businesses and business employees from knowingly installing unsafe tires on motor vehicles. SB 511 states that a tire is unsafe if it has tire tread less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep; a worn spot exposing ply or cord through the tread; has a tread or sidewall crack, cut, or snag on the outside of the tire more than an inch long and deep enough to expose body cords; visible bumps, bulges, or knots related to tread or sidewall separation; been repaired temporarily by the use of a blowout patch or boot; or worn tread wear indicators contacting the road in any two adjacent major grooves in the center or middle of the tire. Persons operating businesses or their employees who violate and install unsafe tires to be operated on public roads/highways can receive civil penalties up to a maximum of \$500.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 10</b> By: Nelson   Alvarado   Bettencourt   Birdwell   Buckingham</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>SB 10 creates the Texas Mental Health Care Consortium which will be used to utilize the resources, expertise, and collaboration of certain health-related institutions of higher education to address certain mental health challenges in Texas. The Consortium will be composed of 13 institutions and health science centers (HSC), including, but not limited to Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&amp;M HSC, two branches of the Texas Tech HSCs, the University of North Texas HSC, Dell Medical School, and institutions in the University of Texas system. In addition, the Consortium will also include HHSC, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, three nonprofits designated by</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>  Campbell                    Creighton                    Fallon                    Flores   Hall                    Hancock                    Hinojosa                    Huffman                    Hughes                    Johnson                    Kolkhorst                    Lucio                    Menéndez                    Miles                    Nichols                    Paxton                    Perry                    Powell                    Rodríguez                    Schwertner                    Seliger                    Taylor                    Watson                    West                    Whitmire                    Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b>                  Zerwas                    Price                    Button                    Allison                    Coleman</p>	<p>3 Absent</p>	<p>the members of the board, and any other entity deemed necessary by the Executive Committee of the Consortium. The consortium will be administratively attached to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The Executive Committee of the Consortium will be composed of the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the chair of an academic department of psychiatry from each of the institutions of higher education                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ This requirement can also be fulfilled by a licensed psychiatrist, including a child-adolescent psychiatrist.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• a representative of HHSC with appropriate mental health delivery expertise appointed by the Executive Commissioner</li> <li>• a representative of HHSC with appropriate mental health facilities expertise appointed by the Executive Commissioner</li> <li>• a representative of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board appointed by its commissioner</li> <li>• a representative of a nonprofit organization that is part of the consortium</li> <li>• a representative of a hospital system in Texas</li> <li>• up to one representative each designated by the president of each of the health-related institutions</li> <li>• any other representative designated by a majority of members at the request of HHSC</li> </ul> <p>The bill clarifies that any vacancy in the Executive Committee should be filled in the same way that the original seat was filled. The Executive Committee must also elect a presiding officer from the membership of the Committee. The Consortium may also designate a member of the Executive Committee to serve on the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council.</p> <p>The Executive Committee will be required to coordinate the provisions of funding to the institutions of higher education they partner with, establish procedures and policies for the administration of funds, monitor funding, and agreements, and establish procedures to document compliance with laws regarding conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The Consortium should also establish a network of comprehensive child psychiatry access centers. Such a center must be established at one of the partner institutions of higher education. The center must also provide consultation services and training for pediatricians and other providers to better care for children and youth with behavioral health needs. Additionally, the Consortium must also establish or expand telemedicine or telehealth programs that provide behavioral and mental health services with a focus on at-risk children and adolescents. A partner institution of higher education is allowed to enter into agreements with a community mental health provider for the purpose of establishing or expanding such a center or telehealth service. If a hospital system has existing programs that provide similar services as a comprehensive child psychiatry access center or a telehealth program, the Consortium may partner with the hospital system to leverage their resources.</p> <p>Any mental health services provided to a minor under the age of 18 may not be provided through a program established under the Consortium without the written consent of the parent or legal guardian of the child. The Consortium must develop a model form for consent and post it on its website. However, this requirement does not apply to certain services provided by a school counselor.</p> <p>SB 10 clarifies that a child psychiatry access center established by the Consortium is prohibited from submitting an insurance claim or otherwise charging a provider for consultation or training services.</p> <p>The Executive Committee is authorized to provide funding for a partner institution of higher education to fund one</p>	<p>OK for Distribution – Rep. Daniel Coleman</p> 
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			<p>psychiatrist and two resident rotation positions. The psychiatrist may either treat adults or children and adolescents while simultaneously serving as an academic medical director. The academic medical director should work with a community mental health provider to expand the availability of mental health resources through training and supervision. Any partner institution of higher education that receives such funding must require their psychiatric residents to participate in rotations through the community mental health provider's facility.</p> <p>The Executive Committee is also authorized to provide funding to a partner institution of higher education to fund a physician fellowship program for a medical specialty in child and adolescent psychiatry and behavioral health. This must be for the addition of such a fellowship position, not the funding of any current fellowship.</p> <p>SB 10 requires the Consortium to prepare and submit a report every two years to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker, and the appropriate Legislative Committees. The Consortium must also post a report to its website that includes the activities and objectives of the Consortium, a list of the institutions of higher education receiving funding from the Executive Committee, and any legislative recommendations.</p> <p>The Consortium will also be required to assist the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to develop a training program for the education of judges and staff regarding available mental health resources.</p> <p>The Consortium is only required to implement provisions of this bill if the necessary legislative appropriations are made. If sufficient appropriations are not offered, HHSC may use other funds for the implementation of certain provisions but are not required to do so.</p> <p>While SB 10 attempts to include mental and behavioral health providers from various backgrounds, there are many professions which all work to address mental health in Texas. The goals of SB 10 could be strengthened by the inclusion of a greater variety of mental and behavioral health fields such as social work, psychology, and counseling. Such diversity can allow for a bounty of professional perspectives to speak to the various aspects of these topics and offer more comprehensive and sustainable solutions.</p>	
<p><b>SB 559</b> By: Miles</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Hinojosa   Walle   Guerra   Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to patient records regarding maternal death.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>There have been concerns that pregnancy-related deaths are not appropriately recorded. Additionally, responses for record requests made by the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force (MMMTF) have seen delays of up to one and a half years.</p> <p>SB 559 addresses these by requiring that when a hospital, birthing center, or other facility receives a request from the DSHS department of records about a pregnancy-related death for a patient, the entity must submit the records within 30 days after receiving the request. The bill clarifies that such a request may only include the patient's medical records.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 560</b> By: Kolkhorst</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to a plan and report on court-ordered representation for certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>During a Child Protective Services (CPS) case the children get appointed an attorney, and if a parent cannot afford their attorney, they will receive an attorney appointed by the judge. All these attorneys are paid for by the counties in which the judge has jurisdiction over. There are concerns that the attorney costs for counties have increased by a significant amount recently and the Office of Court Administration (OCA) does not have a significant amount of data to determine how much the counties are paying for these services.</p> <p>SB 560 required the Texas Judicial Council to develop a statewide plan for reporting the attorney appointments and costs made in CPS cases. The report created must include the total amount of money spent by the county to provide</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		1 Absent	these court-ordered services and any costs related to CPS cases. The report will be created annually and be provided to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house. SB 560 Texas Judicial Council will publish the report online and will only be required to create the report if funds are appropriated for it.	
<b>SB 230</b> By: Perry  <b>Sponsor:</b> Guillen	Relating to a landowner's liability for injuries incurred during certain recreational activities.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	The Civil Practice and Remedies code protects entities from liability from injuries during certain recreational activities. Rock climbing has been a growing activity in Texas but is not included in the code since it is a relatively new activity.  SB 230 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to include rock climbing as one of the activities that business owners will be protected from liability. SB 230 adds rock climbing to activities such as hunting, fishing, and hiking. This allows business owners to have a rock-climbing activity without the fear of being sued.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 706</b> By: Watson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Guerra	Relating to an investigation unit within the Health and Human Services Commission for certain illegally operating child-care facilities.	Human Services  Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	SB 706 creates an investigation unit within the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for illegally operating child-care facilities. The executive commissioner of HHSC must maintain a unit with investigators whose primary responsibility is to seek out and investigate child-care facilities that are operating without a license, certification, registration, or listing required by Texas law. Illegally operating child-care facilities are unregulated, do not go through background checks, and oftentimes are unsafe. HHSC must enforce regulation or shut down child care facilities operating in such a way for the protection of the children in their care. In the past, HHSC had a unit that investigated illegal child care facilities however, it disbanded in 2018. During its 4 years in operation, the unit found over 3,000 illegal child care facilities. In the last decade 42 child deaths have occurred in illegally operating child-care facilities. SB 706 will help ensure that children in Texas remain safe and all child-care facilities in Texas operate under the same general guidelines.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 819</b> By: Nelson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Phelan	Relating to state agency electronic information and processes.	State Affairs  Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	SB 819 seeks to implement the recommendations made by the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to improve statewide information technology strategies and cybersecurity. SB 819 will rename the statewide data coordinator as the chief data officer while expanding their duties to assist the DIR in the development and management of a data portal. Instead of developing and implementing best practices amongst state agencies, the chief data officer will encourage the agencies to collect and post information related to their agency functions on their website or the data portal. SB 819 will require the DIR to: create a Digital Transformation guide to modernize operational processes and services; designate the Texas Open Data Portal as the central repository of publicly accessible electronic data and ensure that state agencies and political subdivisions of the state have shared access to it. SB 819 will allow an employee of an agency to be named the point of contact for information resources, as opposed to the presiding officer or executive director. SB 819 will also require that agencies consider cloud computing service options and compatibility with cloud computing services in the development of new information technology software application.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 562</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> Price   Collier	Relating to criminal or juvenile procedures regarding persons who are or may be persons with a mental illness or intellectual disability.	Criminal Jurisprudence  Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	SB 562 addresses concerns regarding persons with mental illness or intellectual disabilities who are charged with violent or sexual offenses, are found incompetent to stand trial, or are acquitted by reason of insanity and who, in such cases, must wait for prolonged periods of time in county jails without adequate mental health treatment before they are sent to maximum security units and then evaluated to determine whether that is an appropriate setting for competency restoration. These initial placements have been found to be inefficient and unnecessary for those whose placement in maximum security is detrimental to their mental health.  There is widespread support for SB 562 among mental health professionals, law enforcement and community advocates, and its provisions that revise the criminal and juvenile procedures regarding persons who are or may be persons with mental illness or intellectual disability. The bill is designed to ensure that the adequate location for a	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>defendant required to receive competency restoration is determined at the outset, rather than waiting for the defendant to be sent to a maximum security unit before determining the adequate treatment setting.</p> <p>Key provisions in SB 562 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>requires a county that transfers a defendant to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to deliver to a TDCJ designated officer a copy of mental health records, screening reports, or information regarding the mental health of a defendant;</li> <li>limits the facilities for which the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) may designate the commitment of a defendant who is incompetent to stand trial to facilities operated by HHSC or under a contract with HHSC for such purpose;</li> <li>revises the requirement for the civil commitment of a defendant who is incompetent to stand trial and charged with a violent offense other than for assault involving certain conduct or an offense that contains an affirmative finding that it involved the use or of a deadly weapon to a maximum security unit of certain facilities by removing certain exceptions and conditions.</li> </ul> <p>SB 562 also authorizes the assessment of a defendant committed to a maximum security unit by the review board appointed by the executive commissioner of HHSC to determine whether the defendant is manifestly dangerous. The bill limits the facilities which HHSC may designate for the commitment of a defendant who is acquitted by reason of insanity to facilities operated by HHSC or under a contract with HHSC for such purpose.</p>	
<p><b>SB 869</b> By: Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Parker</p>	<p>Relating to guidelines for policies of school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the care of certain students at risk for anaphylaxis.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>According to the CDC approximately 15 million Americans have life threatening food allergies and 5.6 million American children under the age of 18 have food allergies. Allergic reactions can potentially lead to anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that develops quickly in the exposure of an allergen, can involve swelling, hives, lower blood pressure and possibly shock which can be life-threatening. Students in schools who suffer from severe food allergies are at risk for anaphylaxis as fatal food allergic reactions are triggered by food consumed outside the home. Currently, the Texas Department of State Health Services Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis need to be updated to ensure the safety of students who have food allergies.</p> <p>SB 869 requires the commissioner of State Health Services to establish an ad hoc committee consisting of five physicians and the physicians on the committee will provide recommendations to the commissioner to include any new food-allergy management best practices and treatments and include one physician who is a board certified pediatrician. SB 869 will require the regular update of guidelines to include food allergy management best practices and new methods, FDA-approved treatments, and therapies to reduce the risk of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1564</b> By: West</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Klick</p>	<p>Relating to access to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The National Institute on Drug Abuse stated that in 2017, Texas had 1,458 deaths due to opioid overdoses. 1 in 9 Texans suffer from Substance Abuse Disorder, and in 2014 alone, the state spent over \$2 billion in opioid-related health care costs. Between 1999 and 2014, the country saw the rate of opioid abuse among women delivering babies quadruple. One of the recommended treatments for opioid abuse disorder is medication-assisted treatment (MAT) which combines behavioral therapy and pharmaceutical therapy. Buprenorphine is currently a drug treatment used for MAT.</p> <p>SB 1564 requires HHSC to change their Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Services Medical Policy to allow for the reimbursement of prescribing buprenorphine for the treatment of an opioid disorder. This ensures providers who use buprenorphine for MAT are reimbursed for the important treatment they provide for individuals with substance use issues.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p><b>SB 1676</b> By: West  <b>Sponsor:</b> Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to suits affecting the parent-child relationship and the enforcement of child support.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice &amp; Family Issues  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There is currently an issue with the coordination of spousal support and child support for certain cases. Sometimes, the spousal support is not ordered payable to the state disbursement unit which makes it difficult to collect due to lack of sufficient record of the amount required. Through SB 1676, if an individual is determined to pay spousal maintenance and child support, the court making that determination shall order the payment of spousal maintenance to the state disbursement unit.</p> <p>At this time, adjustments for the amount of child support owed by incarcerated individuals may only be done via court order. This results in increased administrative burdens and backlogs in various courts. SB 1676 amends code to state that if a person obligated to pay child support is incarcerated for over 180 days, that is considered a substantial change of circumstances and will trigger a modification of the child support amounts.</p> <p>Issues have been reported regarding the fact that the statute which defines and allows for the use of Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDRO) are in code which deals with divorces and division of property. While QDROs are used to collect child support, stakeholders believe these orders should be in a different section of code to ensure it continued usage.</p> <p>SB 1676 clarifies that, in the case of QDROs, the same court which ordered the payment of child support continues to have jurisdiction to enforce child support and use QDROs to claim child support amounts from pension plans, retirement plans, or other employee benefits. In addition, SB 1676 states that a court which renders a QDRO continues their jurisdiction to amend the order for corrections, change the amount or frequency of payments, or to terminate the order. The court may order an individual who owes child support in these proceedings to pay their attorney's fees as reasonable and any fees charged by the administrator of the QDRO.</p> <p>SB 1676 expressly allows that the party to a child support order (or Title IV-D agency) may petition the court for a QDRO or similar order in the original suit or in any action for child support enforcement. When pertaining to temporary orders, SB 1676 states that while a QDRO or similar order is pending, the court may order a temporary injunction to preserve the pension plans, retirement plans or other employee benefits or a temporary restraining order for the protection of the parties by request of one of the parties.</p> <p>When pertaining to registered out of state child support orders, a hearing to contest its validity must be requested through SB 1676 within 30 days instead of 20 days after the individual is notified of their order to pay child support. This change aligns with the Universal Interstate Family Support Act for other types of cases.</p> <p>SB 1676 states that prior to a worker's compensation pay-out, the entity involved must report the worker's compensation judgement to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). This allows the OAG to pursue child support claims through a worker's compensation benefits. However, the amount retained must not exceed 50% of the benefits.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1017</b> By: Powell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Guerra</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the advisory council on postsecondary education for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>Currently, there are no public schools that focus on higher education for students with disabilities. There are more and more students with disabilities who plan to continue their education after high school, but there are no entities that focus on exploring what barriers people with disabilities experience when thinking about higher education.</p> <p>SB 1017 will require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to change the frequency of which they are required to update the inventory of postsecondary educational programs. SB 1017 will require the THECB to create and advisory council that will make recommendations for changes to support success and achievement for</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		2 Absent	students with disabilities to access higher education including gaps in data and identifying problems and barriers for the THECB that people with disabilities may face when entering or applying to higher education. The report provided to the THECB will include data gathering and recommendations to identify barriers to access for fosters with disabilities. SB 1017 changes the frequency of which the data is gathered from 2 years to every year as well as provide the report to the board annually.	
<b>SB 1056</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> Raney	Relating to the authority of physicians to delegate to certain pharmacists the implementation and modification of a patient's drug therapy.	Public Health  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Collaborative Drug Therapy Management is a collaborative practice agreement that allows a physician to provide a pharmacist with a defined protocol within which the pharmacist may assume certain medication management responsibilities for the patient. This is part of a team-based health care model.  SB 1056 allows for a physician to delegate the implementation or modification of a patient's drug therapy with a written protocol only if the delegation is preceded by a diagnosis, initial patient assessment, and a prescription by the physician. The pharmacist must also maintain a copy of the protocol for at least seven years after its expiration date. SB 1056 seeks to clarify that a physician may delegate certain tasks to a pharmacist but must also offer a protocol within which the pharmacist must operate.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1995</b> By: Birdwell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Paddie	Relating to the review of certain occupational licensing rules by the office of the governor.	State Affairs  Vote: 8 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The U.S. Supreme Court has held that certain state entities may be subject to federal antitrust law by issuing rules and regulations that affect market competition in a way that is anticompetitive. That SCOTUS ruling is cited as the reason for SB 1995, which would require the creation of a division in the Governor's office that would have to review and approve state agency rules regulating occupational licensing to ensure that those rules do not adversely affect market competition. SB 1995 would apply to all agencies with a governing board that is controlled by persons that provide services that are regulated by rules promulgated by the agency. The bill would require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the governor to name a director for the new division in his office and establish criteria to prevent the director from having a conflict of interest that could impact the approval of rules the division must approve;</li> <li>any applicable state agency to submit a proposed rule for review and approval that would affect the business, occupation or profession for which a license is issued;</li> <li>the division to conduct a thorough, independent review of the proposed rule submitted to determine whether the rule impacts market competition in a way that is consistent with state policy.</li> </ul> <p>In the summer of 2018, in a letter to state agencies, Governor Abbott told them to submit proposed new rules to him before they are made available for public comment, saying his staff would review policies before they're published in the Texas Register, much as presidents do at the national level. That would mark a significant expansion in the role of the governor, which has historically been a relatively weak post compared with other states and with the federal government. Although the Supreme Court ruling did not formally require the creation of a new division in the Governor's office, some are concerned that this bill will lead to a more limited expansion in the role of the governor.</p> <p>There is also a concern that an attorney appointed to be the director of the division could override rules proposed by professionals in the field, although the director's decision is intended to be based solely on how the rule complies with SCOTUS decision regarding antitrust laws.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1105</b> By: Kolkhorst	Relating to the administration and operation of Medicaid, including Medicaid managed	Human Services  Vote:	The STAR Kids Medicaid Managed Care Program provides Medicaid to children and adults under 20 years of age with significant disabilities. However, STAR Kids is a relatively new program and there have been many issues with the program including sudden changes of services, inefficient and incorrect medical necessity denials, etc. SB 1105 seeks to address these issues with STAR Kids by updating the program and allowing for efficiency to ensure their	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712

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<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Frank   Klick</p>	<p>care.</p>	<p>8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>participants get the care they need. In addition, SB 1105 enhances protections for Medicaid recipients and increases transparency for MCO practices.</p> <p>SB 1105 requires HHSC to adopt policies dealing with the determination of fees, charges, and rates for payments under Medicaid to ensure that the fee schedules minimize administrative burdens and minimize retroactive payment adjustments for providers. Through developing these policies HHSC shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow for public input on proposed policies from individuals or organizations which provide services under STAR Kids</li> <li>• Develop a fee schedule which provides at least 45 day’s notice of the final fee schedule to the MCOs and the Medicaid claims administrator under fee-for-service to allow them to make systems adjustments for that change</li> </ul> <p>SB 1105 will direct HHSC to request necessary information to determine if STAR Kids managed care program should transition from a regional program to a statewide program. It should be noted that one of the main complaints for other Medicaid managed care programs such as STAR Health for children in foster care was that the single carrier across the state lead to increased issues and a lack of accountability. HHSC will submit a report of this study to the legislature by December of 2020.</p> <p>SB 1105 requires HHSC to develop a definition of “grievance” relating to Medicaid which can be used to report and track issues in the program. HHSC will implement a “no-wrong-door” system for reporting Medicaid grievances meaning the complaint or issue will be tracked regardless of the source. SB 1105 directs HHSC to develop a procedure to resolve any grievances by identifying grievances which are urgent and require immediate resolution and specifying a time by which these grievances will be resolved. Data involving grievances will be collected and categorized to be made available to the public without disclosure of provider or recipient identification.</p> <p>SB 1105 will require HHSC to place data regarding the quality of health care received through Medicaid and the health outcomes of the recipients on their website. This data must not identify or lead to the identification of individual recipients. HHSC may collaborate with other entities to analyze and catalog this public use data.</p> <p>SB 1105 strengthens information contained in prior authorization denials for services. This information must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All details required by federal and state law</li> <li>• If it is for a Medicaid recipient- clear and easily digestible explanations for the denial</li> <li>• If it is for a provider- a detailed clinical explanation for the denial</li> </ul> <p>When HHSC or an MCO receives a prior authorization request which does not contain adequate documentation to approve the request, they shall notify the provider and the Medicaid recipient to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific list of the documentation that is necessary to make a final determination on the request</li> <li>• A timeline by which the appropriate documentation must be submitted</li> <li>• Information on how to contact the Medicaid MCO or other entity</li> </ul> <p>This notice must be sent to the provider through the preferred avenue of contact including electronic notification if possible. SB 1105 directs each Medicaid MCO to perform an annual review of their prior authorization requirements. During this review, the MCO shall take input from providers in their network and ensure that their requirements for</p>	<p>Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
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prior authorization are accurate and evidence-based clinical criteria. SB 1105 expressly prohibits a Medicaid MCO from imposing a prior authorization requirement unless that requirement has been reviewed in the most recent annual review. Reviewing prior authorization requirements every year will ensure that requirements are necessary and not overly prescriptive to favor prior authorization denials. In addition, SB 1105 states that contracts between a Medicaid MCO and HHSC to require the MCO to develop a process to reconsider adverse determinations on a prior authorization request due to insufficient documentation. This process must include the following:

- Allow the provider to submit the documentation required within 7 days of the determination
- Require the Medicaid MCO to review any new documentation submitted and change the determination if necessary
- Allow the provider to discuss the request with another provider who does similar practice

HHSC through rule, will develop a manner to ensure that each Medicaid MCO responsible for authorizing services under Medicaid shall place necessary information regarding prior authorizations on their website. This information shall include:

- Timelines for prior authorization requirements such as the amount of time the MCO must make a determination on the prior authorization request
- An updated catalog of criteria and prior authorization requirements such as the paperwork necessary to make a determination

HHSC shall direct each Medicaid MCO to develop a process for a provider or recipient to contact them to clarify prior authorization requirements and a process for the Medicaid MCO to assist any provider or recipient in submitting a prior authorization request. SB 1105 specifies that this process should not be overly troublesome for the provider or recipient.

HHSC is required to conduct a study on the feasibility of providing Medicaid benefits to children in STAR Kids managed care program under an accountable care organization model, as established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), or another alternative model developed by the CMS Innovation Center. HHSC will submit a report to the legislature by December of 2022 as to their findings.

Currently, recipients enrolled in the STAR PLUS Medicaid managed care program have a 30 day limit on in-hospital stays which are covered under their program. SB 1105 requires HHSC to study this 30 day in-hospital stay limit including the number of recipients this impacts and if this limitation reduces unnecessary inpatient hospital stays or results in any cost savings.

SB 1105 also does the following:

- Directs HHSC to transition from using the current state-issued provider identifier number to using a national provider identifier number to enroll a provider in Medicaid and to process claims for authorized Medicaid services
- Requires that all managed care plans offered by a Medicaid MCO must be accredited with a nationally recognized accreditation organization
  - HHSC may use any information as to the accreditation process for oversight purposes
- Directs HHSC to consolidate their policy manuals, handbooks, etc. into one policy manual to provide clear guidance on policies for providers and recipients under the Medicaid managed care model
- Directs HHSC to develop a consumer-directed service option for children in the Medically Dependent Children (MDCP) waiver program which would allow for service delivery through consumer direction

SB 1105 directs HHSC to request authorization or waivers necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. SB 1105



			requires HHSC to implement the provisions of the bill only if there is appropriated money for its purpose.	
<p><b>SB 2150</b> By: Kolkhorst</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Thierry   Walle   Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the reporting of certain information on maternal mortality to the Department of State Health Services and the confidentiality of that information.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>In light of the federal Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2018, SB 2150 seeks to align Texas law with Federal law to allow the state access to certain grant funds.</p> <p>SB 2150 renames the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force to the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC). It also clarifies that, while a member of the MMMRC is not entitled to compensation, they may be reimbursed for certain Committee related business. SB 2150 also defines a pregnancy-associated death as the death of a woman who dies during pregnancy or within a year of the end of the pregnancy. In contrast, pregnancy-related death is a death of a woman who dies during pregnancy or within a year of the end of the pregnancy if the death was from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or the management of the pregnancy.</p> <p>SB 2150 clarifies that the MMMRC must keep information regarding pregnancy-associated death to the same confidentiality standards as the other incidences that are investigated and reported upon by the Committee.</p> <p>If a health care provider obtains information related to a maternal incidence for the purpose of reporting it to the review committee and in the process discovers a certain violation, the provider will be exempt from any law requiring them to report the violation.</p> <p>SB 2150 also states that DSHS may allow for voluntary and confidential reporting of pregnancy-associated and pregnancy-related deaths by certain individuals including, but not limited to, health care providers, health care facilities, and family members. To this end, DSHS must also post information about how and to whom such information may be submitted. Any such information submitted to DSHS must remain confidential in accordance with the applicable statute.</p> <p>While this language may be stripped from the bill, the amendment added to SB 2150 authorizes the district to impose sales and use taxes in increments of an eighth of a percent with a minimum of one-eighth of a percent and a maximum of 2%. Any election to adopt, change, or abolish the rate of the district's sales and use tax must be called by an order adopted by the district's board of directors.</p> <p>The amendment also authorizes the Midland Hospital District to adopt, change, or abolish a sales and use tax through an election. The district will be allowed to use the revenue from any such taxes for any need of the district, within the boundaries of the statute. However, an imposition or increase of a sales and use tax rate is prohibited if it would cause all the sales and use taxes imposed by the various taxing authorities overlapping the district to total over 2%.</p> <p>Should the hospital district wish to increase their taxes in an action that would put the total sales and tax use of the area above 2%, any election to do so would have no effect unless one or more of the other taxing authorities hold elections to reduce their tax rate to accommodate the hospital district's desired rate increase.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1184</b> By: Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Klick</p>	<p>Relating to eligible participants in the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments &amp; Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1184 would allow for a legal guardian or caregiver to authorize changes to an individual participating in Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience program (ABLE). This would enable the streamlining of services for individuals who may not be able or become unable to facilitate changes to ABLE contract so that long-term care savings remain accessible and solvent.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2104</b> By: Zaffirini</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Veterans County</p>	<p>Defense &amp; Veterans'</p>	<p>SB 2104 would establish the Texas Veterans County Service Officer Task Force (TVCSO) to evaluate the efficacy and impact of veterans' county service officers. The task force would be populated by both House and Senate members as</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by:</p>

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<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Miller</p>	<p>Service Officer Task Force.</p>	<p>Affairs  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>well as the Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations.  SB 2104 would create more insight into the breakdown of services and make recommendations based on those breakdowns per county as they pertain to the veterans affected in that county. This would provide more strategic improvements at a county level backed with state awareness.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1303</b> By: Bettencourt   Campbell   Hall  <b>Sponsor:</b> Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to maps of the actual or proposed boundaries and extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality and certain notices related to expanding the boundaries.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management  Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently during any annexation or expansion of municipality boundaries, all municipalities are required to provide notices on their website, if applicable, and general circulated newspaper of public hearings for this expansion. For Tier 2 counties, with a population less than 200, notification of annexation must be mailed to each effected property owner individually. SB 1303 requires all municipalities to provide a digital map via online website, if applicable, of municipal boundaries and extraterritorial jurisdiction. Tier 1 home-rule municipalities, with population over 5,000 authorized to define the structure, power and duty of local government, must have digital maps publicly available by January 1, 2020. SB 1303 extends the requirements for tier 2 counties, with a population less than 200, to provide mailed annexation notifications to each individual property owner that this impacted by annexation, to all tier 1 home-rule municipalities 90 days after annexation plan has been amended. There These notices must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a description of the area that has been included in the municipality's annexation plan;</li> <li>• a statement that the completed annexation of that area will expand the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to include all or part of the property owner's property;</li> <li>• a statement of the purpose of extraterritorial jurisdiction designation and</li> <li>• a brief description of each municipal ordinance that would be applicable in the area that would be newly included in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.</li> </ul> <p>SB 1303 mandates tier 1 home-rule municipalities to provide hearing notices on website and in general circulating newspapers. The hearing notices must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a statement that the completed annexation of the area will expand the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction;</li> <li>• a description of the area that would be newly included in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction;</li> <li>• a statement of the purpose of extraterritorial jurisdiction designation and</li> <li>• a brief description of each municipal ordinance that would be applicable in the area that would be newly included in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.</li> </ul> <p>Cities like Houston are already providing up to date digital maps easily accessible on city website and printed copies of those maps free of charge upon request. They are also providing required notices on websites and in general circulating newspapers, however these additional substantial requirements, such as mailing to each property owner impacted, can be burdensome and expensive for cities as big as Houston. SB 1303 creates an unfunded mandate for municipalities planning departments by requiring mailing notices to each property owner impacted. Although the intent of SB 1303 is to provide transparency to property owners that are being impacted by municipality expansion, it creates an unfunded mandate that could create increased use of tax payer dollars. SB 1303 does not include any cost recovery for municipalities.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 2117</b> By: Bettencourt</p>	<p>Relating to approval of school district and charter school partnerships to</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>If an independent school district that contracts with an open-enrollment charter school to operate a district campus is eligible for state funding that a charter school is normally entitled to receive, school districts that jointly operate a campus with a charter school are not eligible to receive such funding.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena</p>

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<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Bohac</p>	<p>operate school district campuses and programs and to eligibility for state funding.</p>	<p>Vote: 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>SB 2117 will allow certain districts that jointly operate a district campus or campus program with a charter school to this additional funding.</p> <p>The concern with SB 2117 is that it proposes to have school districts enter into agreements with charter operators to operate campuses and while under current law school districts can already enter into such agreements at the detriment of teachers who were employed on those campuses. SB 2117 will further charter school funding through an increase of funds for a district who partners with an open-enrollment charter school and jointly operates a campus, providing a financial incentive to turn a campus over to a charter school and thus draining more funds from students in the public school system.</p>	<p>(956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1404</b> By: Powell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Klick</p>	<p>Relating to consent to the disclosure of certain information and to other matters relating to newborn and infant screening tests.</p>	<p>Public Health  Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>DSHS currently offers certain screening programs for newborns. However, a parent or guardian of the newborn must consent to the screening before it can be administered. DSHS is also currently required to give the parent or guardian a disclosure statement that states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSHS or a DSHS authorized laboratory may retain genetic material that was used to conduct the newborn screening tests             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information regarding the management and use of the material must also be included.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any reports, records, or information created or obtained by the department will not have any identifying information and will not be released for public research purposes without the consent of the parent or guardian of the child</li> <li>• Newborn screening blood spots and associated data are confidential under the law             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This information may only be used for certain purposes including for statistical analysis, federal certification, quality assurance, or the improvement of the DSHS newborn screening program.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>SB 1404 requires DSHS to create a process for the parent or guardian of a newborn to provide recorded audio or video consent for screening programs including, but not limited to, those for hearing loss, certain genetic diseases, hyperthyroidism. DSHS must determine the manner of storage for these electronic consent records and ensure that the newborn child's attending physician has access to the consent records. A request for the parent or guardian's consent may be submitted to the parent or guardian through either written means or by audio or visual recording. Any birthing facility or individual who is required to obtain such consent is not required to use the DSHS process to do so.</p> <p>SB 1404 requires that the DSHS disclosure statement must be offered in various formats and languages to ensure that the information is appropriately conveyed to the parent or guardian of the newborn.</p> <p>The implementation of the new electronic portal would have a minor fiscal impact. However, DSHS is only required to implement the provisions of this bill if necessary legislative appropriations are made. If sufficient appropriations are not offered, DSHS may use other funds for the implementation of these provisions but is not required to do so.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1504</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> Thierry</p>	<p>Relating to the abolition of the B-On-time student loan account and the allocation of funds remaining in that account.</p>	<p>Appropriations  Vote: 20 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1504 extends the date by which the B-On-Time student loan account is abolished by one year to September 1, 2021, and directs funding for the money in this account. Based on data from the Comptroller of Public Accounts the B-On-Time student loan account will have \$134.5 million at this time. This account is made up of funds that certain institutions of higher education have paid, this bill would allow for all institutions to receive a portion of these funds. SB 1504 requires eligible institutions of higher education use these funds to increase the number of at-risk students who graduate from the institution or the rate at which at-risk students graduate from the institution.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>At-risk students are defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An undergraduate student who has previously received a federal Pell Grant or has met the expected family contribution criterion for a Pell Grant.</li> <li>A student whose total score on the SAT or ACT is less than the national average</li> </ul> <p>Using the funds in this way is consistent with the overarching goal of 60x30TX. If the State of Texas wants to reach this goal additional support to high-risk students is needed. SB 1504 will give this much-needed support to at-risk students.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1572</b> By: Alvarado</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Button</p>	<p>Relating to municipal registration of vacant buildings in certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>A vacant building can be dangerous to a community by housing dangerous animals or for illicit activity. The building may also be hazardous to any curious individual who ventures inside.</p> <p>SB 1572 authorizes the city of Galveston to adopt an ordinance that allows owners to register their vacant buildings through a registration form. This is a permissive ordinance and not a mandate. The city is prohibited from placing a lien on the property solely because it is registered as a vacant building.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 372</b> By: Campbell</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of an open-enrollment charter school to employ security personnel, commission peace officers, and have school resource officers.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The current Texas Education Code provides four different security providers to school districts: School Resource Officers, School District Commissioned Police Officers, Private Security Personnel, and School Marshals. Under current law, only the school marshal program applies to charter schools.</p> <p>SB 372 authorizes the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to employ security personnel and allow the body to commission peace officers just as the board of trustees of a public school district is allowed to do. The concern with this bill is that the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school is privately appointed and therefore leads to charter schools to not being held accountable at the same level as public school leaders as charter school leaders are not elected officials.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1637</b> By: Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Collier   Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the administrative, civil, and criminal consequences, including fines, fees, and costs, imposed on persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of certain criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Regrettably, various fines and court costs in Texas as well as other states create basically a debtors prison, where those who can't pay are forced into jail, while those who can get out. SB 1637 is a step forward in remedying this issue. SB 1637 would allow those who cannot pay their fines or court costs after sentencing to ask the judge to find alternative methods to hold them accountable (community service, payment plan, or reduced fine). SB 1637 protects individuals who appear voluntarily to take care of their tickets are not arrested on Class C warrants for failure to pay. SB 1637 would maintain judicial discretion on sentencing when someone cannot pay. SB 1637 allows some Class C cases to be conducted via phone or videoconference if a person cannot travel to the court.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1675</b> By: West</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of and certain procedures under the Title IV-D program for child support enforcement.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice &amp; Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Child Support Division of the Office of the Attorney General manages and operates the child support program as required by Title IV-D. Federal laws have changed pertaining to child support therefore, SB 1675 seeks to update Texas code to comply with these changes.</p> <p>SB 1675 requires that upon learning an individual owing child support has been confined in a local, state, or federal jail/prison for more than 180 consecutive days, the Child Support Division shall review and adjust that individual's child support to amounts that are based on their net resources during incarceration. However, if the individual is incarcerated due to failure to pay child support or for an act of family violence committed against the child, they're ordered to pay child support for, their child support amount will not be adjusted due to incarceration.</p> <p>When adjusting the child support amount, the Child Support Division must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide appropriate notice of the adjustment to the parties of the child support order</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The notice must include the amount of the adjusted child support and the date which the adjustment takes place</li> <li>● File the notice with the court</li> </ul> <p>A party to the child support order may contest the administrative adjustment no later than 30 days after they receive notice from the Child Support Division and request a review of that agency’s decision. If a party does not contest the administrative adjustment of the child support, the Child Support Division will file the order with the court to be signed.</p> <p>If the administrative adjustment is contested through a request for a review, the agency shall review if the adjustment accurately reflects the individual’s net resources while incarcerated and provide an opportunity to review with the parties affected as appropriate. Once this review is conducted, the agency may notify the parties of its affirmation to uphold the adjustment or its withdrawal of the adjustment. Parties to the determination may file a motion within 30 days to request a hearing to contest the determination in court. The court will render an order to support the administrative adjustment or not.</p> <p>Once the individual is released from jail or prison, the Child Support Division will review their support order to determine if an adjustment is again needed.</p> <p>In 2018, there were federal changes pertaining to IV-D cases which requires a \$35 annual service fee (previously \$25) for these cases with collections of more than \$550. Rather than codifying this number into law, SB 1675 gives authority to the agency to implement the appropriate fee. SB 1675 will allow the clerk sending a nonagreed upon child support order to send the order by personal service or by another service if court ordered.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1884</b> By: Kolkhorst</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the protection of animal and crop facilities; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, if a person steals, releases, destroys, vandalizes, or causes the loss of animals, crops, or their facilities without the owner’s consent there are certain repercussions the person will face but there is not a classified offense for these acts.</p> <p>SB 1884 will expand and strengthen trespass and vandalism laws to animals and animal or crop facilities to ensure a quality food supply from Texas. SB 1884 will identify a clear offense related to cattle rustling making it a prosecutable offense. SB 1884 will create a Class A misdemeanor if there are over \$2,500 done in damages and a Class B is the d amount of damage is less than \$2,500.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that it creates severe penalties for a wide range of activities that often do not merit long jail times or high fines. The concern is that is the bill could be used to severely punish legitimate persons acting in good faith who compile evidence of factory farms violating laws on animal welfare, or pollution control.</p>	<p><b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1390</b> By: Menendez</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Allison   Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to suicide prevention in public school curriculum and certain educational programs concerning suicide prevention and substance abuse prevention.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>According to the CDC, one in eight high school students in Texas reported having attempted suicide at least once in 2017. However, despite their students’ higher risk of attempting suicide, Texas schools do not have the training and plans to effectively address suicide and keep students safe and healthy. Regular training is critical to effectively respond to students at risk of suicide. Under current state law, only new teachers are required to participate in suicide prevention training.</p> <p>SB 1390 will require school districts to provide educators with follow-up training on effective practices related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention which is what happens after a suicide loss. This is critical component in avoiding further suicide deaths, otherwise known as suicide clusters, which are more likely to occur when schools unknowingly use well-intentioned practices that increase the risk of suicide among other youth. SB</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			1390 will include as part of health education instruction on mental health and substance abuse, along with developing life skills among students that reduce the likelihood they will engage in risky or unhealthy behaviors. SB 1390 will ensure School Health Advisory Councils (SHACs) address suicide prevention as part of their advisory roles to districts and include making recommendations on increasing parental awareness of suicide-related risk factors, warning signs, and suicide prevention services available in the community. SB 1390 will direct the TEA and the Health and Human Services Commission to share with districts information on best practices related to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. SB 1390 will also direct districts to have plans in place on how they will support students who return to school following suicide attempt or inpatient or residential mental health treatment.	
<b>SB 2047</b> By: Zaffirini  <b>Sponsor:</b> Miller	Relating to pro bono legal services for veterans and service members.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs  Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	SB 2047 would add pro-bono legal services as a function of funding from grants appropriated to the Texas Veterans Commission. SB 2047 would add the ability to facilitate pro-bono legal services and has no fiscal impact due to the money already being appropriated to the commission.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
<b>SB 2180</b> By: Nelson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Ashby	Relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum and the establishment of a computer science strategic advisory committee to increase computer science instruction and participation in public schools.	Public Education  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Computer science and coding skills are in strong demand in the job market, and industry leaders believe Texas students could be better prepared for the high paying jobs available in this rapidly growing field  SB 2180 would require the State Board of Education (SBOE) to update the TEKS for the technology applications curriculum for grades K-8 and establish a computer science strategic advisory committee to develop and make recommendations to improve computer science instruction in Texas schools. SB 2180 will require the State Board of Education (SBOE), in adopting the TEKS for K-8, to adopt essential knowledge and skills that include coding, computer programming, computational thinking, and cybersecurity. SB 2180 requires the SBOE to review and revise the TEKS every five years to ensure that the curriculum is relevant and aligns with current or emerging skills in this rapidly evolving field. SB 2180 will require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish a computer science strategic advisory committee of 11 appointed members and other members added by the advisory committee and includes a requirement that TEA staff provide administrative support for the advisory committee and that funding for the administrative and operational expenses of the advisory committee be provided by appropriation to TEA for that purpose.  SB 2180 will require the advisory committee to submit to the governor and the legislature a report that includes recommendations that are intended to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the number of certified computer science teachers;</li> <li>• increase the number of public high schools offering computer science courses;</li> <li>• increase the number of high school students enrolled in computer science courses;</li> <li>• encourage diverse student populations to enroll in computer science courses; and</li> </ul> expand computer science learning opportunities, including computer programming, computer coding, cybersecurity, and computational thinking, in public schools.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2322</b> By: Creighton	Relating to rates established by municipalities for water and sewer services.	Natural Resources  Vote:	SB 2322 amends the Water Code to prohibit a municipality or municipally owned utility from setting a higher rate for water to a tax-exempt organization - like a church, non-profit organization or school district - than the rate it charges other customers. In committee, the city of Magnolia opposed this bill and the Magnolia ISD and a prominent pastor supported it, arguing that a differential rate structure effectively cancels out the exemption for	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007

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<p><b>Sponsor:</b> Bell, Cecil</p>		<p>6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>these tax-exempt entities. SB 2322 essentially maintains that should a municipality or municipally owned utility need additional revenue to cover the cost of providing water to its residents, those costs should be reflected in rates charged to all users.</p>	<p>Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 46</b> By: Zaffirini</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Zwiener   Anchia   Button   Davis, Sarah   Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the prohibition against sexual harassment in the workplace.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas law states that sexual harassment is a form of discrimination on the basis of sex, however, protections for employees only apply to businesses with 15 or more employees. In addition, Texas law does not specifically state that sexual harassment is a prohibited within a workplace except in situations involving an unpaid intern. SB 46 places into the Labor Code the following definition: <i>Sexual harassment</i> to mean any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favor, any verbal or nonverbal sexual conduct including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the advance or request is done as a condition of employment (either explicitly or implicitly)</li> <li>• Submission or rejection of the advance or request is used as a decision which impacts the individual's employment in some manner</li> <li>• The advance or request interferes with an individual's work performance</li> <li>• The advance or request creates a hostile or offensive work environment</li> </ul> <p>SB 46 places into statute sexual harassment of an employee as an unlawful employment action when the employer or other employees know about the sexual harassment or reasonably should have known and fail to take immediate and corrective action.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 175</b> By: Perry</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to eminent domain reporting requirements for certain entities.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>SB 175 requires a municipality, county, or special district with a population of less than 75,000 and a public-school district located in such a county to file an annual report with the comptroller's office of that political subdivision's eminent domain authority only if the information has changed from the previous report. Accuracy of the information reported will be confirmed by electronically updating the previously filed report in a manner prescribed by the comptroller.</p> <p>SB 175 implements a more efficient reporting process for those smaller political subdivisions whose eminent domain authority does not change every year and require a report each time there is a change.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1577</b> By: Alvarado</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to a prohibition against the appropriation of money to settle or pay a sexual harassment claim made against certain members of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1577 will prohibit the appropriation of money by the legislature and a state agency from using appropriated money to specifically settle or pay a sexual harassment claim made against an elected official of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government or a person appointed by the governor to serve as a member of a department, commission, board, or other public office within the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government. SB 1577 is a response to number of incidences that have been reported in which taxpayer money has been used to settle such claims.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 429</b> By: Lucio</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In response to a shortage in workers who serve those with mental health and substance use issues, SB 429 states that the Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council must implement a comprehensive plan to increase and improve the workforce in Texas that is available to serve those with mental health and substance abuse issues. To do so, the Council must work under the direction of HHSC and consider all available data including studies, reports, and recommendations regarding this workforce as applicable to Texas or other states. The final plan must include a strategy and timeline for implementation, a monitoring system for implementation, and a method for outcome evaluation.</p> <p>The Council and HHSC must begin implementation by September 1, 2020. However, the two entities are only required to implement the provisions of this bill if the necessary legislative appropriations are made. If sufficient</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			appropriations are not offered, the entities may use other funds for the implementation of these provisions but are not required to do so.	
<b>SB 710</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Toth	Relating to authorization for the creation of a county ethics commission in any county.	County Affairs  Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	SB 710 seeks to repeal parts of the Local Government Code and restrict provisions for creating and operating county ethics commission with counties with a population of 800,000 or more which have international border lines.  SB 710 also will prohibit any ethics commission created before September of 2009 that was appointed by a Commissioners Court.	<b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
<b>SB 1192</b> By: West  <b>Sponsor:</b> Turner, Chris	Relating to the Texas college work-study program and to establishing a program for the off-campus employment of certain students at public or private institutions of higher education.	Higher Education  Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	The current Texas College Work Study Program does not have a heavy emphasis on the 60x30 Texas plan, as it only offers a minute percentage of the available work study opportunities off-campus. There is also not an emphasis on the importance of paid internship opportunities for students attending institutions of higher education, and there are many students who cannot afford to accept unpaid internships just to receive the experience employers require today.  SB 1192 authorizes the Texas Working Off-Campus Reinforcing Knowledge and Skills (WORKS) internship program that will be a separate state-funded program using a portion of the appropriated funds from the current Texas College Work-Study Program. SB 1192 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to contract with off-campus employers to create a user-friendly, centralized statewide database for students to seek paid internship opportunities. The Texas WORKS internship program will greatly help advance the state's efforts of meeting the 60x30 goal for Texas students today.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1130</b> By: West  <b>Sponsor:</b> Dutton   Frank	Relating to the establishment of a task force on father engagement in this state.	Human Services  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	A father's involvement in the life of his children promotes a healthy parental relationship and can lead to better outcomes for the children as they grow. Children with both parents involved in their life are more likely to do well in school, less likely to spend time in the justice system, and less likely to give birth as a teen. It is important for Texas to study the services and supports already present in Texas to determine how best to expand and provide those services to engage more fathers.  SB 1130 seeks to promote and strengthen families throughout Texas by creating a task force on father engagement. This task force will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate supports or services available to fathers</li> <li>• Study the impact of fatherly engagement with their children, families, and communities</li> <li>• Develop a plan to expand services and supports accessible to fathers</li> <li>• Develop strategies to further paternal involvement in Texas</li> </ul> The task force shall consist of members appointed by the governor including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts in child abuse and neglect prevention, community engagement, or community advocacy</li> <li>• Directors of state agencies such as the Department of State Health Services, the Health and Human Services Commission, etc.</li> <li>• Members of local government</li> <li>• Members of service providers</li> <li>• Expert in working with or studying the impact or engagement of fathers with their families</li> <li>• Member from an institution of higher education with experience in father engagement</li> <li>• Member of an advocacy organization across Texas who is experienced in issues related to family violence</li> <li>• Member of a faith-based organization</li> </ul>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of a nonprofit organization dealing with paternal engagement</li> <li>• Member of the House of Representative as appointed by the Speaker of the House</li> <li>• Member of the Senate as appointed by the Lieutenant Governor</li> </ul> <p>The task force will receive testimony and reports from various individuals or organizations regarding evidence-based father education programs and father engagement. SB 1130 will require the task force to evaluate the impacts of father engagement on children and identify barriers to a father engaging with their families to develop strategies to overcome those barriers in Texas.</p> <p>SB 1130 requires the task force to submit a report to the legislature with their findings and recommendations for legislation to increase access to and expand services to fathers in Texas and members of the task force may not receive reimbursement for conducting business. The Department of Family and Protective Services will provide administrative support for the duties of the task force.</p>	
<p><b>SB 939</b> By: Creighton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the limitations periods for certain suits against real estate appraisers and appraisal firms.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Real Estate appraisal is the process of developing an opinion of value for real property. This process is done by a professional appraiser who maintains records as to how they came up with their opinion for their appraisals. Real estate appraisers must maintain those records for 5 years but can be destroyed after that time. There are concerns that the current statute of limitations is too long because it follows the discovery rule. The discovery rule states that if a discovery is requested, the third party has 2 years to bring a suit forward. There are concerns that real estate appraisers are being sued many years after the appraisal has been done and the records for these appraisals have been destroyed which means the appraiser does not have any evidence to defend themselves.</p> <p>SB 939 amends the civil practice and remedies code to set a statute of limitations for a suit to be brought forward against an appraiser 2 years after the person knew or should have known about the erroneous appraisal or 5 years after the day the appraisal was done. This aligns the statute of limitations to the statute of limitations in which records for the appraisals must be kept.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 814</b> By: Seliger  <b>Sponsor:</b> Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of equine dentistry.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>It is not uncommon for horses to live beyond their thirties in optimum environmental conditions. Their teeth, however, are only evolutionarily developed to last into their twenties under optimum conditions. Unfortunately, most domestic horses do not live under those optimum natural conditions in which they evolved. Equine dentistry veterinarians work to prevent the premature attrition of the horse's teeth to put them in a position to live better, longer lives. Equine dentistry is the practice of dentistry in horses, involving the study, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases, disorders and conditions of the oral cavity, maxillofacial area and the adjacent and associated structures. For more students to go into this profession, Texas equine students must currently travel to bordering states to receive live equine dental practice experience while preparing for the licensing exam. Current statute only allows for a veterinarian or a licensed equine dental provider under the supervision of a veterinarian where both are active and in good standing to practice and does not allow for students to perform equine dentistry.</p> <p>SB 814 will add a third option to practice equine dentistry by allowing a student of an equine dental provider certification program who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is completing the practical requirements of the certification program; and</li> <li>• performs equine dentistry under the direct supervision of a veterinarian who is active and in good standing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1941</b> By: Hancock  <b>Sponsor:</b> Holland</p>	<p>Relating to use of electric energy storage facilities in the ERCOT power region.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>New technologies have developed since the unbundling of the electric market into distinct segments. Recently the questions regarding ownership and use of electric storage devices (aka batteries) in the market have necessitated clarification in contract guidelines to permit these devices to be used for transmission reliability purposes. SB 1941 would provide the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), guidance regarding ownership and deployment of these devices in the market.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		0 PNV 5 Absent	<p>With approval from the PUC, the bill authorizes a transmission and distribution utility (TDU) in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region, to contract with a generation company for the purpose of ensuring reliable delivery of electric energy to the consumer. This is contingent on a favorable cost-benefit analysis compared to the construction or enhancement of traditional facilities.</p> <p>The bill would require regulatory authority to review contracts between utility and generation companies in establishment of rates for a transmission and distribution utility and would limit the authority of a power generation company that also owns or operates an electric energy storage facility to sell electric energy and reserve capacity. Additionally, the generation company is prohibited from discharging from the dedicated energy storage facility unless directed by the transmission or distribution company. In this situation, the generation company would reimburse a transmission and distribution utility for the cost of an administrative penalty for breach of agreement.</p> <p>As well as requiring the adoption and implementation of the provisions by the PUC relating to energy storage contracts and eligibility, the bill caps the total amount of storage capacity reserved by such contracts at 40 megawatts and authorizes the PUC to adopt maximum energy storage capacity allotted to each transmission and distribution utility.</p>	
<b>SB 1040</b> By: Taylor  <b>Sponsor:</b> Middleton	Relating to the use of money in the ship channel improvement revolving fund.	Transportation  Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent	<p>The ship channel improvement revolving fund helps Texas ports develop, deepen, widen and improve their channels. The fund may only be used for qualified projects—must deepen/widen ship channel, be authorized by US Congress, and meet standards provided by the Texas Transportation Commission. The Port of Galveston was mistakenly left out of the ship channel improvement revolving fund because the language only includes navigation districts. There is one port in Texas not classified as a navigation district—the Port of Galveston. The Port of Galveston is a city department with responsibilities for part of the mouth of the channel.</p> <p>SB 1040 expands the entities benefitting from the ship channel improvement revolving fund to include municipalities or boards of trustees in certain areas. If the Port of Galveston has a qualified project in the future, SB 1040 allows the option to apply for a loan from the revolving loan program. The revolving fund doesn't have any money in it currently but if it were to be funded, the Port of Galveston should be eligible to apply for loans for qualifying projects in the future.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2231</b> By: Watson  <b>Sponsor:</b> Cole   Howard   Toth   Guillen   Dutton	Relating to the exemption of tuition and laboratory fees at public institutions of higher education for certain paramedics.	Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>Paramedics provide life-saving emergency medical services (EMS), and their role is expanding as Texas tries to bring greater efficiencies to health care delivery. Currently, there is a tuition exemption for firefighters enrolled in courses offered as part of a fire science curriculum at public institutions of higher education. Generally, the degrees that schools designate cover fire services, but they also cover degrees such as nursing, public administration, and emergency management, which are directly applicable to paramedics, but it is not defined for paramedics. Some Texas paramedics have benefited from the current exemption because they are also firefighters however, an estimated 3,000 paramedics work for a political subdivision but are not firefighters, and they are currently excluded from the benefit of tuition exemption.</p> <p>SB 2231 will add paramedics that are employed by a Texas political subdivision to the existing tuition, laboratory and fees exemption for firefighters at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1120</b> By: Lucio  <b>Sponsor:</b>	Relating to health professional continuing education to address communicable and other	Public Health  Vote: 11 Ayes	<p>A county assistance district for counties to use a local sales tax to help fund public services, projects, and programs. Such uses may include but are not limited to improvement of infrastructure, provision of law enforcement, and improvement of libraries. These sales taxes are allowed in increments of an eighth of a percent and up to 2%. However, the adopted rate must be such that the combined local sales tax rate would not exceed 2% at any location</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865

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Guerra	diseases in border counties.	<input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent	within the district. Additionally, under current statute, the commissioner's court of the county will serve as the board of directors for the county assistance district.	Sharon@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1649</b> By: Kolkhorst  <b>Sponsor:</b> Murr	Relating to the provision of funding for indigent defense services and to the representation of indigent defendants in criminal cases.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 8 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 1 Absent	During a criminal case, if a defendant cannot afford an attorney, the court will appoint one to represent them. A court can appoint an attorney through a contract basis for a law firm that has a contract with the court, an assigned counsel from a rotation list or can assign a public defender. Public defenders are nonprofits or government-funded offices that provide legal services for defendants. The most cost-effective and simplest way to represent a defendant when they cannot afford their own attorney is through a public defender and the areas that could benefit the most from public defenders are rural areas. The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) is the commission that provides the financial and technical support to counties to maintain cost-effective defense systems in Texas to meet the need in specific counties. However, there are no provisions in current statute that directs the TIDC to establish more public defense offices in rural areas.  SB 1649 establishes a directive for the TIDC to aid counties for the creation and funding for public defender offices for counties who have a population of 50,000 or less. SB 1649 allows for the TIDC to provide technical support to assist counties to apply for public defenders to be established in those counties.  SB 1649 also directs the TIDC to submit a biennial report to the governor and the legislature detailing the amount of public defender offices that have been created with the help of TIDC and the number of counties that are still not receiving assistance from public defenders. The report shall also detail the amount of fees that have been paid to attorneys as part of attorney fees.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1453</b> By: Taylor  <b>Sponsor:</b> Ashby	Relating to the use of calculator applications in place of graphing calculators in public schools.	Public Education  Vote: 11 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 2 Absent	For certain subject areas in both middle school and high school for math and science, school districts will require the purchasing of graphing calculators that can often be expensive to be used in the classroom or on standardized tests. The current STAAR calculator policy does not prevent the use of secure calculator applications, and because of this schools and districts are often not certain of what is allowed for a standardized test and what is not.  SB 1453 will require school districts to permit students enrolled in courses that require the use of a handheld graphing calculator to use a calculator application that provides the same functionality, unless the school district will make available to the student a graphing calculator at no cost to them. SB 1453 will bring restrictive best practices in line with the 21st century and will save students and parents money and allows for the focus on a broader use of assistive technology use for students with disabilities including dyslexia, autism and other disabilities.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2206</b> By: Kolkhorst  <b>Sponsor:</b> Bell, Cecil	Relating to the availability of certain information regarding the members of the governing body of an independent school district or a public junior college district on the district's Internet website.	State Affairs  Vote: 8 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 5 Absent	In an effort to increase transparency, SB 2206 will require that each public school district that maintains a website to post on it the name, email address, and term of office, including the date the term began and expires, of each member of the district's board of trustees. For those without a website will be required to instead submit the said information to the Texas Education Agency (TEA). Once that information is received the TEA will then be required to post that information on their own website. SB 2206 will require junior college district to post the same information on their district's website and will require that the information be updated any time there is a change.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1772</b> By: Bettencourt  <b>Sponsor:</b>	Relating to a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a	Ways & Means  Vote: 10 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays	To help mitigate the long-term economic impacts of major disasters, SB 1772 and its enabling legislation (HJR 34) would, upon voter approval, provide for property tax exemptions by a taxing unit for qualified property. For the provisions of this bill, qualified property is defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tangible personal property for income or real property improvement;</li> <li>• located in a declared disaster area; and,</li> </ul>	<b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285

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Bohac	disaster.	0 PNV 1 Absent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is at least 15 percent damaged by disaster according to the assessment by the chief appraiser.</li> </ul> <p>The bill would require the chief appraiser to assign levels of damage based on the amount of property affected (15/30/60/100%), with level IV being a total loss. The provisions specify the exemption allows for prorated exemption based on the number of days remaining in the year following a disaster and applies to the property until a change in eligibility or ownership. The owner must apply for the exemption no later than the 105<sup>th</sup> day following a disaster declaration, though the bill permits the chief appraiser to extend the deadline for good cause. The bill requires the chief appraiser to deliver a written notice of the approval, modification, or denial to the applicant within five days of the determination. SB 1772 also repeals the authority of a taxing unit to reappraise at market value immediately following a disaster.</p> <p>For the purposes of the Comptroller's school district property value study (Sec. 403.302 of Government Code), the bill requires the total value of temporary tax exemptions for qualified property be subtracted from the calculation of all taxable property value in a school district.</p> <p>Concerns exist regarding the potential and inherently unpredictable impact on local entities' ability to raise revenue for critical services, as well as the subsequent negative implications for the state's school finance formulas.</p>	Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1879</b> By: Schwertner  <b>Sponsor:</b> Anderson, Charles "Doc"	Relating to firearms training for county jailers.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>All police officers must complete a firearm training to demonstrate their proficiency with a weapon each year to keep their license as police officers. Some county jailers assist police officers with certain duties such as transporting inmates which requires county jailers to carry a firearm. Currently, there is no statutory requirement for county jailers who assist with these duties to complete any kind of firearm proficiency training.</p> <p>SB 1879 amends the Occupations Code and requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to develop a training for the use of firearms for county jailers. SB 1879 requires county jailers who carry a firearm to complete the training and show weapons efficiency while in duty. SB 1879 provides the same provisions regarding firearms to county jailers as police officers have.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435- 9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2305</b> By: Taylor  <b>Sponsor:</b> Bonnen, Greg	Relating to certain functions of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and a study regarding a merger of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan; authorizing a penalty.	Insurance  Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	<p>SB 2305 would move the certification of compliance process to the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) from Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA). Consumers who qualify for TWIA coverage are required to go through inspection home modifications as to maintain the integrity of the building, TDI and TWIA have a disjointed responsibility of the certification process. A consumer would receive an evaluation from a professional engineer and have a record of compliance submitted to TDI. Additionally, TWIA will be required to post a rate analysis of new premium rates at least 14 days before a vote by the board of directors on TWIA's website. The association shall also accept public comment on rates at a public meeting of the board of directors prior to a vote and rate filing with TDI. A study will be established to evaluate the efficiency of the merger between TWIA and the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan (FAIRP).</p> <p>SB 2305 streamlines the inspection process for consumers maintaining coverage from TWIA after home renovations as well as adds an avenue for consumers to have more input on premium increases for TWIA policyholders. A merger of TWIA and FARIP would allow for those who are high-risk and find difficulty finding property insurance, in addition to windstorm coverage, the ability to gain access to both.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
<b>SB 2126</b> By: Creighton   Buckingham  <b>Sponsor:</b> Huberty	Relating to taking sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell from the San Jacinto River and its tributaries.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays	<p>In response to concerns over inefficiencies, SB 2126 authorizes the San Jacinto River Authority and the Harris County Flood Control District to take sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell from the San Jacinto River and its tributaries, to encourage continuous dredging and ensure maximum conveyance of storm waters for improved flood mitigation.</p> <p>The bill further authorizes the authority or district to deposit these materials (taken for such purpose) on private land and does not require the purchase, a permit or a fee for the sand, gravel, marl, shell, or mudshell taken under these provisions.</p>	<b>Favorable, with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org

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		0 PNV 1 Absent	Environmental and sustainability concerns have been presented regarding the broader oversight of river conservation, and the potential statewide implications that multiple authorities and unpermitted excavation might have on the state's natural resources.	
<b>SB 1467</b> By: Hughes  <b>Sponsor:</b> Paddie	Relating to the municipal hotel occupancy tax in certain municipalities.	Ways & Means  Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	In efforts to attract overnight visitors and increase tourism revenue for Queen City and San Benito, SB 1467 permits the use of hotel occupancy tax funds to enhance sporting and recreational facilities subject to certain requirements, regardless of whether the sports facility has met the current requirement of combined total use for sports tournaments (district-level and above) more than 10 times in the preceding calendar year.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 2021</b> By: Miles  <b>Sponsor:</b> Miller   Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to providing access to local health departments and certain health service regional offices under Medicaid.	Human Services  Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Local Health Departments (LHD) throughout Texas provide vital health services for recipients including preventative care, education, and tracking health threats in the community. LHDs often treat patients who are uninsured or wouldn't be able to get health care otherwise in addition to some recipients of Medicaid. SB 2021 directs HHSC to establish a separate provider type for local health departments to be contracted to provide and be reimbursed for those services through Medicaid. SB 2021 will allow LHDs to continue providing important services to individuals in their community by ensuring they receive compensation for the services they provide.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1850</b> By: Rodriguez  <b>Sponsor:</b> Walle	Relating to used and scrap tire handlers.	Environmental Regulation  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	More than 36 million tires are discarded annually in Texas. Dangerous and costly outcomes regarding public health, and environmental hazards result when bad actors improperly transport or dispose of used tires.  SB 1850 addresses this issue by requiring Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to collect financial insurance (or bonds) when issuing registration for the transportation, storage, or processing of scrap tires. The bond/financial assurance must cover the expenses of the immediate remedial/removal of hazardous substances at scrap tire sites. SB 1850 exempts registered used or scrap tire processors using tires for energy recovery at an on-site cement kiln or other energy recovery facility from the financial assurance requirement.  SB 1850 further requires TCEQ to annually issue a registration insignia for each scrap tire transporter and for transporters to display the assigned insignia on each vehicle transporting tires. Finally, SB 1850 requires TCEQ to have used/scrap tire transporters submit annual reports with records maintained by the transporter or they will not receive an insignia.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1719</b> By: Lucio  <b>Sponsor:</b> Morrison   Cyrier	Relating to the allocation of certain state hotel occupancy tax revenue.	Ways & Means  Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	SB 1719 provides for temporary allocation of a percentage of hotel occupancy tax revenue in certain coastal counties (Cameron, Willacy, Kenedy, Kleberg, Nueces, Aransas, San Patricio, Calhoun, Matagorda, Brazoria, Galveston, Chambers and Jefferson counties) to be deposited into a coastal erosion response account. Beginning in fiscal year 2022, the comptroller would be required to compute two percent of the amount derived from the hotel occupancy tax revenue from those coastal counties and to transfer that amount into the dedicated account to ensure continued funding to combat erosion.  The bill specifies the comptroller is only required to implement upon legislature appropriated funds dedicated for specifically for coastal erosion purposes (consistent with the provisions of the Coastal Public Lands Management Act of 1973), otherwise the comptroller is permitted to implement the provisions using other available appropriations. Provisions of the bill would expire in 2031.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 335</b>	Relating to community land	Ways & Means	SB 335 clarifies provisions regarding property tax exemptions and appraisal procedures for community land trusts	<b>Favorable</b>

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<p>By: West</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Rodriguez</p>	<p>trusts.</p>	<p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>(CLT) invested in affordable, low-to-moderate income housing. The following revisions are intended to alleviate uncertainty in the market and encourage additional investing options, both for-profit and nonprofit, in the long-term affordable housing sector. SB 335 permits a CLT to form and enjoy the property tax incentives of a 501(c)(3) limited liability company (LLC) provided it is a that serves only one member, or limited liability partnership (LLP) provided it controls 100% of the partnership interest.</p> <p>The bill also specifies that the property tax exemption by local subdivisions does not have to be readopted annually and will remain active until officially rescinded.</p> <p>SB 335 also addresses inconsistency in appraisal practices of such CLTs across the state. SB 335 requires the same income method of appraisal, aligning the process with other affordable housing appraisal practices. The bill requires a Central Appraisal District (CAD) to take in to account applicable use and limitations in computing actual, and projecting future, rental income. It also requires the chief appraiser to use the same capitalization rate applied to other rent-restricted properties.</p> <p>Additional restrictions on the CAD or chief appraiser include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Codifies 'eligible land use restriction' as an agreement or covenant applicable to a housing unit (<i>must be recorded in real property records, have a term minimum of 40 years, restrict price sold to market value or less, and restrict buyer eligibility on income standards</i>);</li> <li>• Prohibits appraisal higher than the unit can be sold under eligible land use restriction under certain conditions; and</li> <li>• Preserves the exemption and proration of taxes for a housing unit sold mid-year to an income-eligible family if the community land trust retains title to the land.</li> </ul>	<p>Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1140</b> By: Watson</p> <p><b>Sponsor:</b> Frank</p>	<p>Relating to an independent medical review of certain determinations by the Health and Human Services Commission or a Medicaid managed care organization.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Through SB 1140, Medicaid recipients will gain similar protections that private insurance provides by giving them the option to have an independent medical review of any denied services by their Medicaid MCO. SB 1140 requires HHSC to contract with 3 or more independent review organizations (IRO) to review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The appeals of a Medicaid managed care organization adverse determination based on medical necessity for which the review will occur after the internal appeal decision is issued and before a Medicaid fair hearing</li> <li>• A denial by HHSC of eligibility for a Medicaid program based on medical necessity for which the review will occur after the denial is issued but before a Medicaid fair hearing</li> <li>• The termination, suspension, or reduction of services or Medicaid eligibility based on the recipient's medical needs for which the review will occur after the action is issued but before a Medicaid fair hearing</li> </ul> <p>SB 1140 will require HHSC to adopt a procedure for appeals which assumes the health care service ordered by the provider is medically necessary. This places the burden to prove the health services are medically necessary on the Medicaid MCO. HHSC will determine the specified amount of time the IRO must conduct their appeal. For each appeal, the IRO must be randomly assigned to prevent conflicts of interest.</p> <p>SB 1140 requires HHSC to develop a process for an IRO to complete an expedited appeals resolution. This process will allow the IRO to identify appeals which require an expedited resolution and resolve the appeal in a timely manner. SB 1140 clarifies that the IRO must have all necessary expertise in the medical services in question in order to conduct each appeal. The IRO must maintain a website through which Medicaid recipients can track their appeals process and be notified of the final decision for their appeal.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>In addition, the IRO must educate Medicaid recipients about the appeals process, the difference between proper and improper denials of services based on medical necessity and provide information about the ombudsman.</p> <p>The IRO must notify HHSC of the final decision on each appeal. HHSC will review the data as categorized by Medicaid managed care plan and this data will be used to identify patterns and assess if the MCO is incorrectly denying prior authorization requests from certain providers or for certain types of requests.</p> <p>SB 1140 will provide a process for patients to appeal their medical necessity services denial through an independent reviewer who has no financial interest in the outcome of their appeal. This provides added protection for Medicaid recipients and ensures they are getting the services they are owed.</p> <p>SB 1140 provides external regulation and transparency of the MCOs appeals process and holds MCOs accountable.</p>	
<p><b>SB 2299</b> By: Powell  <b>Sponsor:</b> Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of the offense of operation of an unmanned aircraft over certain facilities.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 2299 will include a military installation owned or operated by or for the federal government, the state, or another governmental entity among the critical infrastructure facilities in which an unmanned aircraft will not be able to operate over or near and will be constituted as an offense.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1193</b> By: Flores  <b>Sponsor:</b> Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the liability of and issuance of titles and permits for motor vehicles purchased from motor vehicle dealers that go out of business.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Motor vehicle buyers sometimes go to apply for vehicle titles after they have paid the requisite title fees and find the vehicle dealer the vehicle was purchased from went out of business. There is no protection for consumers who paid necessary title fees when they purchased a vehicle and the dealership goes out of business.</p> <p>SB 1193 protects vehicle buyers in this situation by facilitating the process to obtain their rightful titles by requiring the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to waive registration and titling fees if the customer has proof they already paid them through the dealer. When individuals purchase vehicles, they are given 60-day buyer's tags (the paper license plates people receive while waiting for metal plates to arrive). SB 1193 requires TxDMV to provide additional 30-day buyer's tag permits upon expiration of the original buyer's tag to allow extra time for the metal plates to come in.</p> <p>Furthermore, licensed auto dealers must have surety bonds at a minimum of \$25,000 and it has been that way for a while. SB 1193 increases the minimum surety bond from \$25,000 to \$50,000 to ensure there is enough to pay for the waived fees when a dealership goes out of business and leaves people hanging. This situation is not incredibly common but when it occurs, it's important that people are properly protected.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1779</b> By: Paxton  <b>Sponsor:</b> Parker</p>	<p>Relating to security for state agency information and information technologies.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Strong cybersecurity is vital to government entities as they are the keepers of extensive vital and personal information. SB 1779 aims to strengthen the ability of the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to better protect Texas' records from a cyber-attack by clarifying DIRs responsibility and ability to work with other state agencies to develop best practices in protecting digital information. The bill allows DIR to mandate that other state agencies report to them on cybersecurity issues. The bill requires the information security officer of each state agency submit a report regarding the agencies' cybersecurity each even numbered year.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>