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LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS Calendar – Monday, May 6, 2019

<p>HB 3950 By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the child welfare task force and provision of services in the child welfare system.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3950 creates a child welfare task force to develop a state plan for the implementation of Community-Based Care (CBC) in addition to prevention services for the child welfare system and preserving the family unit. The task force will consist of 9 legislators appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House with the chair and vice chair elected by members of the task force. The task force will meet at least quarterly with appropriate public notice of meetings and may consider public testimony.</p> <p>This task force will identify sources of funding for the implementation of Community Based Care (CBC) and prevention services. The state plan will include a timeline for the implementation of CBC throughout the state of Texas and identify what the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) requires to fully implement CBC such as enhanced technology services, legal services, etc. The task force will also identify the barriers in place which keep the state from using federal or state funds for preventing entrance into foster care. Specifically, the task force will identify placements which may be eligible for federal funds through the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and any other programs/services which could receive federal funds through FFPSA. The task force may request relevant information from HHSC, DFPS, and other relevant state agencies. The task force will submit a report to the legislature by September 1, 2020. Afterward, the task force will continue to review the implementation of CBC and will submit a final evaluation by December 30, 2024.</p> <p>While the task force will request relevant information from state agencies in addition to taking public testimony, the task force needs to include child welfare experts and advocates to provide experienced input from a variety of backgrounds; including individuals from DFPS, attorney ad litem, child advocates, or individuals from child-placing agencies. Including these individuals will promote transparency and ensure the strategic plan reflects the support of experts. In addition, the task force should focus more heavily on the FFPSA which will be implemented by the fall of 2021. With limited guidance federally, it is crucial that Texas review its programs/services and prepare for implementation in a short period of time. Including all FFPSA strategies within the task force's state plan will ensure that Texas receives as many federal funds as possible which are needed for Texas' prevention services.</p> <p>Texas does not currently have any regions in stage 2 of CBC which involves the transfer of all case management services for children in foster care to a Single Source Continuum Contractor (SSCC). Transferring case management services is a huge feat and there are concerns that relying wholly on a private contractor will not result in improved outcomes. Two regions are currently planned to enter into stage 2 by the end of 2020 pending the appropriate funds from the legislature. However, CBC expansion is not currently fully funded and implementing expansion without appropriate funds could lead to negative outcomes in the future. The task force needs to review the effectiveness and outcomes of CBC implementation through all stages and determine best practices for the state moving forward.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
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<p>HB 1353 By: Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to liability of volunteer health care providers and health care institutions for care, assistance, or advice provided in relation to a disaster.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>During natural or manmade disasters, volunteer medical providers are needed in order to assist with helping victims of the disaster. However, volunteer medical providers can be hard to find due to the current liability laws that expose the volunteers and they can be sued during a time of disaster. The current liability laws protect the actual healthcare practice more than the individual and therefore leave the volunteers exposed to liability when acting on their own.</p> <p>HB 1353 addresses these concerns by amending the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to grant volunteer healthcare providers complete immunity when providing health care services during a time of natural or manmade disaster. HB 1353 provides immunity to those doctors acting on good faith but excludes those who act on reckless conduct or intentionally hurt others. HB 1353 assists in having more volunteer healthcare providers available during times of disaster and provides quality healthcare to victims.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 286 By: Thompson, Ed Wu</p>	<p>Relating to promotion of the use of recyclable materials as feedstock for processing and manufacturing.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 286 focuses on educating processing and manufacturing facilities and spreading info on the economic benefits of recycling. HB 286 would educate about how recycling and reusing saves money and resources—the economic focus could increase the number of people adopting the cause. HB 286 is a huge step in making a real movement toward recycling infrastructure in manufacturing rather than just the recycling and collecting waste process that we see in communities.</p> <p>HB 286 requires the commission to join up with Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to produce a plan to promote the recycling market and stimulate use of recyclable materials as feedstock in processing and manufacturing. The plan requires research on current recycling by principal processors and manufacturers to identify where there is room for improvement and opportunity to use more recyclable materials. HB 286 also requires the commission to develop an educational program to be distributed VIA billboards, public service announcements, social media, etc., informing people about the economic benefits of recycling and how to avoid contamination of feedstock.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2726 By: Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the commencement of construction of a project following the issuance of a draft permit for a permit amendment to an air quality permit.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2726 relates to language from SB 1740 from the 79th legislative session regarding construction commencement for facilities before permit approval from TCEQ. SB 1740 was put into statute but the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) informed TCEQ that this legislation violates the preconstruction permitting requirements in the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA). EPA does not allow construction to commence before proper public notice and comment procedures. TCEQ did not adopt SB 1740 into agency rules and it was unlikely that the passage of HB 2726 would change that until the committee substitute allows construction to begin once the Executive Director issues a draft permit. When TCEQ tried to adopt SB 1740 into their rules, EPA declared that at a minimum, there must be pre-approval the draft permit from the Executive Director could serve this purpose) and public notice of the pre-approval. The draft permit would trigger a notice to take public comment. It is uncertain whether the changes to the bill will be acceptable to the EPA, but there is a better chance now.</p> <p>Current code (the code that is not being used yet) allows a person who submits an application for a modification permit to begin construction at their own risk before the permit is fully approved by TCEQ. This language refers to permit applications “for a modification of or a lesser change to an existing facility”, HB 2726 replaces that with applications for permit amendments. Construction can begin while awaiting the final permit issuance once the application is submitted but HB 2726 states that persons may begin construction after they have submitted an application AND received a draft permit issued by the Executive Director at TCEQ. HB 2726 further states that TCEQ may not use commencement of construction to determine whether to grant the permit.</p> <p>‘Modification’ and ‘amendment’ have different meanings. Modification of an existing facility includes any physical change or change in method of operation, that increase air contaminants by the facility. Permit amendments are</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>changes in the method of control of emissions, character of emissions, and air contaminant emission rate increases. The term “amendment” is narrower than “modification or a lesser change” regarding facility/permit changes. This change is limiting because the statute won’t be used for minor alterations and permit revisions because they don’t meet criteria for an amendment.</p> <p>It is a bad idea to begin entertaining the idea for entities to begin construction earlier in the process, before final permit approval. This will frustrate the permit engineering review of applications, TCEQ permit engineers offer suggested physical improvements and if the establishment is already partially built, the opportunity to include suggestions becomes limited. It also hinders public participation in contested case hearings and these hearings lead to improvements in facilities and it’s easier to include those before the building has commenced.</p>	
<p>HB 2416 By: Frullo Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of a workforce diploma pilot program.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2416 requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish a pilot program by which adults can receive their high school diploma. The program will allow entities which grant high school diplomas to apply with the TWC to be providers for this workforce diploma program. These entities should have at least 2 years of experience in engaging with adult students and offer initial assessment/evaluations, courses in literacy and math, as well as courses for career and development skills. The TWC will approve providers of the program for the following year and the provider will be approved to continue through all subsequent years unless the TWC removes them from the provider list.</p> <p>Providers of the program will be reimbursed based on achievement milestones for the students such as if the student completed an industry-recognized credential with training hours or an employment skills certification program. The providers may be reimbursed anywhere from \$250 to \$500 for certain milestones. The provider will be reimbursed \$1,000 for each student who receives their high school diploma. HB 2416 states that reimbursements will only occur to the extent that funds are available to the program. Providers will submit their students’ achieved milestones each month for reimbursement and in the order they’re received; the TWC will reimburse for those achievements.</p> <p>Each provider will submit a yearly report containing the number of students who achieved reimbursable milestones, the number of credits earned by the students, the number of employability skills certification programs completed, the number of industry-recognized credentials, and the number of students who obtained a high school diploma. The TWC will establish minimum performance standards which each provider will need to meet. These minimum standards should include a graduation rate of at least 50% and not cost more than \$7,000 per graduate. The TWC will review each provider on a yearly basis and place providers on a probationary status if they do not meet these standards. If a provider doesn’t meet the standards for 2 consecutive years, that provider will be removed from the provider list. The TWC will submit a report as to the effectiveness of the program and a recommendation if it should be continued, expanded, or ended.</p> <p>Around 1 in 6 working age individuals in Texas do not have a high school diploma. High school diplomas result in greater access to quality and high paying jobs and make it easier to apply for a 2 or 4-year college. While this pilot program may incentivize programs to participate, these programs are already providing assistance to adult students without the added incentives. In addition, there are many existing programs which are free to adult students. This workforce diploma pilot program should consider only accepting providers that do not charge for their services as the cost of services can be a significant barrier for low-income individuals to pursue their high school diploma.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 3207 By: Deshotel</p>	<p>Relating to the maritime port plans, reports, and programs prepared by the Port Authority Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Transportation Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>It is hard to decipher requirements for the Port Authority Advisory Committee (PAAC)—a nine-member committee that advises and updates Texas Transportation Commission about policy and Texas maritime ports—because the ultimate report is similar to the Port Capital Program (which is another similar report); it would be beneficial to see some clarity on their separate roles.</p> <p>HB 3207 reduces ambiguity by combining the reports into the two-year Maritime Port Mission Plan—defines goals/objectives concerning maritime port facilities and intermodal transportation systems— which PAAC will submit to Texas Transportation Commission, Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker. This increases efficiency and minimizes duplicitous reports.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3258 By: Minjarez Bernal Pacheco Allison Gervin- Hawkins</p>	<p>Relating to an authorization to increase the sales and use tax collected in an advanced transportation district of a metropolitan rapid transit authority.</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3258 allows for an additional 0.5% Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) sales tax for advanced transportation and mobility enhancement in advanced transportation districts (ATD). The tax increase would have to be petitioned for, and approved at an election, and would not count against the two-cent hard cap on combined local sales tax rates. The bill lays out election requirements and procedures and prohibits the adoption of an increase if it results in more than 2.5 percent combined local tax rate in any location in the district. Currently, San Antonio ATD is the only district with a transit authority imposed sales and use tax at 0.25%; the 0.5% increase would yield roughly \$155 million in annual revenue. While this is the first permitted increase over the two-cent local sales and use limit, the bill provides the local voters the chance to determine the solution to a local problem.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3603 By: Martinez Fischer</p>	<p>Relating to derivative proceedings on behalf of for-profit corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>A derivative proceeding is a legal action that is brought forward by the owner of an entity on behalf of the entity against a third party. These lawsuits have been increasing in numbers due to increasing shareholders complexity. A derivative proceeding can be brought against other owners if the entity if needed. The Business Organizations Code uses provisions for these lawsuits for corporations, Limited Liability Companies, and Limited Partnerships but uses outdated language used in previous statutes before the Business Organizations Code existed. There are concerns that the current code does not provide uniformity for these types of entities.</p> <p>HB 3603 amends the Business Organizations code in order to provide clarity and uniformity for corporations, LLC's, and LC's during derivative proceedings. Under HB 3603 all derivative proceedings coming from shareholders of a corporation, members of an LLC, or LC's will follow the same demand requirements, waiting periods and claim their administration is done by business entities. HB 3603 includes that owner assignee (a person who receives transfer of a company) is included to the availability of bringing a derivative action forward.</p> <p>HB 3603 maintains most of the conditions required for small businesses (business with 35 owners or less) to bring forward a derivative action. However, in order to prevent abuse, HB 3603 limits the actions and claims that may be made against small businesses to only claims against directors, managers, general partners, officers, and other owners. This protects small businesses and directs derivative actions to just the owners.</p> <p>HB 3603 requires for a third party, through an analysis of the case, to determine whether an entity will proceed with the derivative action or reject it. HB 3603 also clarifies that Texas statutes and procedures must be used for derivative actions for non-Texas entities or foreign corporations.</p> <p>HB 3603 provides oversight for all LLC's, LC's, and corporations for derivative lawsuits. HB 3603 provides uniformity with derivative proceedings and keeps the Business Organizations Code fair for all entities.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 1936 By: Rose Zerwas Thompson, Senfronia Coleman Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of the death penalty to a capital offense committed by a person with severe mental illness.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>It has been argued that the same ruling made by the Supreme Court of the United States on the unconstitutionality of the death penalty for those with an intellectual disability can also be made for those with severe mental illnesses. Their ruling was based on medical science that has shown that those individuals with an intellectual disability do not have the same level of rational judgement, understanding or self-control as do others who commit murder, which diminishes the individuals' personal culpability. Many of those same factors apply when discussing individuals with certain severe mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder and bipolar disorder.</p> <p>HB 1936 establishes that a defendant who at the time of the commission of a capital offense was a person with severe mental illness may not be sentenced to death. A person with severe mental illness, as defined within HB 1936, means a person who has schizophrenia, a schizoaffective disorder, or a bipolar disorder, and as a result of that disorder, has active psychotic symptoms that substantially impairs the person's capacity to: appreciate the nature, consequences, or wrongfulness of the person's conduct; or exercise rational judgement in relation to the person's conduct.</p> <p>HB 1936 would establish procedures for a defendant to have the opportunity to prove that they had a severe mental illness at the time of the offense which would then require the jury to make the determination of severe mental illness at trial through a special verdict, which is separate from the jury's verdict of guilt or innocence.</p> <p>HB 1936 also states that the provisions laid out will only be applicable to trials that commence on or after the bill's effective date, regardless of whether the alleged offense was committed before, on, or after that date.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
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LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE Calendar – Monday, May 6, 2019

<p>HB 12 By: Davis, Sarah Harless Price Zerwas Guerra</p>	<p>Relating to early childhood intervention services.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) program serves young children (0-3 years old) who have medical conditions, developmental delays, and/or disabilities by providing therapies to children and skills intervention training to their parents. Quality early interventions have been proven to impact the development of young children leading to better outcomes and decreasing their need for additional services later in life. As a result, ECI services result in fewer costs spent on special education services later in life. Through federal requirements, ECI providers must serve all children who are eligible for services. ECI providers are struggling to continue to provide services due to low reimbursement rates, loss of other providers to distribute the burden (Texas lost 18 providers in the last 10 years), lack of quality therapists in certain areas, and the expansiveness of their service areas in Texas. HB 12 creates a telehealth pilot program for ECI services in Texas, creates an ombudsman for providers, and creates a workforce development fund for ECI providers to better support providers and increase access to ECI services.</p> <p><u>Ombudsman for Providers</u> HB 12 creates an ombudsman for ECI providers to assist providers with issues that arise in their ability to provide services for children in Texas. The ombudsman will assist in complaint services, advocate for providers, compile complaint data, and submit a report to HHSC with the data and recommendations to improve services. HB 12 requires HHSC to consult with federal entities for insight on the reimbursement methodology for the ombudsman services.</p> <p><u>Tele-connective Pilot Program</u> HB 12 creates a tele-connective health program for ECI services through access points established within regions that have an education service center. Families participating in the program will receive necessary iPads/laptops and internet connection to receive services remotely. These regions will be selected by HHSC and the TEA to participate in the pilot program taking into account whether the region has an inadequate number of providers or may be at risk to</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
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			<p>lose service providers. Federal guidelines require ECI services be provided in a familiar setting for the child and this pilot program allows services to be done through a school access point or in the home. Providers through the tele-connective pilot program will be reimbursed comparable to similar services provided under Medicaid. Children are automatically enrolled in the tele-connective pilot program, but their parent may opt out of the program at any time. The tele-connective pilot program will be HIPPA compliant and maintain the confidentiality of all recipients.</p> <p>Implementing a telehealth aspect to services which is reimbursable allows ECI providers to increase access to services in remote areas of Texas and reduce the burden of travel expenses that providers were paying out of pocket for. In addition, this pilot program does not prevent the child from receiving ECI services in person, allowing providers to utilize the telehealth services when needed but still implement services in person if necessary. HHSC is required to explore all funding options through federal entities to support the program and the program will submit a report to the legislature evaluating the services and recommendations for its continuance or expansion.</p> <p><u>Workforce Development Grants</u> HHSC will apply for federal funds to establish a workforce development program for ECI providers to receive grants for provider education and training to improve ECI service delivery.</p> <p>HB 12 requires HHSC to consult with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to determine the best course of action to provide ECI services to children whose private insurers do not cover ECI benefits. Most children receiving ECI services are covered through Medicaid, however, around 30% of children receiving benefits have private insurance. Private insurance oftentimes does not cover ECI services and families must pay out of pocket for these services; resulting in many families opting out of ECI services. HHSC will submit their findings to the legislature regarding the cost and feasibility of expanding coverage for those children.</p> <p>HHSC is required to get the necessary authorizations through federal entities and any waivers needed to implement HB 12 prior to the actual implementation.</p>	
<p>HB 4347 By: Anchia Bonnen, Greg Zerwas Moody Turner, Chris</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to use certain tax revenue for hotel and convention center projects and other qualified projects.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4347 is an omnibus bill revising the bracketing qualifications to expand the proven convention center hotel 10-year rebate program on state hotel occupancy and certain state sales taxes. As convention center hotel rooms tend to generate less revenue than standard occupancy rooms, this would allow more municipalities to incentivize construction without having to individually propose legislation that has resulted in multiple bills and the current piecemeal legislation. HB 4347 would also remove the sunset process for the program.</p> <p>HB 4347 specifies the credit only applies to the qualified hotels with convention areas 10k square feet or larger (or to help in the construction of one) though must not be located within the hotel and, unless the population exceeds 175k, is limited to one project per bracketed city unless population exceeds 175k. In addition to construction or requirement of a convention area, the credits may also be applied to certain qualified facilities including restaurants, bars or retail facilities, if within 1,000 feet of the hotel. Other local eligibility provisions are outlined regarding area-specific facility needs like pools and proximity to sporting stadiums.</p> <p>The public-private rebate partnership helps encourage initial investment and maximize economic return for the municipality. Hilton Americas in Houston served as a model example returning 66% of the \$40 million credit in 5 years and 133% in hotel occupancy and sales tax revenue alone by year ten; this doesn't include indirect revenue, other local tax revenue, job creation, etc. This is beneficial to Texans as these facilities foster tourism, allow for a larger out-of-state tax revenue stream and encourage additional retail development.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>

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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE Calendar – Monday, May 6, 2019

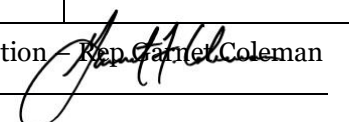
<p>HB 3609 By: Martinez Fischer</p>	<p>Relating to the filing of an assumed name certificate by certain business entities.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>An assumed name is a name that is not the same as the legal name of a business entity. For example, if one's business was officially called "Dunkin Donuts," but decided to rebrand and also go by just "Dunkin," the former would be the legal name while the latter would be the assumed name. The assumed name may also be known as the fictitious name or the DBA, which stands for "doing business as." This provides businesses the flexibility to change branding or business persona without having to create a new business entity.</p> <p>Currently, business entities who are operating under an assumed name are required to file an assumed name certificate with both the Texas Secretary of State and the county clerk in the appropriate counties. The requirement for filing at multiple levels of government has been seen as unnecessary since the certificates filed with the Texas Secretary of State are made public through their website. HB 3609 addresses this redundancy by removing the requirement for filing on the county level. The bill language also repeals certain sections of the Code to ensure that the Code is consistent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3557 By: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to civil and criminal liability for engaging in certain conduct involving a critical infrastructure facility; creating criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, a critical infrastructure facility is a facility in which functions are so essential that their interrupted, damaged, or destroyed equipment could cause severe economic loss as well as could impact the state's security. Currently, anyone who trespasses on a critical infrastructure facility is charged with a misdemeanor offense and can face up to 1 year of incarceration as well as a fine of up to \$4,000 dollars. There are concerns that harsher penalties should be charged to those who trespass onto these critical infrastructure facilities.</p> <p>HB 3557 amends the Government Code to expand the definition of trespassing to state that the offense is trespassing with intent to damage a critical infrastructure facility including those who are under construction. By expanding the definition, HB 3557 also expands the charge of the offense to a second-degree penalty whose punishment includes imprisonment from 2 to 20 years and a fine up to \$10,000 as well as any liability for the damage. HB 3557 requires a court to hold an organization with connections to the crime to pay a fine of 1 million dollars as well as pay for any damages caused to the facility. HB 3557 holds any corporation, nonprofit, or individual liable for any damage caused to these facilities when trespassing.</p> <p>There are concerns with HB 3557 in that it creates a harsher penalty that does not fit the crime. Under HB 3557 the act of trespassing receives the same punishment as someone who commits aggravated assault. HB 3557 also imposes extremely harsh civil penalties on nonprofit groups who participate in a peaceful protest because of the members being involved in the said protest. HB 3557 also classifies defacing a critical structure facility a second-degree felony, which means that graffiti or simply putting a sticker on these facilities can be punishable with 2-year imprisonment as well as a \$10,000 fine.</p> <p>There are additional concerns due to the lack of language in HB 3557. If a pipeline is being built on someone's private property, a protest on said private property can be seen as trespassing onto the critical infrastructure facility. Under HB 3557 organizations can also be charged with the \$1 million dollar fine even if they impede with a project outside of the facilities perimeter. This means that if an organization sues a company, writes letters to elected officials, or fundraise against a project, they can be charged with impeding with a project.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3652 By: Turner, Chris</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a state repository for open educational resources by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes</p>	<p>Purchasing college textbooks and material can add on to the pile of debt students across the nation are facing, and often the cost of accessing textbooks and material can impact a student's ability to complete assignments. Students who cannot afford to pay upfront the cost of textbooks and materials often delay the purchasing of them until they can financially afford them if they can. Open Educational Resources (OERs) are a way for students to access material freely as a means for students who cannot otherwise afford to purchase textbooks and material. Currently,</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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		<p>0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>information about OERs and resources are decentralized and can often be difficult for universities or school districts to gain access.</p> <p>HB 3652 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to create a contract with an OER repository to centralize information and maintain a state repository for OERs. The central hub for OERs that the THECB will develop can aid students in accessing a multitude of resources such as textbooks, full courses, and videos. HB 3652 ensures that the resources that are state funded will be available through a Creative Commons License for the OER.</p>	
<p>HB 4388 By: Murphy Huberty Capriglione Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the management of the permanent school fund by the School Land Board and the State Board of Education.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4388 adds language to the Education Code to amend the procedure for a new liquid asset fund managed by the State Board of Education (SBE). Funds would be pulled from the State Land Board to allow for financial stability in the Permanent School Fund. There would be production of quarterly reports exchanged between the SBE and the School Land Board (SLB) to create more financial transparency between the organizations. With the creation of a liquid fund to be managed by the SBE with provisions that the evaluation of fund use occurs every 90 days for the SLB to ensure no shortfalls in the budget.</p> <p>HB 4388 allows for access to liquid funds to be directly invested by the SBE and SLB to enhance revenue generation for public schools. The projected return would be \$325 million in 5 years.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 233 By: Krause Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to the scheduling of the first day of school for students by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 5 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Tourism industry would be benefited by families, who have the access, ability, and financial means to participate in summer activities, and have children enrolled in public school who start school later and end earlier.</p> <p>HB 233 creates a start date for open-enrollment charter schools at the 3rd Monday in August, and ISDs the 4th Monday in August. HB 233 prohibits the last day of school to be before May 15th or after the Friday preceding Memorial Day.</p> <p>The concern with HB 233 is that it contributes directly to academic inequality. Strong research suggests the summer slide, or summer learning loss, greatly impacts student's retainment of information across the board. HB 233 would extend the gap for the summer learning loss which primarily affects students of low-income backgrounds and their retainment of reading skills. HB 233 also affects underperforming schools who will lose out on instructional time to prepare for state assessments. HB 233 will impact students who often find their only source of a meal from the lunch provided at school and will decrease the amount of time a hungry child spends in school where they will receive a meal.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4733 By: González, Jessica</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Oak Farms Municipal Management District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4733 provides for the creation of the Oak Farms Municipal Management District (MMD), which will be in the Dallas area. Typically, such bills creating MMDs go through the Local and Consent Calendar. However, this particular bill will be going through the General Calendar due to an amendment that is expected to be brought on the floor. The bill meets the template for the creation of MMD.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 1968 By: Anderson, Charles "Doc" Johnson, Julie Davis, Sarah Vo Paul</p>	<p>Relating to coverage for treatment of craniofacial abnormalities under certain health benefit plans.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1968 adds language to the Insurance Code to include coverage of constructive surgery relating to craniofacial abnormalities also known as Cleft Palate. Language is included to clearly define coverage in certain insurance plans for the correction of the abnormality as well as follow up care or procedures related to the abnormality. Without addressing the abnormalities early, there can be long-term problems that inevitably end up more costly to the provider and the individual.</p> <p>HB 1968 provides improved consumer protection and long-term care for those with cleft palate. With clearer definitions of coverage as well as follow up care, an individual can live more productively and avoid long term consequences of leaving the cleft palate untreated.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2068 By: Nevarez</p>	<p>Relating to exemption from jury service of tribal council members of and legislative employees for certain tribal governments.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 2 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Jury duty is part of our civic duty as residents of this state. However, certain populations have the option to be exempted from Jury service and not have to comply with the jury summons. An elected official in the state of can choose to be exempt from participating in jury service however, this law does not apply to everyone. Members or employees of the legislative tribes of federally recognized tribes in Texas do not qualify for this optional exemption.</p> <p>HB 2068 amends the government code in order to allow tribal council members or employees of the legislative branch of a federally recognized tribe in Texas to be exempt from Jury service. HB 2068 applies uniformity with the legislative branch of the tribes as well as the legislative branch of the state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 974 By: Metcalf Huberty Allen González, Mary Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to public school safety measures and procedures.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Under current law school districts have the option to establish entry procedures to allow a person to enter a school campus. School districts perform safety audits every 3 years with extensive reviews of all parts of the system. Without question, every legislator wants to provide a safe and secure campus where students can learn without fear. However, HB 974, if enacted as reported from committee, could have unintended consequences unless certain concerns are addressed.</p> <p>HB 974 requires every school district to conduct a security audit every two years instead of every three years as currently required. The bill also requires all visitors to show a government-issued photo ID when they enter a school campus, except for school-sponsored events open to the public. HB 974 will also require the school to verify if the visitor is not on the sex offender registry list, except for school-sponsored events open to the public.</p> <p>The serious concerns with this bill are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In large school districts, it takes as much as two years to complete a comprehensive security audit, and the two-year requirement in this bill would mean districts would have to absorb the cost of a continual audit process in these districts. The fiscal note confirms that this bill will mandate additional costs for local school districts. The photo ID requirement in HB 974 could negatively impact parental involvement by parents of students who do not have the means or ability to attain a government-issued photo ID to that would be needed for parents to enter the school for numerous events and meetings that are not open to the public unless the school developed a system to issue ID to parents, which is not provided for in this bill. <p>Lastly, HB 974 does not apply these security standards to charter schools and leaves charter school students without these protections.</p> <p><u>The author intends to amend HB 974, as well as work with Rep. Mary Gonzalez in order to improve the bill. These</u></p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

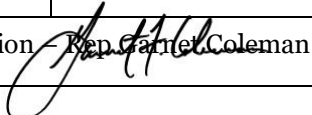
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			amendments, if adopted, would significantly improve the bill and address the concerns by opponents. If amendments by Metcalf and Rep. Mary Gonzalez are adopted, HB 974 would be favorable.	
HB 1590 By: Howard Morrison Neave Hunter Miller	Relating to statewide policies and practices, personnel training, evidence collection and preservation, and data collection and analysis regarding the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of sexual assault and other sex offenses.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In Texas, there is a current backlog of rape kits as well as an alarming number of sexual assaults per year. Consequently, there is a concern regarding confusing and conflicting definitions and the lack of progress being made on these issues. There have been reports that women have traveled to different hospitals to get a rape kit exam done due to confusion as to who can conduct the exam and who cannot. The additional funding that has been allocated to fix the backlog of the rape kits has not been helpful in clearing the confusion that comes with the issue and does not help clear up different definitions. HB 1590 amends the Government Code to require the governor to establish the Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force. This task force will be made up of a steering committee that will include the Governor’s office, the Texas Alliance Against Sexual Assault and the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas. The task force will be in charge of developing a survivor-centered approach that will develop a standard of best practices for funding and delivery of sexual assault services. HB 1590 allows for victims to find relief in a faster manner and allow them to find services in the most efficient way possible. The task force will be in charge of conducting a biannual survey of the services provided in each region of the state in order to assess how the services are being provided. HB 1590 instructs the task force to create a biennial report on the progress on the services for sexual assault victims as well as progress made into the goals of decreasing the number of crimes committed and decreasing the backlog of rape kits. HB 1590 creates the Sexual Assault Survivors Task Force in order to bridge all of the legislative processes that have been passed in order to fix the backlog of rape kits, streamline services to victims, and provide the best practices to conduct the rape exams for victims.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 1897 By: Bonnen, Greg	Relating to dispute resolution for certain claims arising under insurance policies issued by the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan Association; authorizing fees.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1897 intends to make it more difficult for people filing claims and result in reducing the amount of litigated insurance claims received by the Texas FAIR Plan Association (TFPA). Language is included to close the timeline for filing a claim against TFPA to one year from the time of loss, allowing TFPA to respond by 60 days of receipt of the claim or receipt of information. Additionally, if a claimant wants to dispute a loss coverage amount, they must request a detailed summary from TFPA detailing the coverage with loss and furnish an appraisal of the loss within 60 days. Provisions of the appraisal are that the claimant and TFPA will split the cost as well as requesting for an extension if need be within 15 days. HB 1897 places new roadblocks to collecting on valid insurance claims in the FAIR Plan by requiring pre-dispute arbitration. This would be on top of both financial and time barriers already stacked against the claimant who may have other external barriers from being able to rebuild their homes and being properly compensated.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1832 By: Johnson, Julie Oliverson Lambert	Relating to prohibited practices relating to health benefit plan coverage for emergency care.	Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1832 adds language to the Insurance Code to require managed care organizations to place emergency care under coverage without a review if the patient’s medical condition requires emergency care. The bill would also be included to establish that the act of making health benefit plan coverage for an emergency care claim be contingent on a “utilization review” determination that the patient’s condition actually necessitated emergency care be an unfair method of competition or an unfair or deceptive act or practice in the insurance business. HB 1832 would allow for more consumer protection when faced with a medical emergency or a medical event that requires immediate attention when primary care may not be readily available to the patient.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org

<p>HB 1917 By: Murphy Zerwas Phelan Thompson, Senfronia Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the disaster response loan fund and the permissible uses of that fund; making an appropriation; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1917 creates the Disaster Response Loan Fund (DRLF) to provide short-term loans or “bridge loans” to local governments for disaster relief and recovery outside of the treasury. Funds from the federal government can be slow, sometimes taking months to years for disbursement. This bill will allow local governments to begin recovery projects quicker, resulting in lower costs and safer communities. All payments of loans, including interest, will go back into the fund making it self-sustaining with a one-time appropriation of \$1 billion from ESF. If the fund reaches an amount of less than 75% of its initial amount, loans will be suspended. Upon passage of HB 1917, ¾ of the fund will be available immediately to help with recent disasters. This bill gives the Comptroller the ability to issue a fee to cover application processing costs. Additionally, the Comptroller must prepare a report on the fund to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and each member of the Legislature. The DRLF is expected to have a positive fiscal impact on counties, depending on the amount of funding and interest rates provided.</p> <p>To be eligible for the loan, a local government must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be located wholly or partly in a declared disaster area • Have money guaranteed by the federal government (FEMA) and the comptroller • Submit proof of evidence that the local government has staff, policies, and procedures to complete the project • Submit a description of the project and an estimated cost of the project • Submit a statement or estimate of the amount of federal funds to be received 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4548 By: Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the creation and operations of health care provider participation programs in certain counties bordering two populous counties.</p>	<p>County Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the <i>Health and Safety Code</i> does not yield any authority to a governing county body to create and operate local health care provider participation programs that are not served by a hospital district or public hospital.</p> <p>HB 4548 seeks to amend current law by allocating power to a commissioner’s court to create the actual program where the county is not served by a hospital district or public hospital, with a population less than 600,000, and borders two counties with a population more than one million (bracketed for Ellis County).</p> <p>The amendment provides the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines the power and duties of the commissioner’s court for establishing an LPPF. • Requires an annual public hearing on the amounts of mandatory payments and how the revenue should be spent • Sets mandatory payments by governing laws that are in direct correlation to relevant county property taxes • <p>Proponents and stakeholders of HB 4548 seem to believe that the proposed legislation will enhance the livelihoods of county residents, especially those who have been categorized as indigent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 2576 By: Johnson, Jarvis</p>	<p>Relating to prescribing and dispensing certain controlled substances to patients diagnosed with sickle cell disease.</p>	<p>Public Health Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Due to concerns about controlled substance abuse, both prescribers and dispensers are required to verify a patient's prescription history before prescribing or dispensing certain controlled substances including opioids, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, and carisoprodol. This procedure is in place to screen for any potential pattern of previous prescription drug abuse. However, this requirement is waived for patients who are undergoing treatment for cancer or are receiving hospice care due to their extreme circumstance.</p> <p>HB 2576 extends this exception to sickle cell anemia patients. Following the passage of this bill, prescribers and dispensers will not be required to check the prescription history of a sickle cell anemia patient if the diagnosis has been clearly noted in the prescription record.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

<p>HB 4390 By: Capriglione Martinez Fischer Rodriguez Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the privacy of personal identifying information and the creation of the Texas Privacy Protection Advisory Council.</p>	<p>Business & Industry Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4390 holds responsible any business who uses licenses digital data that includes sensitive personal information. In the event of a data breach, the business is responsible for notifying any individual whose sensitive information may have been exposed in the breach. The notification must be made without unreasonable delay and within 60 days of the event. The individual who is responsible for notification of the breach is also required to notify the Attorney General if the breach impacts more than 250 Texan residents. The details of the notification should include the details of the breach, the number of Texans affected, any measures taken or intended to be taken in response to the breach, and information regarding whether law enforcement is involved in the investigation. HB 4390 also creates the Texas Privacy Protection Advisory Council which is intended to study the data privacy laws in Texas, other states, and relevant foreign entities. The council will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five members from the House appointed by the Speaker • five senators appointed by the Lt. Governor • five members of the industry who are residents of the state appointed by the Governor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ one representative of the retail and electronic transaction industry ○ one representative of the telecommunications industry ○ one representative of the consumer data analytics industry ○ one representative of the advertising industry ○ one representative of the Internet service provider industry <p>The Speaker and Lt. Governor will be allowed to designate one co-chair each from their appointed council members. The information gathered by the Council should be used to make recommendations to the legislature for the creation and amendment of legislation regarding privacy and protection. There were concerns regarding previous versions of this bill that it might contribute to the already fragmented state-level laws across the country that dictate how businesses should address breaches. For businesses that operate across the country, it would have been difficult to implement a variety of data privacy laws in various states. However, the current version of this bill eliminates this concern.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1563 By: Nevarez</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of animal export-import processing facilities; providing penalties; requiring an occupational license; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, there is no regulation or oversight for private animal export-import processing facilities and problems such as improper set up of pens for livestock or the use of plywood for funneling sheep, things that can occur without oversight or regulation. In these private facilities, there has been harm to livestock in the process and if these places were regulated this would benefit the public's health, safety, and welfare. HB 1563 will establish a license requirement for a person that is operating an export-import processing facility for animals. The Texas Department of Agriculture will be required to issue these licenses for these facilities and set the rules and requirements to obtaining and renewing a license including the authorization fees.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2099 By: Lambert Sheffield Zerwas Oliverson Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to modification of certain prescription drug benefits and coverage offered by certain health benefit plans.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2099 amends the Insurance Code regarding drug coverage and utilization by care plans to help patients stay on the same medications when they continue with the same type of healthcare plan from a provider. Language is included to require providers to explicitly state, in already mandated notices for policy changes, if a drug is moving to another tier of coverage, would increase co-pays/out-of-pocket costs, and indicate that on renewal of the consumer's plan there can be no modifications to the contracted benefit level that was approved preceding the plan year the changes went into effect. Additionally, plan providers will be prohibited from adding undue burden to the consumer regarding the continuation of medication such as limiting, quantity, step-therapy, or pre-authorization. There is an explicit statement that this will not affect the ability for insurance plan providers to negotiate prices or rates of medications with pharmaceutical companies. HB 2099 provides clarified consumer protections when health benefit plans regarding prescription drugs change.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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			Added benefits will also protect those who have a long-standing or chronic illness that may require very specialized medications that were covered previously and may be subject to coverage change.	
HB 827 By: Rose	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of an improvement that is necessary to support the continued use or existence of a historic site.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Property tax exemptions for the preservation of historic resources are critical to many communities that recognize the social, educational, and economic benefits of investing in these sites. HB 827 authorizes a taxing unit to exempt all or a portion of the assessed value of an improvement that is necessary to support continued use and existence of a historic site. This would include related land necessary for access and use of necessary improvement of the historic site with certain stipulations: must be located on or adjacent to the property and constructed in a manner that is consistent architecturally.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 2178 By: Noble	Relating to terminating participation in the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2178 amends language in the Government Code to allow some agencies the ability to terminate participation in the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS). To terminate the use of TESRS, the department would have to be composed of both volunteer and at least 6 full-time firefighters Language would be included that an organization that meets the requirements may choose to leave TESRS. With the option to leave on not the requirement, solvency of the current fund is left sound. HB 2178 would allow for smaller entities who depend on volunteers to remain competitive retaining those volunteers. Currently, vestment in TESRS is 10 years at 50%, in this time frame as a volunteer is trained, they have more beneficial opportunities to go to a non-volunteer position in another department.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1426 By: Guerra Phelan Deshotel Burrows Allison	Relating to mobile Internet service access in an area subject to a declared state of disaster.	State Affairs Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	<u>The analysis for the Rep. Bobby Guerra’s bill for HB 1426 of today’s floor report was previously given an Unfavorable rating. The rating will be updated to Favorable with an amendment by LSG Chairman Garnet Coleman.</u> HB 1426 would prohibit a mobile internet service carrier from managing mobile internet services during times of disaster. This would be limited to a specific geographic area that the Governor has declared a state of disaster. The general public already has to move over on the roads when emergency vehicles are passing through. Similarly, carriers need the ability to prioritize first responders communication during an emergency. Prioritizing first responders is key when allowing their communication to take precedence over other traffic when the network is congested. Currently, in times of network congestion, carriers give voice traffic priority to ensure completion of 911 calls. HB 1426 would prohibit that practice and put lives at stake when citizens need 911 the most. Managing the network is key for carriers in these critical moments.	Favorable, with Amendment by Rep. Coleman Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 803 By: Patterson Canales Thierry Toth Krause	Relating to financial reporting requirements of a toll project entity.	Transportation Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 803 promotes tolling transparency. In Texas, tolling entities include the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), North Texas Tollway Authority (NTTA), eight-county toll authorities, and nine Regional Mobility Authorities (RMAs). They post their operations data through comprehensive annual financial reports with different levels of specificity—they are long/hard to read because they are made for bondholders and finance institutions, and not accessible to everyone. HB 803 requires tolling entities to provide an additional financial information report including the final maturity of all bonds issued by the entity for the toll project, the toll revenue for each toll project, toll revenue and expenses by the entity (including debt service, maintenance and operation costs, surplus revenue and any other expenses), and a capital improvement plan with expected expenditures. This will increase transparency and clarity for Texans with information about where their money goes. HB 803 also allows Texans to hold tolling entities accountable.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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<p>HB 3910 By: Sherman</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of one or more supplemental county civil service commissions in certain counties.</p>	<p>County Affairs Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3910 seeks to amend the Local Government Code of Texas allowing the Commissioner's Court of a county to construct one or more supplemental commissions with the administration of a civil service system established by the county. Currently, under Texas law, the language within code is not structured to authorize the Commissioner's Court to create another body to assist in the administration of a civil service commission.</p> <p>HB 3910 seeks to address efficiency and streamline processes resulting from increased workloads of civil service commission.</p> <p>HB 3910 applies only to counties with a population of two million or more and adjacent to a county with a population more than one million such as Dallas County.</p> <p>HB 3910 prohibits the intertwining of rules that were exclusively adopted, created, and/or enforced by one supplemental commission with another commission. The prohibition also extends to a civil service commission with respect to any authority delegated by the county to the supplemental commission.</p> <p>If HB 3910 is passed into law, it will allow supplemental bodies to run more efficiently and serve their foundational purpose.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 2586 By: Leach Klick Israel Moody Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to political contributions and political expenditures made to or by political committees or other persons.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>In 2010, the US Supreme Court deemed the prohibition of corporate direct campaign expenditures as unconstitutional. In the 82nd Legislative session legislation passed which aligned state code with this court ruling, however, there was no process established for direct campaign expenditures. Currently, each political action committee (PAC) has a reporting system requiring administrative and donation reports to be submitted to the Texas Ethics Commission from Specific-Purpose (SPAC) and General-Purpose (GPAC) PACs separately which causes confusion and is burdensome.</p> <p>HB 2586 establishes rules relating to political contributions and expenditures made to or by General and Specific-purpose PACs or other persons. This bill does not allow for the candidate or their campaign to request, suggest or be in knowledge of a general-purpose or specific-purpose political contribution. HB 2586 allows for SPACs and GPACs to share vendors with campaigns as long as they are not making expenditures using information from the vendor about the campaign plans or needs of the candidate that is material to the expenditure and not available to the public. HB 2586 requires SPACs and GPACs to sign an affidavit that states the committee is not established or controlled by candidate or officeholder and the committee will not use any political contribution from a corporation or labor organization to make a political contribution to a candidate, officeholder, or political committee that has not submitted an affidavit. These affidavits do not create additional reporting requirements.</p> <p>HB 2586 addresses the confusion and burden placed on committees submitting separate reports by combining the reports and allowing affiliated entities to file one campaign finance report. This creates a more accessible and transparent reporting process.</p> <p>This bill codifies several TEC rules that are already being practiced into state laws. Although this legislation does not provide strict enforcement, it is a process that will place much-needed rules to align with the US Supreme Court ruling.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3771 By: Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the approval of insurance companies to provide certain structured settlement annuity contracts.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote:</p>	<p>The property code in Texas was last updated in 1999. During that time, the state still used ratings such as AAA and AA+ in order to rate structured settlement ratings for insurance companies listed in the code. However, there are concerns that the AAA rating process is outdated and the code rates agencies that do not exist anymore leading to confusion in the courts when issuing these settlements.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3771 updates the Property code to change the company listings that a court may use to provide a structured settlement agreement. HB 3771 changes the ratings from listed companies in code to designations from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) tier 1 designation companies which are the highest standard of rating. A company that receives this designation has the lowest risk, which means the interest and principal agreement will be paid in accordance with the agreement. HB 3771 allows for the code to be updated to follow the NAIC list of companies to provide the ratings and removes the outdated, out of business companies from the Property Code.	
HB 4695 By: Deshotel	Relating to the administration of the Port of Port Arthur Navigation District of Jefferson County, including the authority to impose taxes.	Transportation Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The Port of Port Arthur is its own self-governing body; however, its Enabling Act requires the Port to obtain approval from the Jefferson County Commissioners' Court as to bonded debt and tax levy matters. The Port feels this is an unnecessary, duplicative action required by the Enabling Act since the Port is a separate, self-taxing entity and its Commissioners are elected officials accountable to taxpayers of the District. In the interest of governmental efficiency and economy, HB 4695 intends to eliminate this unnecessary step. HB 4695 also specifies that benefits may be provided as part of the compensation for district employees and members of the board of port commissioners of the Port of Port Arthur Navigation District of Jefferson County. Normally, compensation packages include benefits, but it was suggested that compensation be distinctly mentioned in legislation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 3782 By: Harless	Relating to the right to remove property encroaching on areas owned or controlled by the Harris County Flood Control District.	Natural Resources Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3782 will allow the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to remove real or personal property that has been placed on land owned by the HCFCD or land subject to an easement (which means a legal right to use someone else's land for a particular reason) held by the HCFCD. The justification for this is that encroachments (e.g. from flower beds to tennis courts) are a common problem that makes maintenance and inspections of the over 2,500 miles of channels, which provide drainage and help mitigate flooding, both costly and difficult to maintain. It can sometimes take six to seven years to remove physical impediments that interfere with the flow of water in the flood control area as well as proper maintenance areas. Therefore, timing is said to be critical for the HCFCD to efficiently and effectively reduce the risk of flooding for its residents. HB 3782 requires the HCFCD to send 2 certified notices to the landowner before a suit can be filed. The District then may bring suit to recover the cost of removing the property, if the property owner fails or refuses to do so.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 4246 By: Nevarez	Relating to nonsubmetered billing for water or wastewater service.	Natural Resources Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In an effort to increase transparency to prevent over-charging HB 4246 will require that each municipally owned utility that bills for nonsubmetered master metered utility service (meaning a master metered for an apartment house but is not submetered) to be made publicly available for each entity billed a statement that includes the current copy of the utility's rate structure applicable to the billed service and a list of fees and charges applicable to the billed services. However, that does not authorize the municipally owned utility to make an entity's bill publicly available. A municipally owned utility may not charge a dwelling unit base charge for nonsubmetered master metered utility service and from imposing different per-meter base charges on residential and commercial customers. A person may file an appeal with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) who will be required to hear the appeal de novo, and the municipality charging the fee has the burden of proof to establish that the charge complies with the provisions in HB 4246.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 2578 By: Thompson, Ed	Relating to toll collection and enforcement by private participants in comprehensive development agreements with the Texas Department of Transportation.	Transportation Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) commissioned the Blueridge Transportation Group (BTG) to build, operate, and maintain the expansion of State Highway 288 in Houston in 2016 for the following 50 years and the project was financed, including tolling fees, based on statute at the time. The TxDOT sunset bill last session interfered because language restricted TxDOT tolling projects on fees—specifically, stating that administrative fees are only allowed with the second invoice and they are limited to \$6 per invoice, so \$48 per year. This limits BTG's ability to deter scofflaw abuse and recover lost revenue. The restrictions on fines and penalties are problematic because they harm financial stability of tolling projects contracted before this legislation was passed last year. BTG's financial	Will of the House Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>projections for the project assumed it would have tools in place to deter scofflaw abuse.</p> <p>HB 2578 exempts private subcontractors/participants from certain legislation enacted in the 2017 session for projects that contracted with TxDOT before 2017 to keep the project consistent with the plan which was calculated based on original contract terms. The legislation that private subcontractors and participants would be exempt from include: the use of video billing as an alternative to paying while passing the toll, billing, collecting, and enforcing with the use of automated enforcement technology to identify vehicle owners, mailing written invoices to vehicle owners using mailing addresses from the TxDMV, invoice requirements (that individuals must pay within 30 days after the invoice is mailed), and administrative fees allowed for persons who do not pay their tolling fees. The Houston region uses EZ Tags and other interoperable transponders for toll collections, as well as cash toll booths in certain areas and prepaid video billing. The first invoicing requirements in the TxDOT sunset bill would result in de-facto mandatory pay-by-mail video billing since the invoice would not be associated with a prepaid customer account. It would not benefit Houston to adopt pay by mail because it results in revenue leakage, will discourage EZ Tag use and cause problems identifying violators due to the DMV system not being fully updated when people change addresses, move around, etc.</p> <p>HB 2578 would help to ensure seamless toll operations in the entire SH 288 corridor. Harris County Toll Road Authority has a tolling services agreement with the Brazoria County Toll Road Authority to operate the southern segment in Brazoria County and is waiting on TxDOT to approve the tolling services agreement with BTG. HB 2578 would remove operational differences between the BCTRA portion of the project and the BTG portion.</p> <p>What would happen as a result of HB 2758 is concerning. HB 2578 exempts private, foreign toll companies from toll collection reforms that were put in place last session for a reason. The House voted overwhelmingly, 136-3 last session, to cap fines and fees enforced by toll entities. People would not be bound to a \$48 per year cap on toll fines and tolling authority would not have to wait 30 days to impose administrative fees—tolling fees should not be the thing that Texans struggle to make ends meet for.</p>	
<p>HB 3995 By: Phelan Raymond Rodriguez King, Phil Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to certificates of convenience and necessity for the construction of facilities for the transmission of electricity.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Due to recent dockets in front of the Texas Public Utility Commission (PUC) HB 3995 will ensure that the Public Utility Commission (PUC), and not the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), will continue to have jurisdiction over the Texas transmission and rates by confirming that if a Texas Utility or co-op owns the end-point of where a transmission line is or will be built then that utility has the right and responsibility to build, own, and operate than transmission line. Current practices and procedures have ensured timely, reliable and cost-effective electric transmission across our state, and the potential FERC to have jurisdiction over these transmission lines will inefficiently fragment the transmission grid and increase costs.</p> <p>As it stands, FERC does not regulate utilities that are within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) because the federal government does not view those utilities as engaging in interstate commerce. As for utilities outside of ERCOT the reason that FERC does not regulate them, even if they do engage in interstate commerce, is because of the “bundled load exemption,” which allows a state agency to maintain jurisdiction over transmission service as long as they are provided by a vertically integrated utility as part of a bundled rate, meaning bundled service, bundled transmission, bundled distribution, bundled retail service.</p> <p>The legislature currently requires that the PUC ensure that each rate charged by an electric company is just and reasonable. If a rate is charged by an unbundled utility the PUC will not have the jurisdiction to ensure that that rate is just and reasonable. HB 3995 will simply codify the long-term practices and procedure that have been operating,</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			both in and outside of ERCOT, for decades.	
HB 1584 By: Thompson, Senfronia King, Ken Kacal Zedler Cole	Relating to health benefit plan coverage of prescription drugs for stage-four advanced, metastatic cancer.	Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1584 adds language to the Insurance Code to require that insurance providers cover medications for the treatment of stage-four, metastatic cancer, including associated conditions. Language is included to amend the statute to not require the patient to show medical unresponsiveness to other medications. Medication included in coverage would be those used in best-practice and have been peer-reviewed to be as such. HB 1584 ensures that patients undergoing treatment for advanced cancers have access to high-quality medication without having to prove medical unresponsiveness. This protects the patient from further health complications that would arise from ineffective medical treatment.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 442 By: Meyer	Relating to the statute of limitations for the offense of abandoning or endangering a child.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 442 will simply increase the statute of limitations from 5 years to 10 years for an offense of child abandonment or endangerment as there are concerns that a crime against a child can often take that child time to process let alone report the incident.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 4070 By: Oliverson Thierry	Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of passing a school bus; increasing a criminal penalty.	Transportation Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	There are concerns that the penalty for illegally passing a school bus and causing serious bodily harm is not harsh enough. HB 4070 increases the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a felony in the second degree (two to 20 years in prison and an optional fine of up to \$10,000).	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 24 By: Romero, Jr. Neave Burns	Relating to increasing criminal penalties for certain family violence offenses committed when a child is or may be present during the commission of the offense.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	From what has been shown in a number of recent studies, the trauma inflicted on children witnessing domestic violence is akin to outcomes of those who are the direct victims of domestic abuse. Children who witness domestic violence are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems and experience the same kind of long-term harm as children who are physically abused. Children who are exposed to domestic violence are: abused or seriously neglected at a rate 1500% higher than the national average, six times more likely to commit suicide, 50% more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol, and three times more likely to repeat the cycle in adulthood. HB 24 is a way to recognize that these children are victims and to hold the perpetrator responsible for the child's victimization. HB 24 will enhance to the criminal penalty for acts of domestic violence if the offense is committed in the physical presence of a child who is younger than 18 years of age, or if the actor has reason to believe that the child is present and may see or hear the offense. Passage of HB 24, along with proper training for law enforcement, would ensure those child witnesses are identified in police reports and would be an important first step in the development of a system to connect child witnesses with the resources they need to counteract the devastating impact of witnessing domestic violence. There are already 20 other states with similar laws on the books, and there is no data pointing to negative outcomes for child witnesses or adult victims as a result of those laws. HB 24 is an additional tool for prosecutors and could be used at their discretion in situations where the enhancement is needed and not be applied if there were an adverse effect on the victims. Often, the presence of the child can be established through other witnesses of the crime and responding law enforcement.	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

			<p>However, concerns have been raised that for a prosecutor to apply such an enhancement they would need to provide more evidence which could require a child to testify. Doing so could put that child directly at risk for retaliation. HB 24 assumes that the victim and their children have made a permanent separation from the perpetrator, which unfortunately is not always the case. It can take some victims multiple attempts of trying to leave before they permanently do for a variety of reasons such as lack of alternative means of economic support to fear of losing custody of their children. HB 24 does not go far enough in clarifying procedures that if the child is to be used as a witness that they should only be interviewed and approached by trained professionals, which is already the case if the child was the direct victim of assault.</p>	
<p>HB 2524 By: Anderson, Charles "Doc"</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of theft of service.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2524 will shorten the timeframe for reporting unreturned rental items if an actor is presumed to have failed to act after receiving notices demanding a return for a property that is valued at \$10,000 or more. Rent-to-rent markets, such as car rental companies, have faced significant difficulties in notifying customers of unreturned items which have resulted in millions of dollars in related costs, which can drive up the cost of service to lawful renters. The justification for shortening the timeframe for reporting is to better facilitate the recovery of items, such as vehicles, that can quickly be taken out of the country or sold for parts. HB 2524 also changes the delivery of a notice demanding payment of return of property to be made by either registered or certified mail with return receipt requested or commercial delivery service.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1365 By: Lucio III Zerwas Thompson, Senfronia Anchia Larson</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing the possession, use, cultivation, processing, distribution, transportation, research, testing, and delivery of low-THC cannabis for medical use by patients with certain debilitating medical conditions and the licensing of cannabis dispensing organizations, cannabis research organizations, and cannabis testing facilities; establishing the cannabis therapeutic research review board; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active chemical in cannabis that offers the psychoactive properties of the drug. Cannabidiol (CBD) is another compound of cannabis, but is non-psychoactive. That is, CBD doesn't produce the "high" that THC can. Both components can be used for certain medical benefits. While the Federal Food and Drug Agency (FDA) has approved certain cannabis-derived and cannabis related drugs, both CBD and THC are currently considered Schedule I controlled substances under the federal Controlled Substance Act which means that they are considered to have a high potential for dependency with no accepted medical use. However, states are currently afforded the right to create their own laws in this regard backed by a 2009 memo from the Obama administration that encourages federal prosecutors to refrain from prosecuting individuals who are abiding by state laws concerning cannabis.</p> <p>With this in mind and because several other states have taken such actions, HB 1365 seeks to amend the Texas Code to authorize and regulate the use of low-THC cannabis for medical use. Current Texas laws under the Compassionate Use Act of 2015 only allow for the use of medical marijuana that is produced at three state facilities and only by permanent residents of the state who suffer from intractable epilepsy. The low-THC cannabis that is allowed is only allowed to be less than 0.5 percent THC or greater than 10 percent CBD. Physicians who are qualified to prescribe low-THC cannabis must join a statewide physician registry. The program is currently administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>Definitions HB 1365 codifies certain definitions to allow for better regulation of the medical use of cannabis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cannabis research organization</i> - an organization licensed by DPS to conduct medical, scientific, or agricultural research on low-THC cannabis • <i>cannabis testing facility</i> - an independent entity licensed by DPS to analyze the content, safety, and potency of low-THC cannabis • <i>caregiver</i> - a person who has taken on significant responsibility for managing the well-being of a patient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bill language clarifies the requirements that must be met for an individual to be designated as a caregiver. • <i>debilitating medical condition</i> - certain medical conditions specified in HB 1365 that include certain severe 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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symptoms of pain, nausea, seizures, and muscle spasms, among others

- *bona fide physician-patient relationship* - a treatment relationship that follows certain guidelines including assessment of the patient, maintenance of the patient's records, and notification of primary care physician as appropriate
- *vaporizing* - heating a substance to a temperature below the combustion point of the substance so that the vapor may be inhaled
- *serious adverse events* - an event that results in death, illness requiring hospitalization, a life-threatening condition, or any other medically important condition
- *allowable amount* – a 30-day supply of low-THC cannabis in accordance with the recommended dosage for the patient

Non-Governmental Regulations and Penalties

HB 1365 states that a student who has been prescribed low-THC cannabis may not be subject to any discipline by a school for the possession or use of the prescribed low-THC cannabis.

Governmental Regulations and Penalties

HB 1365 changes those who may possess cannabis as a controlled substance without registering with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) by replacing DSHS officials with HHSC officials as entities who may possess THC or a THC derivative and allowing for a cannabis research organization or testing facility to possess low-THC cannabis. The bill also prohibits the penalization for involvement with a raw material used in or by-product created by the production of low-THC cannabis if:

- the person who has been prescribed marijuana for medical use and possesses an allowable amount of marijuana or drug paraphernalia
- works at a cannabis research organization or a cannabis testing facility and is performing their work duties

HB 1365 also clarifies that a patient, parent, or a caregiver of a patient is not subject to penalty as a result of the patient's medical use of cannabis. Additionally, that any person who is authorized to handle or carry medical marijuana in any form is exempt from any related penalty including allegations of child abuse, denial of parental rights, seizure or forfeiture, or possession of paraphernalia.

Licensing

DPS will be responsible for the licensing of dispensing organizations, cannabis research organizations, and cannabis testing facilities. The agency may adopt any rules or fees, capped at \$500, necessary to establish cannabis testing and quality control. DPS must allow for a dispensing organization to operate a total of four dispensing locations under one license. Economically, this will make it more financially feasible for a full-licensed facility to operate in otherwise underserved areas of Texas.

HB 1365 details the eligibility criteria for initial licensure and maintenance of licensure as a cannabis research organization or a dispensing organization. DPS may at any time request a sample for testing from a dispensing organization. The agency must also adopt labeling requirements and processes to monitor and randomly test products. DPS may collect whatever data is necessary in partnership with the Cannabis Therapeutic Research Review Board.

DPS must create and maintain a Compassionate-Use Registry that includes the name of each physician prescribing low-THC cannabis for medical use and the condition for which it is prescribed, as well prescribed dosage. The agency should ensure that the system does not allow for duplicate prescribers for a patient.

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Cannabis Therapeutic Research Program

HB 1365 establishes the Cannabis Therapeutic Research Program which will be assisted by the executive commissioner of the HHSC and administered by the Cannabis Therapeutic Research Review Board. It gives the Governor authority to appoint Review Board members who will serve staggered six-year terms.

The Review Board will be composed of 12 members:

- licensed physicians certified by the American Boards of
 - Ophthalmology
 - Internal Medicine, certified in medical oncology
 - Psychiatry
 - Surgery
 - Radiology
 - Family Medicine
- a licensed physician certified by the American Osteopathic Association
- a licensed attorney with experience in law relating to the practice of medicine
- a licensed physician specializing in pain management certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology, Psychiatry, Neurology, or Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- a healthcare professional specializing in palliative care
- a licensed advanced practice registered nurse (APRN), or
- a licensed physician certified under American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Hospice Medical Director Certification Board
- two licensed physicians certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

The review board may also create one or more advisory boards composed of those who may be knowledgeable about low-THC cannabis cultivation, processing, regulation. The members of the board not be compensated but are entitled to reimbursement for incurred expenses. Research programs may be conducted with a medical school, hospital, or academic teaching institution. Any patient that is included in a research program must provide appropriate written consent.

The Review Board should hold research goals that allow for:

- scientific research into the safety and efficacy of low-THC cannabis
- development of medical guidelines for administration of low-THC cannabis
- development of quality control and standards for low-THC cannabis
- analysis of the therapeutic qualities of different varieties of cannabis
- appropriate training of healthcare professionals in relation to the administration of low-THC cannabis

The findings of the board should be documented in a yearly report that is submitted to the Legislature.

Physician Implementation

A prescription by a physician must be provided on a DPS designated secure online form that includes the patient's information, dosage, date of the order, and the allowable amount for that patient (i.e., the total amount of a 30-day dose). The prescribing physician must have a bona fide physician-patient relationship with the patient and must have the proper medical knowledge to prescribe low-THC cannabis. Any adverse event related to the therapeutic use of cannabis must be recorded in the patient's medical records and reported to the Review Board. The prescribing

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			<p>physician may not be subject to any penalty or disciplinary action for making a statement that the potential benefits of medical use of cannabis might outweigh the risks or for participating in programs that involve the medical use of cannabis.</p> <p>If passed, the provisions of the bill would go into effect in September 2019 and DPS would be required begin licensures before September 2020.</p> <p>There are concerns regarding the safety of allowing a treatment that is not yet approved by the FDA. There are also concerns that the list of qualifying conditions in this bill is not sufficiently inclusive of all conditions that may benefit from the medical use of low-THC cannabis.</p>	
<p>HB 3703 By: Klick Zerwas Oliverson Sheffield Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to the dispensing, administration, and use of low-THC cannabis; authorizing low-THC cannabis research; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the active chemical in cannabis that offers the psychoactive properties of the drug. Cannabidiol (CBD) is another compound of cannabis but is non-psychoactive. That is, CBD doesn't produce the "high" that THC can. Both components can be used for certain medical benefits. While the Federal Food and Drug Agency (FDA) has approved certain cannabis-derived and cannabis related drugs, both CBD and THC are currently considered Schedule I controlled substances under the federal Controlled Substance Act which means that they are considered to have a high potential for dependency with no accepted medical use. However, states are currently afforded the right to create their own laws in this regard backed by a 2009 memo from the Obama administration that encourages federal prosecutors to refrain from prosecuting individuals who are abiding by state laws concerning cannabis.</p> <p>With this in mind and because several other states have taken such actions, HB 3703 seeks to amend the Texas Code to authorize and regulate the use of low-THC cannabis for medical use. Current Texas laws under the Compassionate Use Act of 2015 only allow for the use of medical marijuana that is produced at three state facilities and only by permanent residents of the state who suffer from intractable epilepsy. The low-THC cannabis that is allowed is only allowed to be less than 0.5 percent THC or greater than 10 percent CBD. Physicians who are qualified to prescribe low-THC cannabis must join a statewide physician registry. The program is currently administered by the Texas Department of Public Safety.</p> <p>HB 3703 defines low-THC cannabis as any variant or derivative of the Cannabis sativa L. plant that contains no more than 0.5 percent THC by weight. This removes the previous definition that included any product that contained greater than 10 percent CBD by weight.</p> <p>Non-Governmental Regulations and Penalties HB 3703 stipulates that student who has been prescribed low-THC cannabis may not be subject to any discipline by a school for the possession or use of the prescribed low-THC cannabis. The bill language also eliminates DSHS officials, medical school researchers, and research program participants as entities who may possess THC or a THC derivative without registering with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).</p> <p>Low-THC Cannabis Research Program HB 3703 requires the executive commissioner of the HHSC to establish a low-THC Cannabis Research Program that should be conducted by one or more health-related institutions in Texas. Among the rules that the commissioner may adopt are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> procedures by which a health-related institution can apply for a permit to conduct low-THC cannabis research 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • criteria for granting a permit to a health-related institution for the purpose of conducting low-THC cannabis research • restrictions regarding facilities where such research may be conducted • any other rules necessary to comply with federal law regarding cannabis research <p>Before beginning the program, HHSC must ensure that all necessary federal applications and paperwork is sought out and completed. If the appropriate federal authorization for the Research Program cannot be obtained, HHSC does not have to establish the program. DPS may at any time request a mandatory sample for testing from a dispensing organization.</p> <p>Licensing DPS will administer the licensure requirements for dispensing organizations. DPS may allow for a dispensing organization to operate multiple dispensing locations under one license if DPS determines that it is required to meet patient access needs. Economically, this will make it more financially feasible for a full-licensed facility to operate in otherwise underserved areas of Texas.</p> <p>Physician Implementation HB 3703 requires that a qualified physician may prescribe low-THC cannabis to a patient with only epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, or spasticity. The prescribing physician must be properly licensed to prescribe low-THC cannabis for medical use, ensure a comprehensive evaluation and treatment of the patient's medical condition, and be appropriately certified by the American Boards of Psychiatry and Neurology, or Clinical Neurology. Before prescription, the physician must determine that the risk of low-THC cannabis is outweighed by the medical benefit for the patient and consulted a second qualified physician who agrees with the determination.</p> <p>There are concerns regarding the safety of allowing a treatment that is not yet approved by the FDA. There are also concerns that the list of qualifying conditions in this bill is not sufficiently inclusive of all conditions that may benefit from the medical use of low-THC cannabis.</p>	
<p>HB 2362 By: Moody Price</p>	<p>Relating to the standard of proof in health care liability claims involving emergency medical care.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>In the 78th Legislative session, the legislature passed laws that require doctors who operate in emergency rooms or operate in emergency treatments to meet a higher standard of negligence when a mistake occurs. For example, if a person walks into an emergency room, a doctor may have to make split-second decisions to try to help this person without any prior knowledge of the person's health records. This could, in turn, cause the doctor to make a mistake since no background information on the patient was granted.</p> <p>Currently, there are concerns that the definition of emergency treatments has expanded to mean broader procedures such as procedures done in a surgical unit or an emergency room. If a woman comes to the hospital to give birth through a scheduled C-Section with her primary OBGYN doctor, she is participating in a surgical unit procedure. Under this interpretation of the law passed in the 78th legislature, the OBGYN is protected under the highest standard of negligence and it is extremely difficult to bring a negligence suit against that doctor even if the mistake was a basic mistake that should have never occurred. The original intent of the law was to protect emergency room doctors making crucial decisions without any background information on their patients not to protect the primary doctors who know their patients and have their patient's full medical history such as OBGYN's do.</p> <p>HB 2362 amends the civil practice and Remedies code in order to narrow the standard of negligence back to the original intent of the law. HB 2362 makes the emergency room standard of negligence inapplicable to treatment that is:</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided to someone who is in stable conditions or capable of receiving treatment as a non-emergency patient • Provided after the patient is stabilized • Provided in an obstetrical unit (units designed for giving birth) if the patient arrives at the hospital for emergencies other than obstetric emergencies • Unrelated to the original medical emergency in which the patient originally came to the emergency room for • Related to the emergency caused in part or in whole by the negligence of the client <p>There are concerns that under HB 2362 it will be harder to find and obtain competent doctors since the liability will be greater under this new definition of negligence. However, if a doctor does have the background information to treat a patient, they should be held under the same standard of negligence as the other personnel in the field do.</p>	
<p>HB 4345 By: Sanford Krause Flynn Gervin-Hawkins Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to liability for disclosing certain information regarding sexual misconduct by an employee or volunteer of a charitable organization.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>There have been that allegations against sexual abuse in certain nonprofit and charitable organizations has been prevalent. There are concerns that employees or volunteers in those organizations who come forward to disclose abuse or sexual misconduct by another employee are being held liable for the disclosure and there are no specific protections for the disclosure of such acts.</p> <p>HB 4345 amends the Civil Practice and remedies code to provide full immunity for any volunteer or employee of a non-profit and charitable organization who discloses another employee or volunteers sexual misconduct. The bill excludes immunity for those who do not act in good faith and outlines the following acts of misconduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged Sexual misconduct • Sexually abused another individual • Sexually harassed another individual • Committed a sexual offense or an offense of public indecency <p>HB 4345 protects those who are coming forward on behalf of their coworkers to empower those to speak up to seek justice against sexual misconduct.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 292 By: Thompson, Senfronia Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to inclusion of instruction on the trafficking of persons in the basic training curriculum for peace officers.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>In the current code, law enforcement officers do have to complete training in order to learn the basic education to take on human trafficking. However, these training do not have to be completed until after they graduate from the academy and are working in the field. Peace officers can potentially already be dealing with people who are being trafficked without receiving proper training.</p> <p>HB 292 requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to incorporate a time limit to complete the human trafficking education and training program to 2 years after the peace officer becomes a licensed peace officer unless the peace officer completed the training during the basic training and education to become a peace officer. HB 292 requires TCOLE to set a timeline in regards as to when the training must be completed to ensure that peace officers are properly trained to work with humans who are being trafficked.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 802 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to voting rights and eligibility for office of residents of certain districts subject to a strategic partnership agreement.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Special districts located in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) agree to a strategic partnership agreement (SPA) which is a written agreement between district board of directors and municipalities. These agreements allow limited purpose annexation of commercial properties and allows municipalities to impose their sales tax which is typically split 50/50 between city and district and serves as districts payment for any agreed upon services provided by a municipality.</p> <p>HB 802 allows residents surrounding commercial properties to participate in municipal elections. However, in limited purpose annexation agreements on commercial properties, municipalities don't usually impose city regulations on the district. Residents of a district elect five permanent directors to serve on the board who govern the</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

			<p>district, therefore, municipality elections do no impact residents within the district.</p> <p>HB 802 would allow voters living in the ETJ to participate in municipal elections. This legislation will dilute the votes of those living within the city limits. For example, if HB 802 is passed it will add 1.1 million people to Houston voter rolls who do not pay property taxes nor are impacted by city regulations. Adding them to Houston voter rolls will dilute the minority vote within the city and eliminate proportional representation for taxpayers within the city limits.</p> <p>HB 802 would allow non-residents living outside the city limits and dilute the voices of those directly impacted by municipal elections.</p>	
HB 1495 By: Toth	Relating to authorization for the creation of a county ethics commission in certain counties.	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the Local Government Code does not clearly state that all counties are allowed to create an ethics commission. HB 1495 seeks to establish allowing additional counties to create ethics commissions.</p> <p>HB 1495 applies to counties whose population is more than 425,000 and adjacent to a county with a population of 3.3 million or more. HB 1495 also require that the counties contain a portion of the San Jacinto River.</p> <p>HB 1495 allows the county ethics commission to be formed by the county commissioners court or by voter approval at an election and would give more accountability to governmental bodies at the county level.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 3614 By: Rose	Relating to caseworker visitation standards for certain child protective services caseworkers.	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3614 places into statute requirements for Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) expected of caseworkers when conducting their monthly visits with a child on their caseload. Many of these requirements are already being done through DFPS policies but HB 3614 ensures those practices are in statute. DFPS must do an in-person visit at least once a month and document their visit in the child’s file. During this visit, the caseworker must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the child’s safety • conduct a developmentally appropriate interview with the child (if they are verbal) separately, individually, and privately from their caregiver • discuss forms of discipline used in the home • review the child’s medical health, mental health, and educational progress and needs <p>It is especially important for the caseworker to speak with the child individually and separate from the caregiver. This gives the child an opportunity to disclose any issues in the foster home or openly discuss how they’re feeling with their caseworker. DFPS will ensure their system continues to allow caseworkers to log each visit with a child in addition to the child interview. If DFPS does not visit with a child as required in the month, the reason for not conducting the visit must be documented in the child’s file. In addition, if the monthly visit isn’t conducted by the primary caseworker, the primary caseworker must have some contact with the child in that month; via phone, video, etc. as developmentally appropriate for the child.</p> <p>HB 3614 requires DFPS to submit a quarterly report to the legislature with the number of visits caseworkers were required to make each month, the number of caseworker visits actually conducted by month, and those visits as a percentage of actually completed visits. HB 3614 places into statute best practices for DFPS caseworkers which are crucial to the child’s well-being while in care.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 2497 By: Cyrrier Israel Cole Rodriguez Krause	Relating to rules of and appeals to a municipal board of adjustment.	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes</p>	<p>Currently, when the municipal Board of Adjustments makes a final decision on request for variances to current zoning policies, the decision can be appealed by any person or organization aggrieved by the decision. HB 2497 amends the appeals process for specific addresses or projects to be appealed only by the persons who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • filed variance application, • owner of property impacted by the decision • aggrieved by decision and is the owner of real property within 200 feet of the impacted property 	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org

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		<p>0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any officer, department, board, or bureau of the municipality <p>HB 2497 also restricts timeline for appeals to be filed no later than 20 days after the decision has been made and the hearing for the appeal to be heard no later than the 60th day that appeal was filed.</p> <p>Limiting the access to appeal zoning-related decisions for specific projects eliminates those within the community who may also be aggrieved, but more than 200 feet away, from voicing how this change may affect the entire community. For example, impacts of development can include water quality, drainage, air quality, roads, etc. which can impact neighborhoods and schools surrounding the subject area.</p> <p>Implementing HB 2497 would eliminate community involvement in decisions that can harm the community as a whole.</p>	
<p>HB 37 By: Minjarez Larson Zedler Pacheco Kuempel</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the criminal offense of mail theft.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, mail theft is not defined in the Penal Code. As a result, local law enforcement officers must refer all suspected mail theft crimes to Federal officers, as it is a Federal statute that can only be applied to such an offense. HB 37 will give the state and our local law enforcement departments the authority to handle mail theft, "mail" being defined as a letter, postal card, package, bag, or other sealed article. HB 37 will create the offense of mail theft for a person who appropriates mail without the effective consent of the addressee and with the intent to deprive that addressee of the mail and establishes penalties ranging from Class A misdemeanor to third-degree felony depending on the number of addresses from which the mail was appropriated. If the intent of appropriated mail with identifying information is found in a trial to be for the purposes of identity theft, the penalty ranges from state jail felony to the first-degree felony, again dependent on the number of addresses from which the mail was appropriated. The punishment is increased to the next higher category of offense if the victim is a disabled individual or elderly individual, as they are often targeted at a higher rate. The intent of HB 37 is to authorize state and local law enforcement to go after professional mail thieves, not petty offenders.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1116 By: Wray</p>	<p>Relating to the limitations periods for certain suits against real estate appraisers and appraisal firms.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Real Estate appraisals is the process of determining the value of real property. This process is done by a professional appraiser who maintains records as to how they came up with their appraisals. Real estate appraisers must maintain those records for 5 years, but they can be destroyed after that time. There are concerns that the statute of limitations that's currently in statute is too long since 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>HB 1116 amends the civil practice and remedies code in order 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>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1215 By: Collier Swanson Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation of low income housing tax credits.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Many urban areas of Texas have severe needs for affordable rental housing. The low-income housing tax credit program (LIHTC) administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) has been one of the primary methods of addressing this issue. To do so, the TDHCA uses both threshold criteria and a scoring matrix that are laid out in the qualified allocation plan (QAP). In previous years, Educational Quality was a heavily weighted factor in the scoring matrix. As a result, many urban areas that struggled to maintain education quality were passed over for developments funded by the LIHTC program. In 2017, the Legislature sought to address this issue by creating a two-year trial program that used Educational Quality only as a threshold criteria that determined whether or not an application for the LIHTC program was eligible for consideration. Doing so meant that the only educational requirement for a LIHTC project became that the development site must be located within the zones schools that have a "Met Standard" rating or higher from the Texas Education Agency. This allowed for certain urban areas with struggling schools to maintain eligibility and not be repeatedly dinged on the scoring matrix for the same criteria. The</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>trial program was successful, as evidenced by the increased number of applications from areas that previously would not have qualified. The continuation of this program would provide more access to affordable housing options for many urban areas.</p> <p>HB 1215 removes the time limit from the two-year trial and allows for it to become a more permanent feature of the Texas Property Code. By doing so, the bill prohibits TDHCA from having a QAP with a scoring system that includes Educational Quality as a criteria for awarding points.</p>	
<p>HB 1387 By: Hefner Swanson</p>	<p>Relating to the number of school marshals that may be appointed to serve on a public school campus or at a private school.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>A school marshal is defined by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement as serving the purpose of preventing the act of murder or serious bodily injury on school premises and act only as defined by written regulations adopted by a school board or governing body. Currently, public school districts, private schools, open enrollment charter schools, junior college may appoint these school marshals at a rate of one school marshal for every 200 students.</p> <p>HB 1387 would double the amount of school marshals on a campus by decreasing the ratio of school marshals to students by 100. This is an ineffective measure to attempt to combat the rise in school violence. Increasing policing in schools has been proven an ineffective strategy for promoting school safety and does not benefit the wellbeing of the students as it is a fear based method.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1914 By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to prompt payment of claims to certain physicians and health care providers.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1914 amends the Insurance Code to establish that the applicability of customary rates of payment are applicable when treating a consumer who is out of network of their plan. Language would include that this customary rate in the locale where the consumer was treated would be used to calculate penalties when insurances companies do not compensate providers in the statues of prompt payment deadlines. Additionally, if and when insurance providers do not pay it leaves the consumer responsible for the payment.</p> <p>HB 1914 would ensure that the provider is being compensated appropriately and in a timely manner, alleviating the consumer from the burden of full responsibility when these criteria are not met.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4448 By: Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the use of unmanned aircraft.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4448 brings clarity to the current statute regarding unmanned aircrafts, also known as drones, as to what is and is not permissible since there have been complaints that it is currently convoluted by updating and defining “correctional facility,” “critical infrastructure facility,” “dam,” “detention facility,” “image,” and “sports venue” under a single government code. In addition, HB 4448 will allow for images to be captured for the purpose: of delivering consumer goods with the restriction that it follows the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules; a state agency or local health authority to assess unsafe environmental conditions or for the purpose of disaster preparedness; and by a governmental entity or a person contracted by or under the direction of a governmental entity for the purpose of a 9-1-1 service or service for a law enforcement purpose.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1469 By: Thierry Blanco Cain</p>	<p>Relating to certain public school workforce training programs funded by the skills development fund.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Skills Development Fund, as implemented through the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), gives grants for eligible colleges who partner with businesses for the purpose of increasing skills, providing necessary emergency job training, and meeting the workforce needs in that area. Community colleges, technical colleges, and the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service are the only entities currently eligible to apply for grants through the fund.</p> <p>HB 1469 would extend those eligible to receive grants through this fund to school districts and open-charter schools which provide career and technology education (CTE) programs to at least 35% of the students in their high school. CTE instruction decreases dropout rates and prepares high school students for the workforce. CTE programs are another mechanism through which to meet the workforce skills gap and allowing school districts or open-charter schools to participate in the fund will increase funding for their CTE programs and access to internships within skilled jobs. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) will work with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide guidance in their review of the training program. The school districts and open-charter schools will be subject to the same TWC review of effectiveness and determination if the funds are being spent appropriately as other</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>participants.</p> <p>The Skills Development Fund reports to the legislature new jobs, currently participating employees, average wage, insurance coverage, etc. by region of the state for the recipients of these grants. Most high school students will not have this trackable data so the TWC along with the TEA should establish success measures to be tracked and reported. There are concerns that, while CTE courses are effective, using the Skills Development Fund to fund CTE courses in high schools which already receive some funds through the state's current funding mechanism is not an appropriate use of the program and reduces the funds available for programs which provide a more readily available workforce.</p>	
<p>HB 4183 By: Parker Zerwas Miller Thompson, Senfronia Sanford</p>	<p>Relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences and developing a strategic plan to address those experiences.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are detrimental events in childhood that can affect the development of the child and increase the likelihood of negative life outcomes. Experiencing multiple and compounded ACEs in childhood can increase the likelihood of negative life outcomes and has been associated with risky health behaviors and illness later in life. Analysis of data from the 2016 National Child Health Survey shows that 24 percent of all Texas children, nearly two million, have undergone two or more ACEs.</p> <p>HB 4183 seeks to address this issue by creating a statewide strategic plan that allows for cross-systems collaboration and connections between Texas systems that offer preventative and mitigative measures for children who have undergone ACEs. For the purposes of fulfilling the provisions of the bill, the term "adverse childhood experience" will include abuse, neglect, and family violence, as defined by existing Family Code, as well as death of a parent, parental separation or divorce, and having a member of the household who suffers from substance abuse disorder, mental illness, or incarceration.</p> <p>To best address ACEs in Texan children, HB 4183 requires a collaborative effort from several agencies in the state to analyze data, evaluate needs, and identify best practices for the offering prevention and intervention for adverse childhood events. The information resulting from this preliminary work will be used to create and implement a five-year strategic plan. The involved agencies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) • Department of State Health Services (DSHS) • Texas Education Agency (TEA) • Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) • Office of the Attorney General (OAG) • Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) • an institution of higher education that works to address adverse childhood experiences <p>Together, the listed entities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate prevention needs, gaps in services and support regarding awareness, assessments, and interventions that address ACEs • identify methods to incorporate best practices for preventing and mitigating the effects of adverse childhood experiences into existing programs offered to children and families • develop and implement a five-year strategic plan to prevent and address ACEs <p>In developing the five-year strategic plan, HHSC may collaborate with representatives from intergovernmental agencies, nonprofits, schools, service providers, law enforcement, and other entities that may have valuable insight.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>Whichever entities the HHSC chooses to collaborate with, they must ensure that the final strategic plan increases collaboration between agencies and community partners to improve the assessment, intervention, and prevention of adverse childhood events. To do so, HB 4183 suggests that the strategic plan may include strategies such as training and education for professionals, high quality child care, incorporation of evidence-based home visiting programs, and prevention of intimate partner and family violence. HB 4183 prohibits inclusion of sex education in the outcomes established from the provisions of the bill.</p> <p>By March 1, 2020, HHSC must develop a progress report that details the actions taken and information gathered up to that point. The progress report will include data, best practices, and implementable changes. Following the progress report, HHSC must develop the five-year strategic plan and submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 31, 2020. The state entities that are responsible for carrying out the provisions of HB 4183 must also publish the five-year strategic plan on each of their websites.</p> <p>There are concerns that HB 4183 offers a state-level prescriptive solution to address community issues. However, the language of the bill allows for state agencies to align and become more efficient to allow more effective support of community efforts.</p>	
<p>HB 3091 By: Deshotel</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of and prohibiting disclosure of the location or physical layout of a family violence shelter center or victims of trafficking shelter center; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Under current Texas law, there is no penalty for a person who, with malicious intent, discloses the location or physical layout of a family violence or of a trafficking shelter center. As privacy can have a direct correlation to the victims' safety, HB 3091 also seeks to protect victims from further harm by including that a governmental body may redact information maintained by a family violence shelter center, victims of trafficking shelter center, or sexual assault program's location or physical layout in order to maintain confidentiality. Any person who violates these provisions will be charged with a Class A misdemeanor, which is punishable by a fine of not more than \$4,000, confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year, or both.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1342 By: Leach Allen</p>	<p>Relating to a person's eligibility for an occupational license; providing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Licensing boards in Texas can revoke occupational licenses or prohibit individuals from obtaining occupational licenses if they have been convicted of offenses within the past five years—even if the offense is unrelated to the occupation. This creates excessive barriers for Texans with arrest/conviction records when trying to become part of the Texas workforce.</p> <p>HB 1342 enhances employment opportunity for people with criminal histories who have successfully served and completed their punishment by prohibiting license boards from automatically disqualifying/revoking licensure from individuals if the criminal history is not related to the occupation. The licensing authority is required to consider whether the criminal act is related to the duties and responsibilities of the licensed occupation. In the case that the licensing authority decides the criminal charges are related to the licensure; the entity will consider what action to take based on the individuals' compliance with parole/community supervision. HB 1342 also removes the requirement for letters of recommendation to be from prosecutors, law enforcement, and correctional officers.</p> <p>HB 1342 requires a licensing authority to provide written notice with the reason for denial when they are denying a license and allow the individual 30 days to argue their case and provide more information to the authority to combat the licensure denial. If the authority still suspends/revokes licensure, they must provide information to the individual on relevant actions they can take to remedy the situation and achieve licensure in the future. HB 1342 also removes the requirement for applicants to prove they maintain steady employment, good conduct, and paid all costs, fines, fees, restitution and supervision fees. HB 1342 doesn't apply to individuals who committed crimes including murder, kidnapping, trafficking, sexual assault even if the charge has nothing to do with the occupation. HB 1342 also allows a</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>person whose license has been revoked by the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation solely on the person's inability to pay an administrative penalty eligibility to apply for a new license within a year of the revocation date, if they have paid it back in full or are paying it under a payment plan (and are in good standing). HB 1342 furthermore importantly allows people to use occupational education, training, and experience while incarcerated to be used towards their future careers.</p> <p>Legislation that allows more people to enter the workforce with protections to catch those who shouldn't be working in certain occupations is good legislation for the people of Texas as well as the Texas economy.</p>	
<p>HB 3069 By: González, Mary Allison Capriglione Longoria Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development in coding, technology applications, and computer science for public school teachers.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Not many students in high school take advantage of, or have access to, a computer science course at their campus. Currently, there is not enough emphasis on the importance of the subject of computer science and there are not enough efforts to attract teachers who are familiar or skilled in computer science. According to PEIMS data, less than 3% of Texas high school students took a computer science course in the 2015-2016 school year.</p> <p>HB 2210 will require the commissioner of education to create a competitive professional development grant program to address the need for attracting teachers to obtain a certification for computer science. This certificate will include professional development for elementary through junior high school educators so there is some working knowledge established of current computer industry standard tools and resources. HB 2210 will have a \$4 million cap to the amount of grants that can be awarded at a time during a two-year period.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2813 By: Price</p>	<p>Relating to the statewide behavioral health coordinating council.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Statewide Behavioral Health Coordinating Council was created in the 84th Legislative Session with the intention of ensuring a cohesive and unified strategic statewide approach to behavioral health services. HB 2813 permanently establishes the Council in statute so that it does not need reauthorization every biennium.</p> <p>The Council will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development and implementation of a five-year behavioral health strategic plan • the development of a biennial coordinated statewide behavioral health expenditure proposal to ensure that state funds are being appropriately and efficiently used • as needed, creating subcommittees • as needed, overseeing the administration of behavioral and mental health related state and federal funds <p>The council will be composed of representatives from specified state agencies and institutions of higher education including, but not limited to, HHSC, DSHS, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and various boards of the Health Professions Council. Nearly all of the specified entities are already required to serve as members of the Council, but the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments and the Texas Indigent Defense Council are new additions.</p> <p>The number of representatives from each specified entity shall be determined by the executive commissioner of the HHSC. The Council may also add representatives from entities that the Council deems to be an important stakeholder who provides behavioral health services through state funds. The Council should meet at least once</p> <p>The Council allows for efficient use of state and federal funds by identifying gaps in the mental and behavioral health programs of the state as well as eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 739 By: Harless Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to tuition and fees for certain military spouses and dependents.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>Current law, as it relates to in-state tuition for spouses and children of deployed military personnel, is ambiguous as written and often spouses and children of deployed military personnel are being charged out of state tuition rates at their institution of higher education.</p> <p>HB 739 will ensure that spouses and children of deployed military personnel who live in Texas, regardless of the length of time they have resided in the state, are permitted to pay in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education and this does not interfere with the Hazelwood Act.</p> <p>Eligibility for in-state tuition will be based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registering a letter of intent to establish residence with the Texas public institution that the spouse or a child will attend • The deployed military member's spouse graduated from a public or private high school in Texas or received equivalent in the state • Maintained a house in the state for a minimum of one year before the deployed military member left Texas. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2165 By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to the sale by certain alcoholic beverage permit or license holders of alcoholic beverages at a cost below the cost to the seller.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Current statute allows for liquor stores to sell certain alcohol bottles at a lower cost than they originally paid to get those bottles. This goal of lowering these prices is to bring customers into the store for those prices and consequently, they will buy other items at regular price; increasing sales for the store. This process is called "loss leader" sales. Loss Leader sales are allowed in other markets, however, there are concerns that within the alcohol industry, this creates over-consumption of certain alcohol. There are other concerns that state that Loss Leader sales can create discriminatory marketing practices since a decrease in price for smaller beverage brands can devalue their brands across the market.</p> <p>HB 2165 amends the Alcoholic Beverage Code in order to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages at a lower cost than originally paid for by the retailer. Under HB 2165 retailers are required to maintain records of all the alcoholic beverages they have purchased as well as make them available when the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission inspects the retailer.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1850 By: Klick</p>	<p>Relating to requiring counties to publish voter information during the early voting period.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>During Get Out the Vote (GOTV) efforts, there is not a set process on how participating parties are able to gather information on eligible voters who have already voted during early voting. This has resulted in voters being contacted to vote after they have already done so.</p> <p>HB 1850 requires election authorities to post early voting information, including voters who have already voted. No confidential information will be posted. At a minimum, only public voter information such as voter registration number for each voter listed in the register can be posted. This provides easier access to open voter records, helps candidates focus on those who have not voted, and removes the hassle of the open records request.</p> <p>HB 1850 could potentially increase voter turnout in Texas, by allowing GOTV efforts to be predominantly focused on eligible voters who have not yet made the effort to vote.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2184 By: Allen White Wu Phelan Morales</p>	<p>Relating to a public school student's transition from an alternative education program to a regular classroom.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>Students who have previously been placed in a juvenile justice facility and are reintegrated into the regular school system are often not given adequate support on the school campus during this transition. This transition is often very difficult and requires important measures to be taken to assure the successful re-entry to the classroom. Under current law, the sharing of student records is restricted to residential facilities and public schools and does not include juvenile pre-adjudication secure detention facilities, juvenile post-adjudication secure correctional facilities and does not require school districts to create individualized transition plans.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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		1 Absent	HB 2184 could lower the instances of recidivism in youth who have been involved with the justice system by requiring school districts to provide enrollment assistance to students with an individualized transition plan. This transition plan must be created within three days of the students release from a disciplinary alternative education program, a juvenile justice alternative education program, a residential program or facility operated by-or-under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a juvenile board, or any other governmental entity. The plan could cover topics such as behavioral management assistance, academic assistance, or counseling.	
HB 2177 By: Miller	Relating to license terms and fees and registration and listing fees for certain child-care facilities.	Human Services Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2177 places into statute set application and licensure fees for child-care facilities and child-placing agencies. The fees in place under HB 2177 are the fee structure which HHSC currently uses but HB 2177 removes HHSCs authority to set those fees. Facilities will be charged a \$35 nonrefundable application fee for an initial license. Child-care facilities will have a \$35 fee for the initial license while child-placing agencies will be charged \$50 for their initial license. HB 2177 repeals current statute which states that licenses expire and must be renewed. Instead, each child-care facility will pay an annual licensure fee of \$35 plus \$1 for each number of children they're licensed for and child-placing agencies will be charged an annual licensure fee of \$100. Listed family homes will be charged an annual fee of \$20 and registered family homes will be charged \$35 annually. Child care facilities and child-placing agencies are already required to have unannounced inspections for licensing purposes and are subject to revocation of their license. Requiring a renewal process is unnecessary given these required licensing inspections and was previously in statute.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 1941 By: Phelan	Relating to unconscionable prices charged by certain health care facilities for medical care.	Business & Industry Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Texas houses a majority of the country's freestanding ER facilities. There have been concerns that billing practices of freestanding emergency medical care facilities often present an unexpected and undue financial burden on individuals who seek out emergency care. Surprise billing can occur when a provider collects the full amount covered by a health plan and still bills an additional amount to the insured consumer. Freestanding emergency facilities can be deceptive as many consumers may consider them to be an urgent care facility or identical to the emergency room of a hospital. Consumers are often unaware that freestanding ERs often have significant costs and fees that are not associated with urgent care or hospital ERs. HB 1941 seeks to address these concerns by authorizing the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office to enforce requirements that a freestanding emergency medical care facility may not charge exorbitant fees for standard care. HB 1941 defines emergency care to mean health care service that are provided in an emergency facility to evaluate and stabilize certain medical conditions that could be considered by a layperson to necessitate urgent medical care. It specifies that the condition must be such that the lack of immediate medical care could result in certain negative health outcomes for the individual. The bill also defines an emergency facility as a freestanding emergency medical care facility that holds a particular license under Texas Code. HB identifies false, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices to include providing emergency care, emergency related care, or other care at an unconscionable price, which is defined as greater than 200 percent of the average charge for similar care by hospital emergency rooms that are the closest, geographically. If such charge data cannot be found, the attorney general may allow for another source for hospital charge data for the establishment of an average charge for care. The Consumer Protection Division, who is tasked with enforcement in such a situation, is allowed by the provisions of HB 1941 to request reasonable attorney's fees, court costs, and reasonable expenses incurred by the investigation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>The provisions for enforcement laid out in HB 1941 are similar to the actions the office of the Attorney General may take against vendors who engage in price gouging (taking advantage of consumers during or after a time of natural disaster).</p> <p>Individuals who seek emergency care are particularly vulnerable consumers due to the urgent necessity of care. If the costs of emergency care in Texas are not properly addressed, inflated costs could result in individuals self-triaging and basing their decision to seek care on financial costs rather than on the urgency of the medical situation.</p>	
<p>HB 897 By: Ortega Lucio III Vo Oliverson Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to safety requirements for a person directly operating an amusement ride.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 897 adds language to the Occupation Code to require training for an amusement park ride operator, being at least 16 years of age, and allows only indirect operation of one ride at a time. The bill would also prohibit the operation of rides while intoxicated Current statute does not have specific language regarding training and operations or intoxication during operation.</p> <p>HB 897 provides improves safety protocol for amusement park rides and adds another layer of safety for those who attend events with rides.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1930 By: White</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a charter school by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1930 allows the Texas Juvenile Justice Department to establish a charter school in Jefferson County for high-risk juveniles who are currently in the system or were formerly in the system. The goal of the charter school is to assist students in achieving high academic standards, participate in the workforce, join the military, contribute to society, and reduce future involvement with the justice system. A charter school created under HB 1930 would be subject to the same standards as other charter schools in Texas and will be funded similarly to other charter schools not established through TJJD. TJJD will select the facility and develop the facility for the charter school's needs. There is currently an empty and unused facility (the Al Price State Juvenile Correctional Facility) which could potentially be used for this purpose. This TJJD charter school would be required to develop an achievement plan, a therapeutic counseling plan, and provide training programs for workforce skills for each student. HB 1930 requires the school to hire certified and highly qualified teachers and administrators who will be classified as state employees. The charter school will have a cap on classroom size of 15 students and require enough social workers to keep a 1 to 3 ratio with students. TJJD did not request this charter school and does not currently have plans to develop the school but HB 1930 will allow TJJD to utilize a charter school in the future if needed in Jefferson County.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2715 By: Rodriguez</p>	<p>Relating to a study by the Texas Department of Transportation on shared motor-assisted scooters.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2715 addresses much of the lack of information available regarding motor-assisted scooters and their impact on local governments and integration into local roads by requiring the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to conduct a study on their use.</p> <p>HB 2715 requires the study to examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the legal definition and existing local regulation of shared motor-assisted scooters; • the liability issues related to shared motor-assisted scooter use and accidents; • the operation of shared motor-assisted scooters, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ safety standards, ○ interaction with pedestrians, ○ shared infrastructure, and ○ operator qualifications; • the economic impact of shared motor-assisted scooters, including any burdens on or benefits to local governments; • accessibility of shared motor-assisted scooters; • shared motor-assisted scooters' impact on public transportation; 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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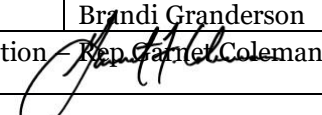
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the social norms and etiquette of shared motor-assisted scooter use; and how shared motor-assisted scooters have been and may be integrated into the overall transportation system. <p>TxDOT would be required to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2020.</p>	
HB 2248 By: Wray	Relating to the disposition and removal of a decedent's remains.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law section of the State Bar of Texas conducts a biennial review of Texas law and makes recommendations as to how the law can be changed to be improved. Current law allows for a person to file a written instrument in order to designate a living person to handle one's remains once they pass away. Current law states that if the person designates their spouse and they get divorced, then the written instrument is annulled, and the ex-spouse cannot make a decision anymore as to how to handle the remains.</p> <p>HB 2248 amends the Health and Safety Code in order to expand the language to include an annulled marriage and a marriage that has been voided. This expands the law in order to state that an ex-spouse cannot make a decision on one's remains unless explicitly stated in the written instrument. HB 2248 also specifies that the court that handles the probates in that jurisdiction will handle the dispute regardless if another probate proceeding has been initiated. HB 2248 provides clarification as to what should happen with someone's remains after a marriage is dissolved.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2478 By: Deshotel	Relating to driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, and other identification certificates; authorizing and increasing fees.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>There are current concerns that the lines at the Department of Motor Vehicles(DMV) are too long in certain areas and people are having to wait outside for hours just to renew their licenses. HB 2478 amends the transportation code in order to expedite the renewal of driver's licenses and increase the productivity of the DMV in order to decrease the wait times.</p> <p>Under HB 2478, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) will be able to contract with third-party vendors in order to renew Texas ID's, driver's licenses, and commercial licenses. This allows drivers to not have to physically travel and wait at the DMV in order to renew their licenses. The third party vendors, through contracts, will be able to access the DPS system in order to gather information to renew these licenses.</p> <p>HB 2478 also allows for commercial driver's licenses who do not have a hazmat endorsement to be extended from 6 years to 8. This allows for fewer people to have to come into the DMV less frequently and therefore allows for less traffic in those offices. HB 2478 increases the fee from \$60 to \$96 dollars but allows the yearly fee of obtaining this driver license to \$12 dollars a year.</p> <p>HB 2478 extends the traditional driver's license from 6 years to 8 also. This consequently also allows for less foot traffic within the DMV offices. HB 2478 increases the fees to renew these licenses from \$24 dollars to \$32 but this does keep the driver license fee at \$4 dollars per year.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2210 By: Bell, Keith Hinojosa Darby Clardy Springer	Relating to the consideration for public school accountability purposes of certain students receiving residential services in state hospitals.	Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>Students who are receiving residential services, not through a state hospital, are not accounted for toward a school districts' or campus' accountability ratings. However, students who are receiving residential services at a state hospital are currently counted toward a school districts or campus' accountability ratings even though the Education Code does not clearly consider students in these facilities a part of a school district where the state hospital is located.</p> <p>HB 2210 would add state hospitals to the list of exemptions for the students who participate in receiving residential services from a state hospital to be accounted for a school districts' or campus' accountability in that same location.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 1888 By: Bonnen, Greg	Relating to temporary branch polling place hours of operation.	Elections Vote:	<p>It has become evident that areas using mobile voting centers during city and school bond elections are using mobile voting to target voters at football games, and other school events that would attract voters who would potentially vote in their favor. HB 1888 seeks to address these issues by eliminating their ability to target voters. However, it does not</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone

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<p>Noble Springer</p>		<p>5 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>limit provisions only for local bond elections and will actually end mobile voting for all uniform November elections, which includes general elections.</p> <p>Currently, mobile voting locations are allowed to move throughout the county to access eligible working Texas voters at their place of employment or in nursing homes/long-term care facilities for individuals unable to make it to the permanent branch locations or their polling place during general elections. These types of voting centers were created to allow voting stations to assist with covering more territory across counties to accommodate more voters, especially in rural areas.</p> <p>HB 1888 requires each polling place, including mobile voting centers, to be held at a set location for the duration of early voting. HB 1888 requires all temporary polling places to follow the same stationary rules as permanent branch locations and county-run early voting locations. This legislation restricts temporary polling locations to one place either eight hours each day or three hours each day if the county does not serve as the early voting clerk for the area holding the election that has less than 1,000 registered voters.</p> <p>HB 1888 eliminates mobile voting centers for all elections. HB 1888 eradicates accessibility for voters throughout the county who currently depend on the flexibility of these mobile voting centers as their only access to the polls.</p>	<p>(832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3759 By: Nevarez</p>	<p>Relating to the type of newspaper required for publication of notice.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3759 seeks to expand publication notices by a governmental entity or representative in a newspaper be considered as another suitable form of notification based on the unique circulation characteristics of that community.</p> <p>HB 3759 would allow newspaper circulation as an additional means of notification outside of using second-class postal services in particular counties.</p> <p>HB 3759 requires that at least 51 percent of the residences in the county must use either means of notification in order to be justified the source of the notification.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 2613 By: Frullo</p>	<p>Relating to the offense of operation of a stash house and to funding certain crime victim services through the use of money derived from a civil asset forfeiture of contraband related to that offense, human smuggling and trafficking offenses, and certain prostitution offenses; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, there is no legislation that allows for a criminal penalty of a stash house for the purpose of facilitating human trafficking, smuggling and prostitution offenses. Therefore, other existing statutes have had to be leveraged to file criminal charges against the operators of a stash house which are often imperfect and not always fully applicable. HB 2613 will create a criminal offense, Class A misdemeanor, of the operation of a stash house as well as expand the definition of “contraband,” for the purposes of statutory contraband forfeiture procedures, in an effort to combat human trafficking and smuggling in Texas. HB 2613 will require that proceeds from the forfeiture to be credited to the special fund of the office of the Attorney General to be used to provide direct victim services division or to be used to cover costs of a contract with a local nonprofit organization that provides similar services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3855 By: Longoria Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to methods of computing interest charges on certain consumer loans.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>HB 3855 adds language to the Finance Code to ensure consumers have a more comprehensible rate structure for repayment. Language would that an interest rate could be used for unpaid principal balances as either: a daily rate applied to each bracket of the balance, or a single daily rate to the entire principal balance.</p> <p>HB 3855 would increase transparency for the consumer, providing the ability for them to have a more accurate picture of the amount owed on a product based on the aforementioned interest rate formulas.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

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HB 3059 By: Holland Landgraf	Relating to the requirement that motor vehicle dealers apply for the registration of and title for certain vehicles sold by the dealer.	Transportation Vote: 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Currently, car sellers must provide the purchaser with the option to choose what county they want their new vehicle registered or titled in. HB 3059 removes the requirement for dealers to present the VTR-136 form to buyers during each sale but still allows buyers to notify the dealer if they have a preference. HB 3059 allows the buyer to automatically apply for the vehicle registration in the county that the vehicle was purchased in unless the purchaser decides to exercise their right to choose a preferred county. HB 3029 works in the dealers' favor and by making paperwork easier. The average person might not know to ask for a specific county. Also, the money will not follow the vehicle; vehicle registration fees should go to the county where the car will be driven the most because those roads will be affected by the operation of the newly purchased vehicle. This will result in dealers keeping the registration fee revenue in their own counties even if the cars are headed to different parts of Texas.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 4242 By: Bernal Talarico Lopez Ramos	Relating to the consideration of reading level in the adoption of certain assessment instruments and associated student performance levels and to the temporary suspension of accountability sanctions for public schools.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The readability of the STAAR assessments and whether the test content is at appropriate grade-level has been questioned for several years, and this question has been brought up due to the high emphasis and high-stake nature of the assessments. These assessments determine the promotion of a student to the next grade level or their retention, so these assessments must be reviewed for readability. HB 4242 requires the TEA to include independent and qualified educators who have a history in teaching in the state to be included in the evaluation of the state assessments before they are integrated into the classroom and before field testing. HB 4242 prohibits assessments from being administered in the coming years if the assessment does not meet the readability standards.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 1631 By: Stickland Collier Burrows Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to prohibiting the use of photographic traffic signal enforcement systems.	Transportation Vote: 9 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Local governments use red light cameras to ticket Texans for violating traffic laws—or most commonly, running red lights. Many Texans want an end to red light cameras. People don't like the idea of getting more tickets, infringement upon privacy, and paying fines. However, the red-light cameras have improved public safety and brought revenue to the Trauma and Facility and EMD account. It is important that people pay attention when they are driving and stop appropriately at red lights; they are installed for a reason and if some people are following the rules while others aren't, crashes happen, people get injured, and Texans die. The average reduction of collisions at intersections where people were running red lights is 33% after installation of red-light cameras. In some cities, like Fort Worth, that number climbs to 83%. This means lives were saved. HB 1631 is a red-light camera ban that prohibits local governments in Texas from using photographic traffic signal enforcement systems or ticketing/giving citations based on photographs taken by red-light cameras. Currently, the red-light cameras are not being used in all Texas cities because this issue is dealt with on a local level. A downright ban is not the move because there are specific areas where this is increasing public safety. Also, the revenue from the red-light cameras is partially funding regional trauma centers, drunk driving prevention programs, traffic signal improvements, signage and signals, roadway repairs, and accident investigation equipment. HB 1631 would cut off that revenue stream without a solution. A main concern about red-light cameras is that their use could be more motivated by financial concerns than public safety. Payment for installation, upkeep, and monitoring these systems could lead to temptation for cities to issue more fines.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 4289 By: Coleman	Relating to the authority of certain local governments to create and operate health	County Affairs Vote:	Currently, under Texas law, the Health and Safety Code does not specifically allow and/or authorize hospital districts to administer certain health care provider participation programs. HB 4289 seeks to amend the Health and Safety Code by authorizing the administration of a health care provider participation program to provide additional	Favorable Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson

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	<p>care provider participation programs.</p>	<p>8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>compensation by collecting mandatory payments from hospitals to provide nonfederal portions of Medicaid supplemental payment programs and other purposes. HB 4289 applies to a hospital district, county, or municipality not participating in a health care provider participation program. HB 4289 provides for an annual public hearing on the amounts of mandatory payments and how the revenue should be spent and mandates that if a Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) is created, the governing body shall designate one or more banks as a depository for the mandatory payments received by the local government. HB 4289 only allows a district to assess and collect a mandatory payment only if a waiver program, uniform rate enhancement, or reimbursement is available to the district. HB 4289 requires reporting to the Health and Human Services Commission regarding the program on a schedule determined by the commission. Additionally, It must include the mandatory payments and any expenditure attributable to the mandatory payment or usage for other purposes. Proponents and stakeholders of HB 4289 believe it will improve the healthcare system for counties and their residents and provides expenditure transparency.</p>	<p>(202) 808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 634 By: Buckley Shine Lambert Cortez</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of the law governing the provision of state aid to certain local governments disproportionately affected by the granting of ad valorem tax relief to disabled veterans.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 22 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 634 would expand the program through the Comptroller that allows for local entities and counties disproportionately affected by the granting of property tax relief to disabled veterans to include Harker Heights. Currently, two counties and two cities receive these assistance payments; Bell Co., Coryell Co., Killeen, and Copperas Cove. These counties historically have not been fully reimbursed. For example, in 2016 eligible areas received .77 cents to the dollar and in 2018 eligible areas received .51 cents to the dollar. Based on Comptroller data, the current appropriation amount (\$20 million) in the 2020-2021 budget would allow for current eligible counties and entities to be fully reimbursed. Property tax relief for disabled veterans is good policy and the program should be expanded however, without additional appropriations current eligible areas and potential eligible areas would not be fully reimbursed.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4280 By: Morrison Landgraf Nevarez Craddick King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to the grant program distributing money from the transportation infrastructure fund.</p>	<p>Transportation Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are recent legislative efforts for funding VIA a disbursement mechanism to improve county roads in energy-producing areas. Counties are in need with increases in oil and natural gas production in Texas wearing out public roads. It is problematic that HB 4280 modifies the mechanisms of the grant program disbursement by only allowing counties to apply for the grant if at least \$10 million in oil and gas production taxes were collected in that county over the fiscal year preceding the application. The counties collecting this much in severance taxes are not the only counties with roads suffering the consequences of oil and gas production. HB 4280 also revises grant allocation requirements according to the previous fiscal year in the following categories. Grants distributed according to weight tolerance permits are decreased from 20% to 10%. Allocation according to horizontal well completions is decreased from 50% to 45%. 15% will be allocated according vertical well completions. These are the changes; the other percentages remain the same being: 20% according to oil and gas production taxes and 10% according to the volume of oil and gas waste injection. HB 4280 also requires counties entering into contracts for transportation infrastructure (involving construction/maintenance of roads) funded by these grants to advertise for bids, receive competitive bids, publicly open the bids, and read names of bidders and their bids aloud, and then award contract to lowest responsible bidder. Also, grants awarded must be spent within 5 years. This bidding process already takes place; HB 4280 is just formalizing what already happens.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 3193 By: Hinojosa</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing of a home and community support services agency; increasing fees.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Home and Community Support Services Agencies (HCSSAs) provide home health services, personal attendant services, and/or hospice services to people in long term care or living independently. There are over 6,000 licensed HCSSAs in Texas. Currently, statute allows for a two-year licensure period for HCSSAs, however, all other long-term care providers were moved to a three-year licensure period last session. HB 3193 expands the licensure period for HCSSAs to match the three-year period of other long-term care facilities. This will also match with federal requirements which state home health agencies must be surveyed every three years to be certified as a Medicare or Medicaid provider; resulting in less administrative work for the HCSSAs and staff at the commission. HCSSAs will still be subject to the currently required 18-month on-site inspection after an initial licensure survey and the on-site inspection every 36 months afterward. HB 3193 adjusts the maximum fees for a license to reflect the extra year of licensure.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2802 By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the amounts, availability, and use of certain statutorily dedicated revenue and accounts; reducing or affecting the amounts of certain statutorily dedicated fees.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 23 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2802 will further reduce the reliance of General Revenue- Dedicated (GR-D) accounts for the purpose of certifying the state budget. Certifying the state budget is the process by which the Comptroller determines the state budget to be within the constitutional spending limits. Reducing the amount of GR-D balances counted toward certification affects constitutional spending limits and estimated general revenue available determined by the Comptroller. Constitutional spending limits are determined based on the amount of money available in the General Revenue Fund. Using GR-D accounts to certify the budget is misleading because although we have the money, those funds can only be spent for specific purposes. Since 1991, unappropriated GR-D account balances have been counted as available to certify appropriations from the GR Fund. Reliance on these funds has increased as GR-D accounts were added, and balances grew. Last session \$5.3 billion in 177 GR-D accounts were used to certify the 2018-2019 budget.</p> <p>HB 2802 establishes that dedicated revenues in the following accounts or funds are not available for budget certification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texas Department of Insurance operating account • Lifetime license endowment account • Permanent fund for health and tobacco education and enforcement account • Permanent fund for children and public health account • Permanent fund for emergency medical services and trauma care account • Permanent fund for rural health facility capital improvement account • Permanent hospital fund for capital improvements and the Texas Center for Infectious Disease account • Child abuse and neglect prevention operating fund account • Child abuse and neglect prevention trust fund account • The separate fund accounts of each higher education institution <p>Additionally, HB 2802 adds energy efficiency upgrades for state facilities and a vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program by DPS to projects available for Texas Emissions Reduction Program (TERP) funds. It authorizes the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) to reduce the amount of the 50-cent monthly 911 service fee for each wireless telecommunications connection if the reduction will not prevent entities providing 911 service from receiving adequate funding. HB 2802 adds coastal resiliency projects identified in the Texas Coastal Resiliency Master Plan published by the General Land Office (GLO) in 2017 to be eligible for immediately available funds. It authorizes money in the coastal protection fund and money in the game, fish, and water safety account to be disbursed for those applicable coastal resiliency projects.</p> <p>This bill results in a reduction of \$777,580,000 available for certification of the 2020-2021 budget.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>

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<p>HB 4531 By: Neave</p>	<p>Relating to the rights and treatment of and services provided to certain adult sexual assault survivors.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Individuals with intellectual disabilities suffer from sexual assaults at rates greater than those without disabilities. Most times, these assaults occur from people whom the victim knows. In the case of people with intellectual disabilities, it can sometimes even be the guardian that is supposed to provide for them and keep them safe. There are concerns that there is no current medical guidance as to how nurses who conduct the sexual assault exams (SANE) and law enforcement should handle the cases where a victim has been sexually assaulted but does not have the legal capacity to consent to go through the rape kit exam.</p> <p>HB 4531 amends the Health and Safety Code in order to address these concerns. Under HB 4531, a healthcare facility is required to presume that an individual is competent if they themselves are requesting the exam. If the victim with a guardian does not request the exam, a healthcare facility can provide the exam without consent if it is determined by the facility that the survivor understands what the exam entails and agrees to receive it. HB 4531 also allows a healthcare facility to ask for consent to conduct an exam from the victims relative, caregiver, guardian, or a court. However, HB 4531 prohibits the healthcare facility from contacting the relative, caregiver, or guardian if it is suspected that the person had anything to do with the assault.</p> <p>HB 4531 denies the healthcare facility the right to conduct an exam to evaluate if the victim has been sexually assaulted if the victim denies the service. If the healthcare facility knows or believes that abuse was committed by the guardian or caretaker, then the facility must call the Department of Family and Protective Services in order to report the abuse.</p> <p>HB 4531 allows for victims of sexual assault who have intellectual disabilities to have justice and be able to report their abuse. HB 4531 extends protections towards these victims by expanding how they can get their exams done.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2754 By: White Thompson, Senfronia Krause</p>	<p>Relating to a limitation on the authority to arrest a person for certain misdemeanors punishable by fine only.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2754 will limit the authority to arrest a person for violations related to Class C misdemeanor offenses, which do not have jail time as punishment, as an effort to reduce misdemeanor bookings that unnecessarily strain the criminal justice system as well as the defendant. Many of these arrests are said to occur during traffic stops in which a person has previously made minor traffic violation or a nonviolent offense, such as a noise violation. HB 2754 will require that each law enforcement agency adopt a written policy regarding the issuance of citations for misdemeanor offenses punishable by fine only and specify certain requirements for these policies. HB 2754 prohibits, without a warrant, a peace officer or any other person from arresting an offender who commits only one or more offenses punishable by fine only, unless the officer or person has probable cause to believe that the failure to arrest the offender creates a clear and immediate danger to the offender or the public; the failure to arrest the offender will allow a continued breach of the public peace; or the offender will not appear in court in accordance with the citation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4165 By: Pacheco Cortez Allison Gervin-Hawkins Minjarez</p>	<p>Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There is currently a statutory limit for public junior college districts to offer only three bachelor's degrees at any time. This limit affects one of the largest community college systems located in San Antonio, the Alamo College District which has 5 campuses.</p> <p>HB 4165 will authorize public junior college districts to offer a maximum amount of six bachelor's degrees, instead of the current three, if the college is in a county that has a population of more than 1,800,000 and within 180 miles of the Texas-Mexico border.</p> <p>The author intends to amend HB 4165 by reducing the amount of bachelor's degrees from six to five for public junior colleges.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3672 By: Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the collection and reporting of data on services</p>	<p>Public Health</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</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by:</p>

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	<p>provided by chemical dependency treatment facilities.</p>	<p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>healthcare costs. With the increase in rates of prescription drug abuse, related deaths, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, it is imperative that Texas laws be amended to address the issue.</p> <p>There are concerns that, in light of these statistics, the state of Texas is not maximizing federal funds for chemical dependency treatment facilities. HHSC is the designated agency for substance use disorder services, meaning that HHSC is the agency through which the federal agency, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers a block grant for substance abuse prevention and treatment. SAMHSA uses certain state data to determine eligibility for funds. Despite this, neither the agency nor the state currently has the ability to adequately collect and report data regarding substance use disorder treatment centers. While HHSC reports data regarding certain contracts, the reported data does not include services HHSC paid for through Medicaid, or services provided in state-licensed substance abuse disorder treatment facilities that are not funded by state or federal dollars. This creates an underreporting of state needs and may possibly result in underfunding through SAMSHA and other federal funding sources.</p> <p>HB 3672 requires HHSC to collaborate with DSHS to collect information on facilities for the treatment of substance use disorder, including data on admission, discharge, and transfer. The data must meet the data set requirements set by SAMHSA and must be used to maximize funds available to be drawn down from federal sources. In the collection of data, HHSC must ensure compliance with state and federal laws regarding confidentiality and must ensure that the collected data is not available to disclosure as public information.</p>	<p>Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 831 By: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the residency requirement to be eligible for public office.</p>	<p>Elections Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 831 updates the definition of the continuous residency requirement for those seeking to run for public office. HB 831 broadly defines the process of how to establish a person's intent of returning to their residence after a temporary absence. Per HB 831, there must be substantial and reasonable proof of intent to return and a legal right to do so. For example, if someone has a temporary job placement such as the Legislative session, where they are required to move to Austin for 6 months but have every intention of returning to Houston once the session is over. This can be proven by still having legal access and financing the residence. The provisions laid out in HB 831 do not apply to those who are displaced by a natural disaster.</p> <p>HB 831 intends to express what temporary absence means when a person is seeking to run for a district office to ensure the residency requirements are met and the person running for office is directly attached to the district they are looking to represent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3683 By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing a dropout recovery competency-based educational pilot program provided through a campus or campus program charter or open-enrollment charter school.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Drop-out prevention programs are designed to aid students who are identified as "at-risk" of not completing their high school education. Current Texas law requires students to be in a classroom five days a week for the school to receive appropriate funding. There are very few flexible programs for students who decide to drop-out and want to come back to continue their education.</p> <p>HB 3683 creates a drop-out prevention program operated by charter schools and funded by general revenue and is based on the rate of program completion and not by attendance. HB 3683 would create a new type of school that prioritizes credit completion over attendance credit and allows the charter school to receive funding year-round with an accelerated credit completion program.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised by educators that this bill was tailored to accommodate a particular new vendor in the system that would implement a common core curriculum which is illegal in the state of Texas. This program could also expand charter school reach and funding in Texas. Additionally, the bill creates a separate audit and accountability system for this program, which is tailored specifically to be an education and skill equivalent. Some</p>	<p><u>Will of the House, with Serious Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>have also expressed a concern that the year round funding of the credit completion program could become a problem as opposed to an attendance based program that provides accountability by making sure students are actually present and utilizing the funding resources provided to the school.</p>	
<p>HB 2872 By: Burrows Murphy Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the collection, remittance, and administration of certain taxes on motor vehicles rented through a marketplace rental provider.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2872 requires any marketplace rental provider, including electric and online venues, to collect and remit local and state gross receipts tax on all marketplace motor vehicle rentals. Gross receipts, as defined in the committee substitute, is the total amount to be paid for the rental of a motor vehicle not including charges for insurance, damage, motor fuel or discounts. This legislation captures the growing peer-to-peer marketplace and companies such as Turo and Getaround. The bill assumes the same tax rate for motor vehicle rental use of 10% as the traditional car rental companies (ex. Enterprise, Avis, Alamo).</p> <p>The intent is to increase fairness in the industry by collecting existing taxes not explicitly addressed in statute. However, opponents argue traditional rental companies subject to a 10% rental tax rate do not incur the initial sales tax on vehicle purchases as owners have in peer-to-peer programs; therefore, rental services in this peer-to-peer realm should be taxed at the lower 6.25% standard sales and use rate for rental of tangible personal property.</p> <p>The bill also includes the ability for the owner of the vehicle to elect to collect and remit the tax in which case, the marketplace provider is required to comply with certain requirements, including reporting, filing and record retention. The comptroller can proceed against either the owner or the marketplace provider for unpaid taxes.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3824 By: Sherman</p>	<p>Relating to an affirmative finding of family violence entered in the trial of certain offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, a judge has the authority to make an affirmative finding of family violence in a trial of offenses under Title 5, Penal Code, however, many acts that occur in family violence cases are excluded as they do not appear under said Title. HB 3824 seeks to expand the types of offenses for which a judge is authorized to make an affirmative finding of family violence as an added protection to victims of family violence.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3496 By: Sheffield</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain pharmacies; providing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are concerns regarding the necessity of greater regulatory oversight for Texas pharmacies to prevent "pill mills." A pill mill is a facility that fuels the opioid crisis by prescribing or dispensing large amounts of opioid drugs without a legitimate medical purpose.</p> <p>HB 3496 addresses one aspect of this problem requiring that any applicant applying for a license under the Texas State Board of Pharmacies to disclose all ownership of a licensed pharmacy. No similar requirement exists in current statute or practice.</p> <p>HB 3496 requires that an applicant for a pharmacy license must submit a disclosure statement unless the pharmacy in question is operated by a publicly traded company or is owned by a retail grocery store. The applicant may also be exempt from the requirement for a disclosure statement if the applicant is applying for certain pharmacy licenses. If the applicant is not exempt, the disclosure statement, which will be given under oath, is required to be included with a pharmacy license application submitted to the Board must include, among other information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name of the pharmacy • the name of each person who has a direct financial investment in the pharmacy • the total amount or percentage of the financial investment made by each named individual • any connection to the pharmacy held by the named individuals as specified by the bill language <p>Aside from the disclosure statement, an applicant is required to notify the Board within 60 days of any administrative sanction or criminal penalty imposed on any individual named in the disclosure statement. HB 3496 also grants the</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<p>Board to adopt any additional rules regarding the disclosure of a source of financial investment. The information contained in this disclosure statement must be kept confidential and is not subject to disclosure as public information.</p> <p>HB 3496 also adds to the circumstances under which the Board may discipline a pharmacy license applicant or holder to include a circumstance in which such a person has dispensed drugs for a nontherapeutic purpose. In addition, the bill allows for the Board to collect a surety bond of up to \$25,000 to secure the payment of any penalty or cost of investigation due to certain violations. The Board may also penalize any applicant who does not submit a required disclosure statement.</p> <p>The provisions of HB 3496 are not novel as the components are utilized elsewhere in intergovernmental systems. The disclosure statement is similar to those required of mixed beverage permit holders, of nursing facilities. Additionally, the surety bond is used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, as well as by various state boards of pharmacy. The enactment of HB 3496 would not only allow for greater transparency regarding the priorities of a pharmacy, but also allow for the Board to have greater regulatory power over bad actor pharmacies. Doing so would allow for the restriction of unnecessary dispensing of opioids and other controlled substances.</p>	
<p>HB 1401 By: Howard Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education programs.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p> <p>Vote: 19 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 8 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1401 extends the dedication of the Permanent Fund for Higher Education Nursing, Allied Health, and Other Health- Related Programs to nursing education from 2019 to 2023. This fund was created to provide grants to public graduate level programs to address professional shortages. One year after the fund was created, in 2001, this fund was dedicated to only address the large nursing shortage due to other professions not being able to prove positive impacts. These funds are available to undergraduate level nursing programs, graduate level nursing programs, private higher education institutions, health related institutions, independent colleges and universities, and UT El Paso to continue receiving awards from the permanent fund. HB 1401 would also allow for UH College of Medicine, Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and UT Dell Medical School to access these grants if pending legislation is passed. These grants have helped fund nursing programs throughout the state to find solutions to the nursing shortage such as a competency toolkit on geriatric care, the creation of standards for simulated clinical training, skills labs, and individual simulations. As our state population increases, continuing these funds is important to ensure the future health of our state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp (210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2503 By: Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to workers' compensation death benefit eligibility for certain spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the surviving spouse of certain first responders, whether through marriage or remarriage, is eligible for workers' compensation death benefits. Current law does also allow for peace officers to be eligible for the benefit. However, HB 2503 clarifies the code by explicitly extending workers' compensation death benefit eligibility to surviving spouses of certain peace officers as well.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2898 By: Fierro</p>	<p>Relating to voting outside of the polling place.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the election code specifies that those who are physically unable to enter a polling place may participate in curbside voting which allows them to vote from their vehicle or receive their ballot at polling place entrance. HB 2898 adds parents and legal guardians accompanied by children under the age of 5 years old when voting to also be able to vote in the same manner. This legislation is permissive, it is not a requirement for the parent or the County. However, having this as an option can assist parents whose children are either sleeping, eating or sick. This can lower the number of parents that refuse to vote because they are with their children and the polling place lines are too long. HB 2898 requires the Secretary of State and participating county election administrators to conduct a study on how effective this process is in the November 2020 election.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			Implementing this legislation can increase voter turnout among parents and reduce the chaos at the polls. This does not prevent parents from bringing their children to the polls from engaging in the experience of voting. HB 2898 gives parents the option to be able to sit in their cars with their children and still have their voice heard in the elections.	
HB 3991 By: Bohac González, Mary	Relating to the deaf-blind with multiple disabilities waiver program.	Human Services Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) program provides home and community services to individuals with both deaf-blindness and another disability which presented prior to 22 years of age, who meet the requirement for placement in an ICF-IID facility, and who have significant impairments in at least three areas of major life activities (self-care, mobility, etc.). The DBMD waiver program provides services as an alternative to institutionalization for this small population of individuals who need unique support to continue living in their communities. The DBMD program served 381 individuals in 2018 with 416 individuals on the interest list for the program; meaning the program has more people on the interest list than are in the program. As recommended by the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities, HB 3991 requires HHSC to expand the waiver slots available through the DBMD program by 100 for the next biennium and by 10% of the interest list every biennium following 2022. In addition, HB 3991 requires HHSC to establish a minimum reimbursement rate for interveners and orientation and mobility specialists providing services through the DBMD program. Interveners provide essential environmental information for the individual with deaf-blindness and an access to communication in a way that can be understood and processed. Orientation and mobility specialists provide important skills training for individuals to safely travel and move in their environment. These providers are uniquely trained, and it is difficult to keep service providers in the program when there are other more competitive options with higher pay. HB 3991 will set a minimum reimbursement rate based on the provider’s training, education, experience and be adjusted annually for inflation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 4132 By: Rodriguez	Relating to maintenance and production of electronic public information under the public information law.	State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	As a measure against a governmental body from eroding the public’s right of access public information under the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA), HB 4132 sets out procedures that will require that record layout and accessibility of government information be in a usable format, if the governmental body stores the requested information in that format. HB 4132 will require that public entities engaging in contracts, for the creation and maintenance of electronic public information, make reasonable efforts to not impair or make more the difficult the public’s ability to inspect or copy the information. HB 4132 will not affect the applicability to the electronic public information of a confidentiality provision or other exception from required disclosure.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 993 By: Coleman	Relating to notice to a prospective residential tenant regarding flooding and flood insurance.	Business & Industry Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, concerns arose that many tenants had not been made aware that their home was in an area susceptible to flooding. HB 993 addresses this issue by requiring that, if a tenant's rented property is in a flood prone area, a landlord must provide a written notice to their tenant. The notice must state that the dwelling may be in a FEMA-designated flood area and include information regarding the searchable FEMA flood map service available online at no cost. In addition, the notice must include a warning that most available tenant insurance policies do not have flood coverage, but that the tenant has the option to seek an appropriate insurance policy with flood coverage. The bill also details the formatting specifications of the notice which may be provided within the written lease or as a separate written document that is given to the tenant before the lease begins. HB 993 provides a sample notice and requires that any such notice created by the landlord must contain the same information. Should the landlord fail to provide a notice according to the requirements of this bill and the tenant suffers damage resulting from a flood, the tenant has the right to terminate the lease through a written notice. HB 993 does not require a tenant to purchase flood insurance, but merely serves to ensure that the tenant is fully informed about potential risks of flooding.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

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<p>HB 4298 By: Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing of satellite offices of outpatient chemical dependency care facilities.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>The National Institute on Drug Abuse stated that in 2017, Texas had 1,458 deaths due to opioid overdoses. 1 in 9 Texans suffer from Substance Abuse Disorder, and in 2014 alone, the state spent over \$2 billion in opioid-related healthcare costs. Methamphetamine abuse is also a rising epidemic in this state, accounting for 13 percent off all admissions to Texas substance abuse treatment programs -- only slightly behind heroin and alcohol. With the increase in rates of drug abuse, related deaths, and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, it is imperative that Texas laws be amended to address the issue.</p> <p>There are concerns that the licensing and regulatory requirements for treatment facilities for substance use disorder can have a disproportionate effect on the rural counties of Texas. Incidentally, these are also the counties that experience disproportionately high effects of the opioid and methamphetamine crises. Currently, Texas licensing requirement state that all outpatient substance use treatment must be provided at a licensed facility but does not allow for that license to be transferred to a different physical address. Rural counties do not have a sufficient population to keep up with the costs for acquiring and maintaining a separate facility license for each location at which substance abuse outpatient treatment services are provided. This contrast between rural and urban counties is made particularly stark by the differences in geography. Urban counties not only have the populations and the funds to sustain a necessary number of such treatment facilities. Rural counties have neither the population nor the funds, but also have a need for greater numbers of facilities due to the sprawling nature of their geography and the sparse nature of their population. Additionally, rural Texas counties also see a higher rate of poverty, a factor in methamphetamine abuse. Economically, current statute makes it unfeasible for a full licensed facility to operate in the areas of Texas' highest need.</p> <p>HB 4298 allows for substance use disorder treatment facilities to operate satellite locations under the same license. This means that 676 facilities that currently operate as satellite centers with separate licensures would be allowed to operate under the license of the main outpatient facilities. The change would also allow for more outpatient facilities to open satellite centers in areas of need without risking their financial ability to operate. Satellite services could be offered in locations as varied as churches, offices, and other locations as determined by need, reaching individuals who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to undergo treatment.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1308 By: Calanni Zerwas Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety standards in certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>Due an increase in commercial motor vehicles, there is concern about DPS's ability to regulate commercial trucks and enforce standards. Resulting from increased border security there is a shortage of DPS officers (who enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards). Car crashes are increasing rapidly, and maintaining roadways is becoming complicated for local governments. Oftentimes, these trucks violate the law and need to be serviced. Local law enforcements experience frustration when recognizing violations and out of service criteria but can't do anything about it.</p> <p>HB 1308 seeks to address this issue by allowing Katy police officers to apply for certification to enforce commercial motor vehicle standards—there is a specific need in Katy for enforcement regarding overweight trucks. HB 1308 is bracketed to the municipality of Katy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 201 By: Stephenson</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of the combative sports advisory board.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Combative sports are sports in which 2 contestants participate in full contact competitions such as boxing. Currently, combative sports have a board that oversees these sports made up of four doctors, one boxing representative, one mixed martial arts representative, one referee, a former combative sports contestant, and a member of the public. HB 201 amends the occupations code in order to remove the member of the public from the board and add a licensed chiropractor to the board. HB 201 does not remove the member of the public until their term is over and adds the chiropractor at that time. Chiropractors help heal the most common injuries that these sports participants suffer such as whiplash, concussions, and acceleration injuries. The board was created to oversee the sports including injuries that occur while participating in combative sports. HB 201 provides a broad scope of members to serve on the board including chiropractors who play a crucial role in healing injuries.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>

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