



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Yvonne Davis
 Co-Vice Chair, Senator Jose Rodriguez
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Ana Hernandez
 Treasurer, Rep. Armando Walle
 Secretary, Rep. Victoria Neave
 General Counsel, Rep. Lina Ortega
 Freshman Rep., Rep. Vikki Goodwin

Rep. Diego Bernal
 Rep. Abel Herrero
 Rep. Mando Martinez
 Rep. Eddie Rodriguez
 Rep. Toni Rose
 Sen. Jose Menendez
 Rep. Harold Dutton
 Rep. Chris Turner
 Rep. Rafael Anchia
 Rep. Jessica Farrar

Rep. Mary Gonzalez
 Rep. Gina Hinojosa
 Rep. Rhetta Bowers
 Rep. John Turner
 Rep. Ina Minjarez
 Rep. Sergio Munoz
 Rep. Carl Sherman
 Rep. Alex Dominguez
 Rep. Nicole Collier
 Rep. Julie Johnson

PART 2. Representative

Desk:

LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE Calendar – Thursday, May 9, 2019				
HB 744 By: Rose Walle Farrar Reynolds Neave	Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women after a pregnancy.	Human Services Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Medicaid covers 50% of births in Texas, yet mothers on Medicaid are only covered up to 60 days after the birth of their child. 25% of Texan women of reproductive age lack healthcare coverage. This lack of postpartum coverage is leading to an increased risk of morbidity and mortality for Texas mothers who do not have access to healthcare. Texas has the highest maternal mortality rate in the country. A majority of these maternal deaths occur between 60 days and 12 months after birth and were preventable with access to appropriate care. The Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force, created by the 83rd legislature, emphasizes the necessity of high quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare to increase positive health outcomes for Texas mothers and their children. HB 744 extends women's Medicaid coverage up to 12 months after birth or miscarriage. Expanding coverage for Texas mothers up to a full year postpartum will ensure access to life-saving care, preventative care, provide education, and provide long-term support for Texas' most at-risk populations. HB 744 will lead to positive health outcomes for mothers and their children and improve on Texas' unacceptable maternal mortality rate.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 2863 By: Landgraf	Relating to the applicability of competitive bidding requirements to expenditures for certain municipal utility facility relocations.	Transportation Vote: 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	When municipalities own public utilities located on a state highway right of way it can be problematic when there are highway construction projects to expand, add lanes, extend, etc. Highway construction projects run into avoidable delays when projects necessitate relocation or adjustment of municipally-owned utilities- gas lines, electric lines, water lines, cable lines. If municipalities own public utilities located in the state highway right of way, HB 2863 allows them to negotiate and directly contract for utility relocation services with TxDOT-selected contractors (chosen from the competitive bidding process) for state highway design-bid-build (DBB) or design-build (DB) projects instead of cities being required to follow procurement laws requiring them to competitively bid/request best value proposals for utility adjustment work. This is anticipated to save time for municipally-owned public utilities and avoid unnecessary delays in highway construction projects.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 2463 By: King, Tracy O.	Relating to the deposit and allocation of certain funds to the horse industry escrow account.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Incentives from other states' racing industries have been pushing Texas horse breeders and owners to outsource their feed and animals out of the state. There are concerns that if the state does not incentivize the racing industry, Texas will lose out on opportunities to other states. HB 2463 addresses these concerns by amending the Tax code to require an amount equal to the taxes collected on the sale, storage or use of horse feed to be deposited to the credit of the escrow account administered by the Texas Racing Commission. HB 2463 allows any designated state horse breed registry to apply for a receipt of money in that escrow account for any event that helps the horse industry provide bigger monetary prizes for winning these events. HB 2463 allows for the use of 70% of the escrow account to be used for prizes at these events. HB 2463 requires the comptroller to deposit provisions into the escrow account an amount that equals the lesser of \$50 million for the account to hold. The tax that funds this account is already collected; HB 2463 simply redirects the money into the escrow account.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution  Rep. Garnet Coleman

			HB 2463 fosters a strong racing industry that will help historic Texas institutions and incentivizes Texas business to stay within the state.	
HB 1938 By: Deshotel	Relating to the expiration date of a commercial driver's license; increasing a fee.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>There have been concerns that the lines at the Department of Public Safety are too long. Current law sets a commercial driver's license to expire after 5 years. It has been suggested that if the expiration date for these licenses is extended, people will come to the office of the Department of Public Safety less often and therefore the lines will go down.</p> <p>HB 1938 extends the commercial driver's license for those who do not have a hazardous materials endorsement for another 3 years, extending the commercial driver's license from 5 to 8 years. HB 1938 increases the fee for this driver's license from \$60 to \$96 dollars, keeping the driver's license fee at \$12 dollars per year.</p> <p>HB 1938 sets the fee for commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement at \$60 and sets the following expiration dates for these commercial driver's licenses at 5 years.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 1681 By: Ashby	Relating to peer assistance programs for employees of local law enforcement agencies.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>The peer assistance programs were created to provide emotional and tangible support by paraprofessionals for front line workers in the field to allow for a healthy outlet for issues that the workers may be facing. These programs are protected by confidentiality laws; however, these programs do not include police officers or police chaplains.</p> <p>HB 1681 authorizes local law enforcement agencies to establish peer assistance programs within their precincts, including chaplain programs for police officers affected by the duty of their jobs. HB 1681 allows for fellow police officers to be able to refer their coworkers if they have been affected by a tragedy for them to receive assistance counseling services.</p> <p>HB 1681 establishes confidentiality protections and authorized disclosure information that a peer assistance program receives and establishes the rule of privileged communication between an employee and a chaplain. HB 1681 grants immunity for civil action for any employee who reports, in good faith, another employee.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 2143 By: Turner, John Wray Darby	Relating to the eligibility of a first responder for workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder.	Business & Industry Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Reports by the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) states that first responders are at a 50 percent higher risk than the general population for the development of mental health disorders including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as higher rates of suicide attempts and suicide ideation. First responders often undergo dangerous situations that are physically, mentally, and emotionally draining. For this reason, a diagnosis of PTSD may not be rooted in just one event, but the compounding of trauma from a number of events. PTSD suffered by a first responder is currently a compensable injury for which the employee is eligible to receive worker's compensation as long as the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the disorder is caused by an event that occurred while the individual was performing work-related duties • the evidence indicates that the stated work-related events were a significant contributing factor of the disorder <p>There are concerns that the language the bill may be too broad to properly address this issue. A clarifying amendment that is acceptable to the author will include a requirement that the date of injury must be specified on the worker's compensation claim.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

<p>HB 1607 By: Goldman Geren Price Turner, Chris Miller</p>	<p>Relating to a deduction under the franchise tax for certain contracts with the federal government.</p>	<p>Ways & Means 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1607 addresses the state’s competitive disadvantage in the aerospace and defense (A&D) sectors by conforming state franchise law with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) for federal defense contractors. Currently and unique to our state since 2006, contractors are able to deduct either direct manufacturing costs or employee compensation costs but not both, resulting in loss of state market share in the industry. HB 1607 would allow federal defense contractors to claim both for franchise tax deductions along with ongoing, supportive-service costs like building, maintenance, training and other costs associated with the contract. This is especially relevant as advancement and sophistication within the A&D industry mean the industry relies increasingly on services and not merely tangible products.</p> <p>This would place Texas on a level playing field with states like California that have attracted some of Texas’ lost industry. It is estimated that aligning the state franchise code with FAR would result in the recovery of 4,000 jobs lost over the past decade, just over \$4 billion of additional economic activity, and \$1.4 billion in earnings for Texas workers.</p> <p>The committee substitute provides for the phasing-in of additional A&D franchise deductions over five years (2020-2024) by an additional 20% each year and requires that the aerospace entities be engaged in activities described by certain North American Industry Classification System codes.</p> <p>There are concerns regarding the \$63.8 million fiscal note over five-years as it draws down the Property Tax Relief Fund dedicated to the Foundation School Program.</p>	<p>Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1771 By: Thierry Dutton Thompson, Senfronia Shaheen Miller</p>	<p>Relating to a prohibition on prosecuting or referring to juvenile court certain persons for certain conduct constituting the offense of prostitution and to the provision of services to those persons.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Under current statute, a “person” who knowingly agrees to receive a fee from an individual or pay a fee to an individual to engage in sexual conduct engages in prostitution. With this statute, the term “person” is broad and could mean a child. Therefore, a child who is the victim of child exploitation or sex trafficking could be considered to have engaged in prostitution and be charged. This directly contradicts another section of the Penal Code dealing with human trafficking which states that a prostituted child is a victim who cannot consent.</p> <p>HB 1771 amends statute to explicitly state that an individual younger than 17 years of age cannot be considered to have committed a prostitution offense and cannot be arrested or referred to juvenile court. In addition, HB 1771 places in statute a process for law enforcement to follow when they encounter incidences of child exploitation. With HB 1771, law enforcement taking possession of a child who has been victimized will use best efforts to return the child to their parent or another individual who is entitled to have possession of the child. Should these individuals not be available, law enforcement will contact a local care coordinator or service provider who will consult with the Governor’s program for victims of sex trafficking and the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit to assign a caseworker and deliver services. These services will include medical, psychiatric, psychological, safety, and housing needs. If a parent, local care coordinator or service provider is not available, law enforcement will transfer possession of the child to the Department of Family and Prevention Services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1493 By: Krause</p>	<p>Relating to weight limitations for over-the-road buses.</p>	<p>Transportation Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Certain buses (over-the-road) are designed to be heavier than traditional buses. Over-the-road buses have an elevated passenger deck located above a baggage compartment. Currently, vehicles or combinations of vehicles over or on public highways and port-of-entries between Texas and Mexico may not operate if there is a single-axle weight heavier than 20,000 pounds or tandem axle weight or a tandem axle weight exceeding 34,000 pounds.</p> <p>HB 1493 provides distinction and imposes weight limitations for over-the-road buses. HB 1493 allows over-the-road buses on public highways or port-of-entries between Texas and Mexico to have a tandem axle weight that exceeds the maximum (34,000 pounds) by 20% or less and allows a maximum of 24,000 pounds for the single axle weight.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>

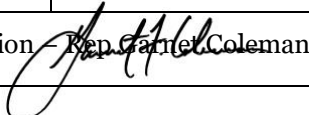
<p>HB 2831 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the service of notice of a special commissioners' hearing in an eminent domain proceeding.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>During the Eminent Domain process, a condemning authority appoints a special commissioner's court to determine the condemned property's value and any damages. Each party of the eminent domain process is entitled to a notice informing them of the time and place of the hearing. Currently, the notices are served to each party personally or to the party's authorized agent/attorney, or by publication in a newspaper of general circulation. HB 2831 allows the Special Commissioner's hearing to be delivered in the same manner as provided in Rule 106 of Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.</p> <p>This would allow the notice to also be sent by certified mail with a return receipt request through the clerk of the court where the condemnation case was filed. Although concerns have been raised that since most ranchers use P.O boxes that are not checked very frequently, HB 2831 still allows for in person delivery if certified mail is not accessible for parties involved.</p> <p>HB 2831 allows for flexibility with distribution of notices and could save taxpayer money and time used for notice by publication to serve parties involved.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2609 By: King, Ken González, Mary Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to permissible teachers assigned to a bilingual education program and the permissible uses of the bilingual education allotment provided under the foundation school program.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently TEA allows school districts to apply for a Bilingual Education Exception and/or an English as a Second Language (ESL) Waiver Application, for schools that are unable to provide a bilingual certified teacher for a bilingual program. This waiver has guaranteed protections for the bilingual education program and bilingual certified teachers.</p> <p>HB 2609 allows teachers that are certified in ESL to teach a bilingual education program if there is a declared shortage of bilingual teachers and the district cannot reasonably obtain a teacher certified in bilingual education. Additionally, HB 2609 creates a new wavier for this process to occur.</p> <p>The concern with this bill is that ESL teachers are only required to know English for their classrooms and are not required to know the native language of the students who are members of that classroom. By allowing an ESL teacher to be in place of a Bilingual Education certified teacher causes academic inequities for the students. Another concern is that the waiver HB 2609 creates does not offer the same protections the current TEA wavier includes and does not do enough to match the current protections through TEA.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2784 By: Phelan Romero, Jr. Blanco Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship Grant Program.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2784 creates the Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship Grant Program to address workforce shortages and the skills gap in Texas. The Texas Workforce Commission will establish this program to encourage apprenticeship programs throughout Texas which provide on-the- job training and trade industry instruction through a certified program. In order to participate in the program, entities must be in good standing with the state and not owe delinquent taxes. These applicants must have an apprenticeship program which provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-the-job training • Guarantees employment upon completion • Pays at least \$15 an hour to participants and provides benefits • Has a program duration of at least 26 weeks • Gives preference to the following categories of participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ veterans ○ formerly incarcerated individuals ○ underemployed individuals <p>The Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship will have a dedicated account in GR for purposes of implementing apprenticeship program grants. Grants will be awarded as a reimbursement for training costs and must meet certain success measures prior to its distribution. The apprenticeship program must have participants who have completed the program successfully and maintained employment over 6 months prior to receiving their grant funding. Grants awarded to a program may not exceed \$10,000 per participant or the cost of the training.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			<p>At the end of each year, TWC will submit an annual report to the legislature reporting on the grants awarded through this program including the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of jobs created • Median wage of each job • Amount of each grant awarded to a recipient • Number and categorization of program participants <p>HB 2784 will increase opportunities for individuals to be paid while they learn and gain skills in the trade industry; increasing the likelihood of accessing a high-quality job.</p>	
HB 464 By: Moody Guillen	Relating to an application for a writ of habeas corpus based on certain relevant scientific evidence that was not available at the applicant's trial.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, you can get habeas relief if "junk science" evidence was used in the guilt phase of a criminal trial. However, that same evidence can be reintroduced in the punishment phase of a trial and the defendant would not be able to seek similar habeas relief, which can have a harsh result in a death penalty case. HB 464 will include a condition under which a court may grant relief to a convicted person on an application for a writ of habeas corpus the finding that, had certain scientific evidence been presented at trial after the filing of the requisite application containing specific facts regarding that evidence, on the preponderance of the evidence the person would have received a different punishment.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 1752 By: Clardy	Relating to the construction manager-at-risk method of contracting for governmental construction projects.	State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	A Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) is a delivery method which entails a commitment by the construction manager to deliver the project within a guaranteed maximum price (GMP), which is based on the construction documents and specifications at the time of the GMP. HB 1752 will clarify, as there has been confusion, that a CMAR shall utilize competitive bidding, either low cost building or competitive sealed proposal bidding in making an award for a major scope of work. HB 1752 will also specify that if a CMAR elects to use the competitive sealed proposal method for bidding, that cost must comprise no less than 40% of the selection factor criteria.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 496 By: Gervin-Hawkins Bernal Allison	Relating to the placement of bleeding control stations in public schools and to required training of public school personnel and students.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>There have been many instances of school shootings across the nation and calls for increasing school safety measures. One measure that during the school shootings involved the rapid application of tourniquets for people who would have otherwise bled out and further showed that bleeding control station programs save lives.</p> <p>HB 496 requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to develop and implement at their campus a bleeding control station program and additionally requires school personnel and students to be trained on how to use the bleeding control station. HB 496 will require the bleeding control station to have an Emergency Alerting Device (EAD) that is linked with satellite trackers to detect to location of where the kit was opened for emergency personnel to locate where it is being administered. HB 496 authorizes the TEA to approve a training course, not available online, designed for the bleeding control stations that will be endorsed by the American College of Surgeons or similar organization.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 324 By: Murr	Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of improper relationship between educator and student.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Due to an ambiguity as to what constitutes as an improper relationship between an educator and a student, HB 324 will define "sexual contact" in an effort to close a loophole for the prosecution of educators who engage in such a relationship. Sexual contact will be defined under this section of the Penal Code as: any touching by an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school, with the intent to arouse or gratify sexual desire, of the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of a person enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school; or any touching of any part of the body of a person enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school with the anus, breast, or any part of the genitals of an employee of a public or private primary or secondary school.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>HB 873 By: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to behavior improvement plans and behavioral intervention plans for certain public school students and notification and documentation requirements regarding certain behavior management techniques.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>A Behavior Improvement Plan (BIP) is designed for students with disabilities that may need additional support for the general education classroom. A properly structured BIP often leads to a decrease in disciplinary actions and can include individualized learning strategies, and specific goals for the student. There are instances where a BIP is not conducted properly and leads to an ineffective plan for the student and can leave a student at risk for unnecessary disciplinary actions against them. Currently, the timeframe for a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) is 3 years prior to the assignment of a BIP and not annually to monitor for improvements.</p> <p>HB 873 will ensure that an FBA is conducted prior a BIP being created for a student as well as require that an annual review be conducted for the student's BIP to improve the effectiveness of the plan if necessary, instead of the current time frame of 3 years. HB 873 will help educators and students to ensure that a healthy environment is being created for a student to thrive and succeed in. Additionally, HB 873 requires a notification to the parents or guardians of the student for the use of restraints.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 431 By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, statute prohibits individuals that committed an offense in connection to behavior directly attributable to an election from serving as a poll watcher. HB 431 extends this prohibition to those who have been convicted of any felony offense, including those without any relation to elections.</p> <p>HB 431 excludes persons with any felony conviction to participate in the electoral process, even though they have not done anything illegal to impact elections. People convicted of a felony already lose their right to vote, ability to become an election worker and volunteer deputy voter registrar until they have completed their sentence/parole/probation. HB 431 would totally exclude them from an election process even after being released from prison and after completing parole/probation. There is no prevision in the bill that will alleviate these restrictions once the person has completed their parole/probation. HB 431, as written, will totally ban anyone with a felony to be a poll watcher.</p> <p>Voter engagement has been known to reduce recidivism among those who have been incarcerated because they feel engaged in their community. There is not any sufficient evidence showing that this is currently an issue that needs action. This would totally disenfranchise those convicted of a felony from the election process, even after they have had their right to vote restored.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1015 By: Martinez</p>	<p>Relating to warning signs posted by certain food service establishments that prepare food items containing peanut products.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Roughly 0.6% of US adults and 2.5% of US children suffer from peanut allergies and data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that the prevalence of food allergies in the country are steeply rising. HB 1015 requires restaurants to post a warning stating that the restaurant prepares food items that contain peanut products. The warning sign should be posted in an area where it can be seen, either in the eating area or on the menu. This requirement applies to food service establishments with a designated eating space and preparation of one or more food items containing peanuts or a peanut product.</p> <p>The Executive Commissioner of the HHSC will be responsible for adopting rules for the implementation of this requirement and DSHS will be responsible for incorporating this requirement into the training for regional inspectors of food establishments. The implementation of this bill could prevent serious and even fatal reactions in individuals with peanut allergies.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 937 By: Davis, Sarah Zerwas Johnson, Julie Howard Farrar</p>	<p>Relating to health benefit plan coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 937 amends the Insurance Code to allow for enrollees to obtain a 12-month supply of birth control in one pharmaceutical visit. Health benefit plans would be required to provide at least a 3-month supply at the first pharmaceutical visit when prescribed the birth control for the first time. A 12-month supply would be provided upon the second visit with the same prescription. Only one 12-month supply may be collected in a twelve-month period. Currently, those enrolled in healthcare plans that offer coverage of birth control are limited to a 3-month supply or less per visit to the pharmacy. With some places being medical deserts, a regular pharmacy visit can be very time-consuming. With these factors, it can cause those using medical birth control to miss doses increasing the chance of</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			unintended pregnancy. HB 937 would increase consistent access for those who use medical birth control, therefore, increasing the medically appropriate use of medication.	
HB 1041 By: Walle	Relating to the places a public employer may provide for employees to express breast milk.	State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, a public employer may consider a single-user restroom as an acceptable place for public employees to express milk. HB 1041 will simply remove the language “multiple user” from the current statute to establish that a place other than a bathroom is deemed as acceptable for the purpose of expressing milk. This change is important as it can reduce the risk of contaminating expressed milk by providing a space that is both sanitary and free of chemicals, such as from aerosols. Bathrooms are a place to eliminate waste from the body, it should not be a place where food is prepared.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 948 By: Metcalf	Relating to the period for which certain land owned by a religious organization for the purpose of expanding a place of religious worship or constructing a new place of religious worship may be exempted from ad valorem taxation.	Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 948 extends the property tax exemption for religious organizations on land purchased for expansion or construction of the organization's regular place of worship from six years to ten. The intent is to help address concerns of smaller congregations that lack the funds to complete a project within the current six-year timeframe. This would result in an indeterminate but negative impact on taxable property value and reduction in local tax revenue as well as the Foundation School Fund.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 1045 By: Neave Lopez Reynolds	Relating to a veteran suicide tracking system and required reporting of veteran suicides by certain persons.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 1045 would add language to the Government Code to track the number of veteran suicides. The Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) will develop and maintain a system to determine the number of veteran suicides and determine how many of those veterans received services from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Information is the system would include data available from USDVA as well as reported information from a public citizen or healthcare providing entity who knows a veteran whose cause of death was suicide.; this information is confidential remains confidential after reporting. Additionally, look at is a rate of suicide and seek to evaluate the correlation with receipt of services to determine if the rate is going up or down in the state as well as the effectiveness of services that would be correlated with this number. Based on this, the legislature will make recommendations for improvement. HB 1045 would assist in the creation of more effective programming for veterans who are vulnerable and utilize effective programs offered to them.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1348 By: Clardy Johnson, Julie Lambert Vo	Relating to certain insurance practices with respect to repair of motor vehicles.	Insurance Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1348 adds language to the Insurance Code to provide more regulation regarding the repair of vehicles after accidents. Provisions of usable parts under automobile coverage must meet higher standards than are required by current industry practice to create savings for the insurance provider. Parts used would have to meet quality standards and crash sustainability as manufacturer regulated parts Additionally, physical repairs and installation of new parts would have to be done regarding manufacturer standards of repair of the vehicle. Insurance companies would be prohibited from intimidating, coercing, or suggesting to the beneficiary the use of a specific repair facility/person or that a specific facility/person will provide faster results of repair/service/claim. HB 1348 would protect consumers from deceitful or malicious practices used to cut costs of vehicular repair after an accident. The clarification of standard of repair and parts to be used in those repairs ensure safety as well as the uncompromised quality of the vehicle even after an accident.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 1357 By: Wu King, Ken Hinojosa Metcalf	Relating to the prosecution of and punishment for the criminal offense of failure to report certain sexual offenses committed against a	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes	In recent months, there have been national headlines of systemic child abuse that has occurred within the United States. In some of these instances, hundreds of children have been sexually abused within an organization and it has come to light that the administration of that organization knew about the abuse but never acted on it. In Texas, if someone fails to stop or report aggravated sexual assault of a child, they can be charged with a class A misdemeanor offense. A class A misdemeanor can be punishable with up to a year in county jail and a fine up to \$4,000 dollars.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

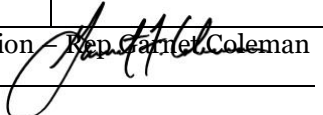
OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

	child; increasing criminal penalties.	<input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent	<p>HB 1357 amends the Penal Code to increase the charge for failure to report aggravated sexual assault of a child with the state jail felony offense. The state jail felony offense can result in incarceration with a minimum of 6 months up to 2 years in a state jail and a fine of up to \$2,000 dollars.</p> <p>HB 1357 also enhances the penalty for failure to report certain sexual offenses against a child to a third degree felony if it is found that the person intentionally interfered with the investigation or prosecution against an individual who committed that offense. If the investigation finds that the offender assaulted more children due to the obstruction of the investigation, the charge is increased to a second degree felony.</p> <p>HB 1357 grants immunity to people who reported the abuse to a law enforcement agency or the department of family and protective services. Any person who was personally sexually victimized by that same actor also has a defense against prosecution if they do not report further abuse to other children.</p>	
<p>HB 1536 By: Miller Raymond Parker Davis, Sarah Zerwas</p>	<p>Relating to trauma-informed care for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, trauma-informed care training for certain department employees, and the establishment of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.</p>	<p>Human Service</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1536 requires DFPS to transition to a trauma-informed system of care. This new system integrates an understanding of the impact of trauma and intervention models into policies and procedures. These policies should seek to do things such as reduce the number of placement changes for children in care, the number of children without permanency, the number of children receiving psychotropic medications, etc. While transitioning to a trauma-informed system of care model is important and necessary for the benefit of children and families in care, a transition to this extent proposed by the bill will require cultural changes that cannot be represented in legislation. There are concerns that placing legal requirements within statute for this transition will not allow for fluidity which is necessary for a relatively new science to grow. DFPS should recognize that this transition may require ongoing effort even with provisions of HB 1536.</p> <p>HB 1536 creates a Trauma-Informed Task Force to assist DFPS in transitioning to a trauma-informed system for children in their care. The task force will meet at least quarterly and will submit a biennial report to the legislature on the transition to a trauma-informed system of care. This task force will be dissolved on September 1, 2023. The task force will consist of the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 members of the public experienced in trauma-informed care appointed by the Commissioner • 1 member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives • 1 member of the Senate appointed by the Lieutenant Governor <p>With HB 1536, DFPS employees, including caseworkers, administration, and supervisors, will be required to receive trauma-informed care training which includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms of trauma and adverse childhood experiences • The impact of trauma on the child including the effect on their behavior, decision-making abilities, and their memories • How trauma may impact attachment or lack of attachment for a child • Importance of screening children for trauma due to the risk of inappropriate interventions or psychotropic medications • Potential for re-traumatization in the care of DFPS • Resources for research, interventions, and available trauma-informed mental or behavioral health services • The role that appropriate trauma-informed care may have for the child to build resiliency and process adverse experiences 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

			<p>This trauma-informed care training must be at least 8 hours. In addition, HB 1536 requires an additional 8 hours of specialized training for administrators and supervisors/directors which will assist the integration of trauma-informed care into their policies and practices and support staff, families, and children in their care. Caseworkers will be required to undergo specialized trainings for at least a collective 24 hours which is pertinent to their interactions and responsibility for children in the state’s care. These trainings include aspects such as recognizing trauma triggers, understanding interventions which help regulate emotions, recognizing practices which may re-traumatize children, and recognizing secondary trauma in themselves or their coworkers. All trainings of DFPS employees shall be completed in all regions by September 1, 2023.</p> <p>HB 1536 places into statute (unless otherwise defined through a negotiated rulemaking process by DFPS) a definition of “trauma” specified as a range of maltreatment, interpersonal violence, abuse, assault, and neglect experiences encountered by children, adolescents, and adults including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse • Interpersonal or relational trauma from abuse, neglect, and maltreatment • Community, peer, and school-based assault, molestation, and severe bullying • Severe physical, medical, and emotional neglect • Witnessing domestic violence • The impact of abrupt separation, serious and pervasive disruptions in caregiving and traumatic loss <p>HB 1536 places into statute (unless otherwise defined through a negotiated rulemaking process by DFPS) a definition of “trauma-informed care”, “trauma-informed program”, or “trauma-informed service” specified as a care/program/service that is centered on the individual and takes into account the impact of traumatic experiences on an individual’s brain and functioning, symptoms of trauma, trauma triggers, and methods for addressing an individual’s needs to feel safe and regulate emotions.</p> <p>HB 1536 allows DFPS to form these definitions through a negotiated rulemaking process (which are easier to change) that must be completed by December 1, 2019. The definitions of trauma and trauma-informed care as currently outlined in HB 1536 are different from the nationally recognized definitions as set forth by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Any statutory definition of trauma in Texas code should align with this nationally recognized definition that is founded in and reinforced by research. If the negotiated rulemaking process does not result in new definitions and the definitions in HB 1536 were to be prescribed, there are concerns that these definitions will jeopardize federal funds through the Family First Prevention Services Act.</p> <p>Children in care, and often their parents, have experienced significant trauma in the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, family separation, or family violence. Oftentimes this trauma is complex and compounded and can lead others to misunderstand the child and their behaviors. It is crucial that DFPS employees (at all levels) responsible for the care of children and their families truly understand the tragic impact of trauma, respond with empathy, and advocate for them to get the necessary services to grow and thrive.</p>	
<p>HB 1648 By: Lucio III Hunter</p>	<p>Relating to arbitration related to certain risks under certain insurance policies and contracts.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1648 adds language to the Insurance Code to specify that litigation regarding an insurance policy where the subject or risk of the policy is located in Texas may only take place in Texas. This would apply to policies written outside of the state as long as the subject/risk are located entirely in the state. Additionally, if the litigation is placed against a surplus line or subject/risk in Texas that exceeds the threshold of the company, the litigation must take place solely in Texas.</p> <p>HB 1648 would ensure those who may have coverage of an outside of Texas entity, if faced with litigation, would be subject to the litigation here in the state of Texas with Texas laws and regulations.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>HB 196 By: Stephenson</p>	<p>Relating to allowing justice and municipal courts to access the financial responsibility verification program.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 196 adds language to the Transportation Code to allow Justice or municipal courts to access the financial responsibility verification program. Currently, only the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), and Department of Information Resources are implementing agencies of this program. By allowing courts to access this program, HB 196 would give them the ability to process vehicular citations more efficiently and prevent unnecessary hearings in already time-constrained courts.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4454 By: Rodriguez Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the adoption of social and emotional learning standards for public school educational programs.</p>	<p>Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process where people can learn various tools, knowledge, and skillsets to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and manage their emotions • Set and achieve positive goals • Feel and show empathy for others • Establish and maintain positive relationships • Make responsible decisions <p>Integrating SEL in classrooms has many benefits such as promoting the academic success of students, decreases their behavioral problems, students experience less emotional distress, and promote positive social behavior.</p> <p>HB 4454 requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to adopt an evidence-based SEL standard to provide appropriate education programs for each grade level for public school districts to implement.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2135 By: Shine</p>	<p>Relating to retainage requirements for certain public works construction projects.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2135 defines "retainage" as the percentage of a public works contract payment withheld by a governmental entity for the insurance of the performance of the contract and "warranty period" as the period of time specified in a contract during which if the performed work is not up to the standards of the contract, the customer may request repair or a refund.</p> <p>HB 2135 requires a government entity to include in each public works contract a provision that specifies the circumstances under which the contracted public works contract is considered substantially complete and when the government entity may release the retainage for completed portions of the project. The government entity should also maintain an accurate record of accounting for any retainage withheld or released for contract payments. The entity is also responsible for ensuring the payment of all remaining retainage with interest to the contractor at the completion of the contract.</p> <p>HB 2135 also specifies the amount of retainage that the government entity may hold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the total value of the public works contract is \$1 million or more, the withheld retainage may not exceed 5 percent of the contract price. The rate of retainage may not exceed 5 percent of any item in a bid schedule. • If a contract is worth \$10 billion or more, the governmental entity and the contract may agree to deposit the retainage into an interest-bearing account. <p>HB 2135 gives the conditions and procedures that must be followed if the contractor enters into a subcontractor. The contractor may not withhold a greater percentage of retainage from subcontractor than the government entity withholds from the contractor. Any subcontractor who enters into a contract with, yet another subcontractor is subject to this same rule. HB 2135 clarifies that the governmental entity may not withhold retainage after completion of the contract by the contractor, even during the warranty period, or to force the contractor to perform work on properly installed or designer specified goods or systems. However, the government entity may retain withhold retainage for a legitimate dispute between the governmental entity and the contractor as specified by the bill language. The contractor may be entitled to remedy the problem or offer reasonable compensation.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			The impact of HB 2135 would be significant as it would impair a City's home rule powers by dictating when the City may have retainage, and in what amount. HB 2135 would not allow a City to follow its own procedures and guidelines on retainage. Likewise, it prohibits the city from withholding retainage during a warrant period, or if the required manufactured goods or systems were "properly installed" by the contractor. The failure to withhold retainage during the warranty period significantly weakens the negotiating position when dealing with warranty work. HB 2135 also fails to define what "properly installed" means.	
HB 1720 By: Blanco	Relating to a study on the impacts of using certain motor vehicle technologies.	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Trade with Mexico continues to be a growing impact to the Texas economy. In 2017, trade between Mexico and Texas totaled \$378.34 billion. This trade hosts 387,000 jobs, thousands of small businesses, and manufactures. Currently, there has been increased traffic at points of entry, and multiple intersection points contribute to delays at the Texas and Mexico border. These delays are an economic deficit to the trade because it increases cost of transportation. Delays cause traffic congestion that negatively impact local border communities and Texas as a whole. HB 1720 requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to jointly conduct a study on benefits of automated and connected driving systems in alleviating traffic congestion at the trading ports between Texas and Mexico. This study will also measure the impacts on transportation workforce. HB 1720 helps search for new ways to alleviate the delays at the border; eliminating idle commercial vehicles which will decrease air pollution at the border and keep the commercial goods moving.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 2347 By: Noble Anderson, Charles "Doc" González, Mary Collier Buckley	Relating to a microchip scan of animals in the custody of an animal shelter or releasing agency, including an animal rescue organization.	County Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	H.B. 2347 amends the Health and Safety Code by requiring an animal shelter or animal rescue organization, to scan an animals placed in the custody of the shelter. HB 2347 proposed legislation will assist in the identification of animals if the animal is lost or stolen.	Favorable: Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 4427 By: Canales	Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation to extend the term of a comprehensive development agreement for a portion of State Highway 130.	Transportation Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 6 Absent	State Highway 130 does not connect to I-35 but this connection could decrease congestion on I-35 in Travis County and help transportation of goods move from South of Austin to North of Austin. Five major roadways connect I-35 to north SH 130 but there is not a high-speed road connecting them in the southern section. Cars and trucks could utilize the southern section of 130 as a bypass for I-35 if there was a strong connection. HB 4427 allows a 20-year extension to amend a comprehensive development agreement (CDA) with a private entity related to State Highway 130 to Interstate Highway 10 (Segments 5 and 6) if the amendment clearly shows the state's benefits for the term extension. This allows owners of SH 130 Segments 5 and 6 to build a non-tolled connector between SH-130 and I-35. The project will be permitted to happen if the operator agrees to design, finance, and construct the southern connector as a non-tolled road. Segments 1-4 of SH130 are tolled by TxDOT and segments 5-6 are tolled privately. So, if more people are using this route it would increase toll revenue for the state which will assist in maintaining roadways and funding beneficial transportation projects throughout the state. There is not much being done to alleviate congestion on I-35 and Austin is growing rapidly, this could take cars off I-35.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 2346 By: Darby	Relating to persons entitled to a mechanic's lien on real property.	Business & Industry Vote: 8 Ayes	A mechanic's lien on property reserves the rights of certain contractors to seek compensation for unpaid work through a property lien. A property lien is a legal claim on property assets that allows an entity access to the property, whether through foreclosure or other means, in the event that the customer doesn't pay for the services as contracted. Currently, under Texas law, a mechanic's lien is an option for contractors who are architects, engineers, or surveyors.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

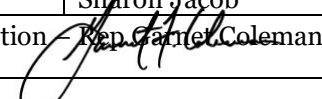
		<p>0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There have been suggestions that interior designers should also be afforded the same opportunity to receive compensation for unpaid debts. HB 2346 allows for interior designers to be added to the list of individuals who have are entitled to place a mechanic's lien on property.</p>	
<p>HB 1753 By: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the early release from supervision of certain persons released on parole or to mandatory supervision.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Many parole officers are responsible for the successful reintegration of individuals who have been released from prison. The first six months following release are the most crucial; resources would be well spent on these critical periods for inmates returning to their communities. As of 2017, 6,466 Texans have passed ten years on parole. The money and resources spent on this population could be shifted and used on more recently released parolees.</p> <p>When an individual is released from prison for parole, it means there was time left on their sentence that will be served in the community. When half of that time on the outside is complete, the individual is eligible for release from supervision. For example, if a prisoner is released from prison to be placed on parole with ten years left on their sentence, once five years are complete, the individual is eligible for release from supervision. HB 1753 makes it so that a releasee is eligible for release from supervision at the lesser time between the completion of half of the remaining prison sentence (explained), or ten years.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1744 By: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to limitations periods in arbitration proceedings.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Arbitration has been increasingly used to prevent a case or claim from going before a judge in court. Arbitration is used to settle disputes between 2 parties with an impartial third party who makes a decision based on the compromise reached by 2 parties. There are concerns that the current law, however, does not define how a statute of limitations applies for arbitration proceedings. For example, on other states, there have been cases in which a claim is brought forward whose statute of limitation has passed in the courtroom and the claim would not have a basis in court but due to vague definitions in the language in current statute of limitations, these claims can be brought forward in arbitration.</p> <p>HB 1744 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies code to prohibit a party from bringing a claim to arbitration whose statute of limitation has expired in court. HB 1744 aligns the statute to prohibit parties from bringing a baseless claim against another party. Under HB 1744 a party may assert a claim in an arbitration proceeding if that party brought the claim up in court before the statute of limitations expired and if both parties agreed to arbitrate the claim.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1855 By: Bowers Allen Beckley</p>	<p>Relating to restrictions on hours of employment for children; creating criminal offenses.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Older children who work while in school find it difficult to balance work and school obligations and experience negative impacts on their grades and learning. In some cases, children may skip school to be at work; leading to issues with truancy. HB 1855 seeks to provide the necessary time for school by adjusting current statute dealing with child labor. There are currently guidelines in place limiting the number of hours and the times that a 14- or 15-year-old child can work. HB 1855 also extends some of those limits to 16 year-olds.</p> <p>HB 1588 changes penalties in code for employers who do not follow limitations on hours and times a 16 year-old may work. An employer commits an offense if they permit a 16-year-old to work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more than 10 hours in one day • more than 54 hours in one week • more than 6 days in one week • between the hours of 11pm and 6am on a school night. <p>HB 1588 changes the times during which a 14 or 15-year-old can work to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between the hours of 7pm and 6am on a school night (previously 10pm-5am) • between the hours of 11pm and 6am on a non-school night (previously 12am-6am) • during the summer between 11pm and 6am (previously 12am-5am) 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

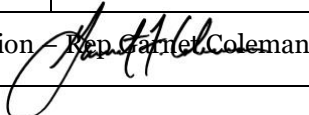
			Employers are exempt from these penalties if the child is a member of their family or household and the person doesn't employ more than 50 employees. As is already in statute, these provisions do not apply to a child who is emancipated from their parents or who has a hardship exemption.	
HB 2639 By: Flynn	Relating to debt cancellation agreements offered in connection with certain retail installment contracts.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2639 adds language to the Finance Code to take away responsibility from a loan holder regarding refunding of the consumers' debt cancellation fee. Current statute ensures the loan holder will refund the debt cancellation fee to a consumer who is subject to the cancellation of debt, such as a car which is totaled and paid off as a result. The loan administrator would not be responsible for the refunding of the consumer. Loan administrators are those who may purchase the loan from the holder and facilitate the use of a debt-cancellation product. These entities have less regulation and less accountability when administering refunds to consumers, who are entitled to a refund of a fee during the debt cancellation. HB 2639 would take away accountability from loan holders, who are regulated and examined by the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner and place it with the loan administrator, which is a company offering a debt cancellation product that is not regulated and examined regularly. All of these entities are not bad actors, nonetheless, the transfer of accountability could leave consumers vulnerable to bad industry practice.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2058 By: Hernandez	Relating to the use of proceeds from criminal asset forfeiture to provide services to domestic victims of trafficking.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2058 will utilize the criminal asset forfeiture funds, of those found guilty of human trafficking offenses, to provide much-needed services to help combat human trafficking in Texas as well as support-services for survivors for such things as housing, trauma recovery, legal aid, and continuing education. Assets seized by the courts from those found guilty of human trafficking offenses are currently not being used in order to support trafficking victims' assistance programs as currently statute does not permit it. HB 2058 will allow the attorney representing the state or the head of law enforcement agency to use any portion of the gross amount credited to the attorney's or agency's special fund from the sale of certain forfeited property to cover the costs of a contract with a municipal or county program to provide services to domestic victims of trafficking.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 2555 By: Parker	Relating to guidelines for policies of school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the care of certain students at risk for anaphylaxis.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	According to the CDC approximately 15 million Americans have life threatening food allergies and 5.6 million American children under the age of 18 have food allergies; allergic reactions can potentially lead to anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that develops quickly in the exposure of an allergen, can involve swelling, hives, lower blood pressure and possibly shock which can be life-threatening. Students in schools who suffer from severe food allergies are at risk for anaphylaxis as fatal food allergic reactions are triggered by food consumed outside the home. Currently, the Texas Department of State Health Services Guidelines for the Care of Students with Food Allergies At-Risk for Anaphylaxis need to be updated to ensure the safety of students who have food allergies. HB 2555 requires the commissioner of State Health Services to establish an ad hoc committee consisting of five physicians and the physicians on the committee will provide recommendations to the commissioner to include any new food-allergy management best practices and treatments. HB 2555 will require the regular update of guidelines to include food allergy management best practices and new methods, FDA-approved treatments, and therapies to reduce the risk of allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2260 By: King, Tracy O. Burns	Relating to the authority of a magistrate or justice of the peace to issue a search warrant to collect a blood specimen from a person arrested for certain intoxication offenses.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	In order for a search warrant for a blood specimen to be executed in Texas, a magistrate who is a licensed attorney must sign-off on the warrant. There are concerns that in certain counties there is a need for certain measures to be put in place to support magistrates who are unavailable or unreachable, or an exigent circumstance exists, which is defined as a circumstance that is time-sensitive would cause a reasonable person to believe that prompt action is necessary to prevent such things as physical harm to the officers or other persons, the destruction of relevant evidence, or the escape of a suspect. HB 2260 will do exactly that by authorizing a Justice of the Peace the ability to	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

		1 Absent	issue a search warrant for a blood specimen from a person who has been arrested for committing certain intoxication offense.	
HB 2621 By: Bailes Allen Ashby Hinojosa VanDeaver	Relating to open-enrollment charter school admission procedures and reporting requirements for certain admission information.	Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Currently centralized and specific waitlist numbers and data do not exist for charter schools within the charter school association data base. HB 2621 will require the TEA to create a comprehensive common admission application form for open-enrollment charter schools as well as a guideline for how charter schools use their waitlists and if they receive more applications for students than they have seats available. HB 2621 will require charter schools to submit information on the number of students enrolled, the enrollment capacity, and the number of students on the waiting list by grade level to TEA. HB 2621 creates a uniform application that can help determine how in demand more charters really are.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Goren (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2507 By: Lucio III	Relating to the regulation of short-term limited-duration insurance policies providing health insurance coverage.	Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2507 amends language in the Insurance Code as to create more transparency of short-term health insurance policies. Policy plan providers must disclose, in full, to prospective consumers the limitations of policy regarding the duration of coverage, limitations or dollar exclusions, deductibles, and what services may not be covered. This would be provided verbally if over the phone or available online in a conspicuous place. Policies may not be advertised as renewable unless it's renewable at the sole choice of the policyholder. Termination of the policy must be offered every 30 days from the issuance of the policy and policy must not be canceled unless for non-payment of premiums or fraud on the policyholder's behalf. HB 2507 sets out the statute to ensure consumer protection and policy transparency as the threshold for the use of short-term healthcare policies has been extended from a time frame of 3 months to a full year and consumers may not have all information at their disposal when utilizing these insurance products.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 2798 By: Klick Deshotel Clardy Hinojosa	Relating to the reimbursement of certain urban teaching hospitals for the provision of inpatient hospital care under Medicaid.	Human Services Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, teaching hospitals receive an indirect medical education add-on from GR and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) matching funds to their base payment in order to compensate for higher patient care costs. This add-on is calculated based on the ratio of the number of residencies and the number of patient beds. However, HHSC currently uses outdated data to calculate this medical education add-on resulting in inaccuracies. HB 2798 seeks to require HHSC to use annually updated data to calculate the indirect medical education add-on. HB 2798 brackets out certain teaching hospitals from this requirement as those hospitals have access to other funding streams and do not rely on this indirect medical education add-on like other teaching hospitals. Children's hospitals, rural hospitals, state-owned teaching hospitals, and freestanding psychiatric facilities are not subject to this bill. CMS caps the number of residencies which can be included in the education adjustment factor, which is different for each hospital. There are concerns that HB 2798 will negatively impact certain teaching hospitals which have capped out on their residencies which can count towards the formula but are still increasing their patient beds. This would result in less funds if the data is updated annually. A hold harmless provision should be considered to allow teaching hospitals which could be negatively impacted to keep their current ratio but increase the ratio for teaching hospitals whose residencies have not capped out and deserve a greater add-on for their growth. In addition, HB 2798 requires HHSC to conduct a study to evaluate the impacts and effectiveness of the Medicare education adjustment factor as a way to reimburse teaching hospitals for their services under Medicaid. HHSC shall look at alternative methods to calculate the medical education add-on which recognizes the high cost for teaching hospitals and attempt to reduce issues through using the CMS education adjustment factor without reducing reimbursements.	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by: Ali Schoon 515-313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org
HB 2725 By: Calanni Deshotel	Relating to birth records of adopted persons; authorizing a fee.	Public Health Vote:	HB 2725 requires the state registrar to provide a person's original birth certificate upon written notice from the adopted individual or an appropriate relative, in the event that the individual is deceased. This is only required if the adopted person was born in Texas, the request is made after the adopted person's 18th birthday, a supplementary	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>Howard Metcalf Harris</p>		<p>6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 5 Absent</p>	<p>birth certificate was issued, and the person requesting the birth certificate is able to provide appropriate proof of identity. The state registrar may charge a fee for this service that is equal to the fee charged for the issuance of a copy of a birth certificate. The copy should be issued within the same timeframe that is allowed for other copies of birth certificates.</p> <p>The state registrar shall provide a contact preference form where the birth parent can indicate their preference regarding contact by the adopted child in one of the following options: a preference to be contacted, a preference to be contacted only through an intermediary chosen by the birth parent, or a preference to not be contacted by the adopted individual. This preference can be amended after filing.</p> <p>The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is required to inform a child's birth parents at the time of parental rights termination about the birth parent contact preference form and provide one to the birth parents. DFPS is also required to inform about the individuals who have the right to a copy of the adopted person's original birth certificate after the adoptee's 18th birthday.</p> <p>A supplemental medical history form shall also be provided by the state registrar that provides certain medical information in addition to the already required genetic history report. The forms should be made accessible on the DSHS website as well as at the state registrar's office. The supplemental medical form should be given to any person entitled to receiving a copy of the adopted individual's original birth certificate.</p>	<p>920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4324 By: VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the submission and use of electronic student records in the electronic student records system.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Records Exchange (TREx) system is a web-based software application that was designed to exchange electronic student records, specifically between public high schools and public institutions of higher education. Currently there are some inefficiencies in the exchange of students records such as transcript data formatting that is not through the state-approved records system which can lead students and faculty to cross unnecessary barriers to mend these issues.</p> <p>HB 4324 clarifies in the Texas Education Code an approved format by the Education commissioner and Higher Education commissioner for the submission of electronic student records from high schools to colleges and universities to improve the college admissions process. HB 4320 allows for third-party vendors to gain approval from both the Education commissioner and Higher Education commissioner.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3362 By: Hernandez Springer</p>	<p>Relating to the consideration of ownership interests of certain persons with a disability in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas established its state HUB (historically underutilized business) program in 1991 as an effort to increase business opportunities for firms owned by minorities, women, and veterans by requiring state agencies to make a good faith effort in utilizing HUBs when contracting for various needs. HB 3362 seeks to include that businesses owned and operated by individuals with a disability, as defined by federal law, qualify for HUB status for the purpose of state contracts. Provisions of HB 3362 will require that the comptroller to adopt rules to provide goals for increasing the contract awards for purchase of goods or services by the comptroller and other state agencies to businesses that qualify as historically underutilized businesses because the businesses are at least 51% owned or owned, operated, and controlled by one or more persons with a disability. Additionally, in order to be certified as a HUB, each owner claiming a disability must submit to the comptroller an affidavit from a physician licensed to practice medicine in Texas verifying that owner's disability.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3052 By: Dean Thompson, Senfronia Zerwas Moody Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the revocation of a pharmacy license for failure to operate as a pharmacy.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3052 allows for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to revoke a pharmacy license if it is discovered that the pharmacy has not operated for 30 or more consecutive days. The Board is required to notify the pharmacy regarding the revocation of the license in a notice that informs the pharmacy about the revocation and states that the license holder has the right to appeal the action.</p> <p>Should the license holder choose to appeal, they must submit a written request for a hearing within 20 days after receiving the notice of revocation. Such a hearing will consist of a panel of three Board members who will determine whether the action to revoke the license was valid.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			If the board determines that the action was valid or if the license holder does not appeal within the allotted time period, the Board is granted the authority to execute the order for revoking the license and notifying the license holder of the action.	
HB 2492 By: Ramos Herrero Tinderholt Raymond Hunter	Relating to designating April 16 as Selena Quintanilla Pérez Day.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 2492 designates April 16 as Selena Quintanilla Pérez Day to honor the memory and contributions of the important cultural figure. Selena was recognized nationally as an award-winning singer and recording artist and the queen of Tejano; her work spanned musical and linguistic barriers.	Favorable Evaluated by: Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 2207 By: Shine Cortez Darby Martinez Fischer	Relating to reimbursement of federal military treatment facilities under the workers' compensation system.	Business & Industry Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2207 states that any federal military treatment facility must provide reimbursement for the medical services for injured employee, at the same rate that they charge for treating the same injury. The bill also exempts such facilities from certain sections of Texas statute which will allow for any such reimbursements to be exempt from certain provisions of the Texas law that regulates worker's compensation. HB 2207 requires for the Commissioner of Texas Workforce Commission to establish any rules necessary for implementing these provisions including requirements for processing medical bills for such an injured employee as well as requirements for a separate medical dispute resolution process specifically for this special situation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 2875 By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to the admissibility and use of certain evidence in the prosecution of the offense of exploitation of a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In an effort to address individuals who are vulnerable targets of habitual exploitation, such groups as children, the elderly and those who are disabled, HB 2875 intends to act as a protection measure to safeguard against such actions. HB 2875 will allow a jury to hear evidence of other offenses to illustrate that a defendant has a pattern of committing such crimes as family violence, theft, and sexual abuse of children in order to show their intent to exploit innocent victims.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 3840 By: Capriglione Flynn Tinderholt Miller Cain	Relating to the regulation of individuals or business entities that provide or train assistance animals for veterans; providing a civil penalty.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs Vote: 5 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3840 would add language to the Business & Commerce Code to create regulation around the training of assistance animals, emotional support animals, for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The animal would have to undergo at least 30 hours of one-on-one training over a 90-day period and at least 30 hours of training with the veteran who would receive the animal. Additionally, the animal would have to pass the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen test or equivalent as well as Assistance Dogs International test or equivalent. Follow up would also have to be available to the veteran receiving the animal. Organizations in violation of these standards would face a civil penalty as well as a possible injunction from the attorney general. There is no language regarding privately trained animals. HB 3840 would create a standard for the training of assistance animals, which is not currently a regulated industry. There was some concern raised that there is no American Disability Act (ADA) language to include Service Dogs which are trained to help with physical daily tasks. While there is no explicit language regarding a personally veteran trained animal, there is no protection provided to self-trained animals.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 4125 By: Israel	Relating to the creation of tenant legal services offices by local governments to assist low-income residential	County Affairs Vote: 7 Ayes	HB 4125 seeks to amends the Local Government Code by authorizing municipality or county government to create a tenant legal services office to provide legal representation and services to tenants.	Favorable: Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

	tenants in eviction cases and in cases involving discrimination based on the tenants' disabilities.	2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>HB 4125 authorizes the provision of legal representation to a tenant in a residential eviction if the tenant is indigent or suffers from a disability. Additionally, HB 4125 mandates the designation of a nonprofit corporation which will serve as the tenant legal services office.</p> <p>HB 4125 requires a written plan from a nonprofit corporation proposing to serve as a tenant legal services office and it must soundly demonstrate it will provide quality representation for tenants in applicable cases. HB 4125 prohibits the proposal cost to be a determinative factor for selection.</p> <p>HB 4125 provides directives that the office must be led by a director of legal services certain qualifications. HB 4125 dictates employment of attorneys and other personnel to perform the duties identified by the local government. Additionally, it directs the office to investigate the financial condition of a tenant who requests representation.</p>	Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 3964 By: Bohac	Relating to the location of countywide polling places within a county.	Elections Vote: 5 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Currently, the Secretary of State implements a program to allow each commissioner's court participating in the program to eliminate county election precinct polling locations to establish countywide polling locations. HB 3964 creates two formulas to determine the amount of county wide polling places needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For counties with populations less than one million, the total number of polling locations in each commissioner's precinct must be equal to percentage of registered voters, whose registration is effective on election day, residing in each precinct. For counties with populations more than one million, the total number of polling locations in each state representative's district must be equal to percentage of registered voters, whose registration is effective on election day, residing in each district. <p>The current deadlines for submitting proposed plans for implementing a county wide polling place program to the Secretary of State for November elections is late August. Voter Registration ends early October. It would be impossible to predict how many voters would register to vote within that time span to fit the proposed formula in HB 3964.</p> <p>HB 3964 provides areas with more registered voters a greater access to polling places. This will create a disproportionate decrease in polling places in minority areas, which is a violation of the Voting Rights Act. The Secretary of State's office only recommends availability of transportation, population size near location and availability of a suitable building for a polling place be considered as factors when determining a polling place. Establishing these formulas implemented by HB 3964 would dilute the voting strength and representation of minority groups.</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Donisha Cotlone (832) 496-4424 Donisha@TexasLSG.org
HB 2886 By: Bucy	Relating to the requirement for payment bonds from certain public work contractors.	State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>HB 2886 would raise the threshold for a payment bond, which are bonds that ensure that the general contractor pays his or her subcontractors for state agency construction, from \$25,000 to \$100,000 as an effort to reduce project costs while increasing the state's bidding pool. Currently, contractors on a public works product must take out certain bonds to help mitigate risk to the state for contracts in excess of certain sums of money. In today's construction market, \$100,000 is considered low risk, and will usually involve one, or just a few, trades to complete a project. By raising the payment bond limit, it will open the door for small contractors to perform as prime contractors, and build their bond capacity, rather than as subcontractors which requires them to go through a larger general contractor to act as a "broker" in order to bid for state work. A smaller contractor is considered a historically underutilized business (HUB) and by HB 2886 increasing the maximum bond value to \$100,000 it will encourage these HUBs to participate in the construction market.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 3730 By: Swanson	Relating to the purchase of online library resources for primary and secondary	Culture, Recreation & Tourism	<p>Intending to protect children from accessing potential harmful or obscene material, HB 3730 requires the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) to use membership fees from school districts and funds already appropriated, to purchase online library resources for TexQuest primary and secondary schools exclusively from</p>	Favorable, with Concerns Evaluated by:

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

	schools by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.	Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	vendors that adopt certain internet safety policies and technology protection measures for minors based off the Federal Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA, 47 U.S.C. 254). The bill would allow the Commission to hold the vendor in breach of contract for failure to comply and requires the Legislative Budget Board to report on any vendor compliance issues yearly. Concerns exist about the applicability of CIPA given standards were initially developed for platforms and providers, not content producers. This may drastically limit eligible vendors and negatively impact the TexQuest program’s resources.	Eliot Davis (713) 855-3285 Eli@TexasLSG.org
HB 3008 By: Talarico	Relating to the establishment of a civic education project fund for supporting student civic education projects and educator professional development related to those projects.	Public Education Vote: 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Civics education is education in self-government and if taught effectively in campuses for students they can learn how to actively be involved in their own governance. Currently, effective civics education is primarily available in schools that are not highly populated with less-advantaged students therefore the civic processes are typically not taught to those who would otherwise be mostly affected by different levels of government. Funding is required to teach civics education at a more widespread capacity and there is currently not a designated account of money for this to happen. HB 3008 creates a designated account in the general revenue fund to be administered by the TEA commissioner and will be used for educator professional development, training to engage students in project-based civics learning, with an emphasis on schools with low-income students. The civics education program will serve 4th through 12th grade students and give them an opportunity to complete a defined civic education project to immerse them in local active civic participation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 2824 By: VanDeaver	Relating to the pilot program for assessing public school students in writing under an alternative method.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	A two-year Texas Writing Pilot program was implemented in 2015 to examine alternative methods of assessing writing, instead of the current 26-line essay format through the STAAR assessment, like the use of student portfolios. This program included the collection and scoring of a range of student writing samples they produced throughout the school year. The study that was finalized in 2018 with a report done by the TEA indicated improved writing instruction, more intentional instruction methodology by educators, but did not validate the creation of an alternative writing assessment. HB 2824 directs the commissioner to establish a committee that will help the agency in the planning, evaluation, and overseeing the writing pilot program to fix gaps or flaws from the years prior. HB 2824 will manage the writing program in a more organized manner that will lead to an efficient evaluation of an alternative writing assessment.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 3051 By: Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to damage to a motor vehicle caused by the vehicle being flooded.	Transportation Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Flooding events across the state, such as Hurricane Harvey, have created the importance for differentiation of flood-damaged vehicles versus all other damaged vehicles. Flood-damaged vehicles are currently classified as salvage vehicles, this does not inform future owners enough on what the vehicle has endured. Also, salvage vehicle is often assumed to be a vehicle that has gone through a collision. HB 3051 appropriately classifies what a flood-damaged car is. According to HB 3051, a flooded car has been submerged by water that rises above the doorsill, enters the trunk or engine compartment, and contacts the electrical system, –or causes the insurance company to pay a claim and take possession of the vehicle. This will help inform consumers on damages vehicles have received.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 4235 By: Anderson, Charles "Doc"	Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for burglary of a commercial building in which trade or commerce is conducted.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4235 amends the Penal Code to enhance the penalty for burglary committed in a commercial building in which trade or commerce is conducted. Currently, this is considered a state jail felony, HB 4235 would make it a third degree felony. A third degree felony is punishable by confinement in prison for a term from 2- 10 years and, an optional fine of no more than \$10,000. The punishment outlined in HB 4235 does not match the crime. Additionally, increasing the penalty for any crime will result in more demands on the resources of counties and the State. With already scarce resources, increasing	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org


OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			demands on county and state facilities is inappropriate especially when penalty enhancements do little to deter or reduce crime.	
HB 1722 By: Coleman Rose Wu	Relating to the establishment by certain counties and municipalities of disease control programs to reduce the risk of certain infectious and communicable diseases; authorizing fees.	County Affairs Vote: 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>HB 1722 seeks to allow counties and municipalities to establish disease control programs in response to declared public health issues and to help reduce the risk of certain infectious and communicable diseases.</p> <p>HB 1722 authorizes the commissioner to declare public health emergencies in a county or municipality that demonstrates infectious and communicable disease exists in the county or municipality; disease transmission in the county are caused by intravenous drug use; and/or and needle exchange program is needed to counter the emergency.</p> <p>HB 1722 provides requirements for a county to declare a public health emergency. HB 1722 also mandates a declared public health emergency remains in effect until the first anniversary of the date the Emergency.</p> <p>HB 1722 exempts conduct in relation to running a needle exchange program from the offense of possession or delivery of drug paraphernalia under the Texas Controlled Substances Act.</p>	Favorable: Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 3177 By: Smith	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of continuous sexual abuse of a child or disabled individual; creating a criminal offense.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3177 will include “disabled individuals,” defined to only include those with a developmental disability disorder, an intellectual disability, traumatic brain injury, or inability to protect or provide for oneself, to the Penal Code related to the continuous sexual abuse of a young child section. The intent of HB 3177 is to protect those that are deemed as defenseless, vulnerable and unable to consent with a disability as defined within the Human Resources Code and Health and Safety Code.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 4476 By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to civil liability for abuse or exploitation of an elderly person or person with a disability.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Unlike child abuse cases in which doctors can play a crucial role in determining if abuse really occurred or not, in elderly abuse cases, the medical community has only recently begun to play a larger role in these types of abuse cases. Because elderly abuse cases have been rarely reported, they have not been tried as criminal conduct, rather settled in a civil claims suit.</p> <p>HB 4476 amends the Human Resources Code in order to hold people more liable for damages in cases of abuse or exploitation of the elderly. HB 4476 allows the claimant to pursue recovery of damages including damages for mental anguish even if the mental anguish is not shown. HB 4476 also allows the claimant to pursue attorney fees in this claim.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cernigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 3219 By: Allison	Relating to the discipline and behavior management of a public school student.	Public Education Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Restorative education models are methods that attempt to reform school discipline, improve relationships between the educators and the students while aiming to minimizing punitive disciplinary measures by addressing the underlying causes of student behaviors. This method looks at the causes of behaviors such as outbursts from anxiety, home life, or potentially lack of relational or family stability. Often students who misbehave are placed in alternative education programs and are not required to have a prior behavioral assessment with emphasis on underlying causes before they enter the program.</p> <p>HB 3219 allows a campus behavior coordinator to create a behavior contract for students who violate the student code of conduct. This contract can allow students to avoid immediate disciplinary action and will state that appropriate disciplinary action may be taken against the student as provided by the student code of conduct if the student continues to engage in the violative behavior. H.B. 3219 requires the student's parent or guardian to sign the contract</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			as a condition of not taking immediate disciplinary action against the student. HB 3219 allows for a more sensitive, intersectional, and root-cause assessment when determining student disciplinary measures to be done.	
HB 3633 By: Herrero	Relating to the board of directors of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.	Insurance Vote: 5 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3633 would amend the Insurance Code regarding the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) board of director composition. Appointment of members would move from the Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner to the Governor and the board to grow from 9 to 11 members. Additionally, five of the members would be required to residents in first-tier communities as of the date of appointment. The members of the board cannot be casualty agents. HB 3633 would increase the transparency of TWIA policy as well as increasing the coastal involvement by having an increased number of members who are required to reside in these coastal communities.	Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 Elizabeth@texaslsg.org
HB 3240 By: Meza	Relating to a study by the Legislative Budget Board concerning the long-term effects of regulating tuition rates and amounts charged by public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Prior to 2003, tuition for public universities in Texas had been regulated and these institutions were not allowed to charge Texans unlimited tuition and fees. The cost of an education is on a rapid increase and have nearly doubled over the past 15 years according to the Center for Public Policy and Priorities. Currently, a study that examines effective methods of tuition regulation to consider higher education affordability and accessibility has not been successfully implemented. HB 3249 requires a study to be conducted to analyze long-term effects of regulating tuition rates and amounts charged by public institutions of higher education. The study will recommend appropriate rates, evaluate potential effects of tuition regulations that include the effect on disadvantaged or underrepresented Texans, and estimate potential loss or gain of funding to institutions. This study is a step toward the impact the cost of the pursuit of a higher education can have on students of low income, first generation, and/or historically underrepresented backgrounds.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 3249 By: Kacal	Relating to the use of Texas emissions reduction plan funds for a study conducted by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute.	Environmental Regulation Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3249 requires TCEQ to contract a study with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to analyze the relationship between traffic congestion and pollution, specifically ozone precursors. The study will provide recommendations to relieve this problem and identify strategies to reduce transportation devices' nitrogen oxide emissions. Funding for the study is capped at \$250,000 from TCEQ's appropriated funds. This study will help to inform the legislature on the scope of this environmental issue and guide the legislature on ways to solve it.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 252 By: Farrar	Relating to increasing awareness of the dangers of exposing children to secondhand smoke.	Public Health Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 2011 and 2012, two out of every five children ages 3-11 were regularly exposed to secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke inhalation can cause negative health outcomes in children such as ear infections, asthma attacks, respiratory symptoms, respiratory infections, and a greater risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Currently, a birthing facility or a health care provider that provides prenatal care or assists in the delivery of an infant is responsible for providing the mother, and any family as appropriate, with certain information for the safety and care of the child. However, this does not include resources informing about the risks of secondhand smoke. DSHS is currently responsible for creating the resource pamphlets and resource guide containing this information that is provided to the family of a newborn child. HB 252 adds a requirement for the inclusion of information regarding the risks of secondhand smoke exposure for babies and children. The provided information should include support resources for an individual interested in quitting smoking. The bill requires for DSHS to offer the information in both English and Spanish as well as make it	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob 920-675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org

			available on the DSHS website. Inclusion of this information into the standard packet that is given to parents may help address and reduce the complications caused by secondhand smoke exposure for children.	
HB 3588 By: Hunter	Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for the offenses of producing, directing, or promoting a sexual performance by a child and possessing child pornography.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3588 enhances penalties for offenses dealing with child pornography. For the offense of producing, directing, or promoting the sexual performance by a child, the penalty is increased from a second-degree felony to a first-degree felony if the victim is younger than 14 years of age. This would increase the maximum sentence from 20 years to a life sentence. For the offense of possessing child pornography, the penalty is increased from a third-degree felony to a second-degree penalty and states that this offense is enhanced to a first degree-penalty if that individual has been previously convicted of the same offense. This would increase the maximum sentence from 10 years to 20 years. If the individual has already been convicted of possessing child pornography their maximum sentence will increase from 20 years to a potential life sentence with HB 3588. The protection of children is of utmost importance and child pornography is a serious offense. While HB 3588 would increase punishments, criminal justice reform is moving away from increased punishments due to its lack of decreasing rates of recidivism. Individuals who commit these offenses might be better served in a rehabilitative environment to decrease recidivism and allow their reintegration into society if that time comes.	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 3820 By: Sherman Allen Allison	Relating to requiring school districts to administer college readiness assessment instruments to certain students at state cost.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently a public school district must comply with federal law by administering the SAT or ACT to a student who has taken either the Algebra 1, English 1 or English 2 End of Course exam before they began high school. There is not a clear recognition of where the payment for the administration of these federally mandated test is to fall upon; either the state or the school district. HB 3820 requires a public school district annually, at the cost of the state, to administer students the federally mandated test in a grade level that is determined by the TEA commissioner.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 4414 By: Allison	Relating to identification and development of mental health resources for students.	Public Education Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Ensuring that student mental health issues are being properly addressed is part of promoting a positive school culture as well as promoting school safety. Student mental health initiatives have been a top priority for educators across the nation as school violence rises, natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey, and a variety of other factors that can take a toll on the mental health of students. HB 4414 requires TEA to identify and develop mental health resources for students and to identify mental health resources the TEA will be required to develop a rubric in conjunction with the Health and Human Services Commission, the Department of Family and Protective Services, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Workforce Commission. This rubric will identify resources available to schools that include evidence-based practices. Additionally, HB 4414 will require the TEA to develop an effective statewide plan to ensure all students have access to appropriate mental health resources that incorporate suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org
HB 3876 By: Deshotel	Relating to the creation of a work group to advise the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the Texas Rising Star Program	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays	Children that have access to high-quality early child care as well as a high-quality early education are more likely to have higher success rates going into grade school. Currently, the Texas Workforce Commission's Texas Rising Star Program, a voluntary quality-based child-care rating system implemented by the 83rd legislature, is a system that receives recommendations from the Texas Early Learning Council. The Texas Early Learning Council was developed to research early childhood education and child care with the purpose of providing recommendations that would lead to higher success rates for children entering kindergarten.	Favorable Evaluated by: Ali Schoon (515) 313-3712 Ali@TexasLSG.org

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

		<input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent	<p>Access to quality yet affordable child-care is a huge barrier for low-income families and single parents. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) provides child care subsidies for these families in an effort to provide affordable child care to those who otherwise wouldn't have access. The TWC spends almost half of its budget on child care subsidies but little is known about the quality of care for those receiving the subsidies. HB 3876 creates a work group to review improvements for the Texas Rising Star Program. The Texas Rising Star Program measures the quality of care for providers utilizing subsidies based on 2, 3, or 4 star certifications, with 4 stars being the highest certification requirement and indicating the highest level of care.</p> <p>The work group will be responsible for submitting recommendations to the Executive Director of TWC about possible revisions to the Texas Rising Star Program.</p> <p>HB 3876 will review the Texas Rising Star Program through a workgroup of stakeholders to determine best practices to increase quality child-care for at risk children in subsidized child-care.</p>	
HB 3174 By: Kuempel	Relating to covers or barriers on the windows and doors of and other obstructions of the view of certain alcoholic beverage retailers.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures Vote: 8 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 3 Absent	<p>Currently, in Texas, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code regulates what a retailer can and cannot put up on their windows at their store. Current code states that a retailer cannot paint or place a sign above 4 and 1/2 feet off the ground blocking the view of the general public.</p> <p>HB 3174 repeals the section of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code and allows for retailers to post signs where they see fit on their windows of their store. This allows the stores to have more real estate to advertise on and potentially bring more clients into the store.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 4123 By: Johnson, Jarvis	Relating to the amendment of an original petition in an action on a sworn account.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV 1 Absent	<p>During a civil litigation, a sworn account is filed in order to claim the services or actions where offsets have been allowed and damages are liquidated. Defendants usually make payments towards these sworn accounts during litigation and the plaintiffs have to file an amendment to the petition of the claim each time a payment is made. There are concerns that filing an amendment to the petition each time a payment is made is redundant, unnecessary, and time-consuming when defendants are making small payments each time.</p> <p>HB 4123 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to reflect that a plaintiff does not have to amend the original petition to reflect payments made by the defendant unless the total amount from the payments made equals or is greater than 50% of the filed claim for the suit. HB 4123 also states that the Texas Supreme Court may not amend any rules to conflict with this provision.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 3589 By: Sanford	Relating to credit toward payment of certain fines, costs, fees, and surcharges imposed on certain offenders before, during, or after a period of confinement for another offense.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent	<p>HB 3859 seeks to address the costly barriers to attaining self-sufficiency for a person formerly incarcerated by allowing for a person to receive credit for time served for fine-only misdemeanor before such a person served jail or prison time. HB 3859 establishes that a defendant may receive credit before or during, at the rate of \$200 a day, for any time spent confined in jail or prison while serving a sentence for another offense if that confinement occurred after the commission of the misdemeanor.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org
HB 4153 By: Anchia Zerwas	Relating to the compensation and benefits of persons wrongfully	Appropriations Vote:	<p>HB 4153 amends the Civil Practice and Remedies Code. Currently, under the Tim Cole Act, individuals who have been wrongfully imprisoned are eligible for the same health care coverage given to TDCJ employees. These individuals are</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>Rose Schaefer Longoria</p>	<p>imprisoned.</p>	<p>18 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 9 Absent</p>	<p>also eligible to receive monthly annuity payments equal to \$80,000 a year for each year they were imprisoned. This bill improves the compensation for wrongful imprisonment by:</p> <p>Allowing exonerees to include their dependents or beneficiaries to their health care plan. Currently, only the individual's spouse can be added.</p> <p>Reopening the application process by which an exoneree may designate a beneficiary.</p> <p>Allowing an exoneree to designate a beneficiary if the exoneree experiences a life-changing event. A life-changing events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in the employment status of the claimant, spouse, dependent, or beneficiary • Marriage or divorce • Addition of a dependent • The death of a dependent, spouse or beneficiary <p>Currently, the only time exonerees can opt into leaving annuity payments to a beneficiary is within 45 days of the original filing of the application with the Comptroller.</p> <p>Additionally, this bill requires the Comptroller to notify all eligible persons, by mail and phone, of these changes and give exonerees the opportunity to take advantage of these benefits by filing the new form with the Comptroller before March 21, 2020.</p> <p>Individuals who have been wrongfully imprisoned deserve as much flexibility in their health coverage and compensation payments as possible. Many individuals leave prison in poor physical health, unable to get a job, have sustained trauma, etc. These things have a broad range of effects on the spouses and dependents of the exoneree. HB 4153 will allow dependents to be added to health coverage as well as allowing the spouse or dependents to continue receiving annuity payments upon the individual's death. This will provide these families with the resources and finances needed to be successful.</p>	<p>(210) 748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB: 3679 By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to the creation and operations of health care provider participation programs in certain counties.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, under Texas law, the Health and Safety Code does not explicitly express language about the creation of certain health care provider participation programs in regard to the utilization of revenue generation options that supplemental funding for Medicare and provider cost. HB 3679 addresses health care alternative funding options for providers.</p> <p>HB 3679 seeks to amend current legislation by allowing the creation of a health care provider participation program in Wichita County.</p> <p>HB 3679 institutes revenue generation by collecting mandatory payments via institutional health care providers that will serve as the nonfederal portion of the Medicaid supplemental payment program.</p> <p>HB 3679 authorizes the county to provide alternative provisions, which align with the requirements of Medicare and Medicaid Services, for mandatory payments that may be deemed ineligible for federal matching funds.</p> <p>Proponents and stakeholders of HB 3679 seem to believe that the proposed legislation will give county residents greater access to healthcare.</p>	<p>Favorable: Evaluated by: Brandi Granderson (202)808-6140 Brandi.Granderson_HC @house.texas.gov</p>

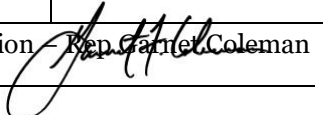
OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

<p>HB 4230 By: Romero, Jr.</p>	<p>Relating to the duties of the Texas Veterans Commission regarding citizenship of veterans.</p>	<p>Defense & Veterans' Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4230 would add language to the Government Code to require the Veterans Commission to assist a veteran in becoming a citizen if it is determined that the veteran is not a citizen. HB 4230 would assist veterans in determining a clear path to citizenship.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Elizabeth Churaman (281)-686-4544 elizabeth@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 3710 By: Bell, Keith Allen Ashby Bernal VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to providing school districts electronic tutorials for certain end-of-course assessment instruments required for graduation.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently students can study for their End of Course Exams (EOCs) in Algebra I, Biology, English I & II and U.S. History through traditional classroom setting tutoring. In order to better prepare students who may need additional help studying for EOCs there needs to be additional avenues for tutoring such as online resources made available for the exam subjects. There is currently no TEA developed online resource that can supplement, or be paired with, classroom-based preparation for the EOCs available to the students.</p> <p>HB 3710 requires the TEA to develop two-hour electronic tutorials for only 3 of the state required EOC exams and provide the tutorials to public school districts. HB 3710 will prohibit a school district from being charged with a fee for access to a tutorial.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3831 By: Sherman, Sr. Johnson, Jarvis Pacheco White Stephenson</p>	<p>Relating to certain technical violations of conditions of community supervision.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>It costs more money to house inmates in state facilities than to keep them on community supervision. The proportion of felony probation revocation (sending those on probation back to jail or prison) due to technical violations has been consistently rising. In 2018, 54% (12,489) of all revocations were for technical violations.</p> <p>When defendants serving state jail felonies or third-degree felonies commit technical violations that lead to incarceration, HB 3831 limits maximum punishment incarceration time to 90 days. Technical violations do not include arrests, not properly registering as sex offenders, contacting victims from original offenses, committing family violence, failing to report to supervision officers for at least 30 days, or leaving the state without permission. HB 3831 prohibits judges from revoking a defendant's community supervision or imposing a term of confinement if the defendant has violated less than four conditions of community service (the judge can continue, extend, or modify the defendant's community supervision), however if the defendant violates four or more conditions, the judge must exhaust all alternatives to incarceration, follow the continuum of care (if the defendant requires inpatient substance abuse treatment), if those do not work and the judge determines the defendant is a threat to the public, only then can the judge can impose a confinement period. Keeping individuals out of state jails and prisons will save Texas millions of dollars and strengthen community supervision.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2302 By: Bonnen, Greg Springer</p>	<p>Relating to regulation by a property owners' association of certain religious displays.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>As a result of legislation passed during the 82nd legislature, the Homeowner's Association (HOA) has the authority to require a homeowner to take down any displays from their front lawn if they are religious displays and are not affixed to the front door. The HOA also has the power to make a homeowner take down a religious display that is affixed to the door if it uses materials that are not authorized by the HOA.</p> <p>HB 2302 amends the property code to prohibit an HOA from enforcing or adopting a provision that prohibits a homeowner from displaying or affixing religious displays on their property. If the display is installed on property owned by the HOA, the HOA can prohibit the religious display if that display is a violation of the law, has offensive language graphics, or displays that are offensive for reasons other than their religious intent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

			<p>Under HB 2302 an HOA can enable a provision for a religious display to limit the display to 30 days if the display violates certain maintenance requirements, or lacks prior approval under dire circumstances, such as if the display contains roofing material, has one or more balloons or paving materials. An HOA can also limit the display to 30 days if the display is there for a religious event.</p> <p>If the HOA has an approval process for displays, HB 2302 requires an HOA to approve a display for a religious event if the item complies with the dedicatory requirements and notify the owners and resident of the approval of the display to be shown and posted. HB 2302 repeals the provisions in the code that regulate what type of material the displays are made of.</p> <p>The provisions of this bill protect the expression of religious speech by restricting the ability of HOAs to mandate when, how, and where homeowners may have religious displays.</p>	
<p>HB 2242 By: Vo</p>	<p>Relating to the classification of workers for purposes of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act; providing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are concerns that employers are misclassifying employees as independent contractors rather than as workers to avoid paying certain benefits that are required to be offered to an employee. Currently, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) assesses unemployment insurance taxes against such employers and impose a penalty for each misclassified worker.</p> <p>HB 2242 clarifies that any individual who performs a service for wages under an explicit or implied contract should be classified as an employee of the individual to whom the services are provided. Those whose services have been and will continue to be provided free from the imposition of a contract are considered exceptions to this categorization.</p> <p>Money allocated to the special administration fund through the penalization of an employer who misclassified workers or commits other forms of wage theft is only authorized to be used for paying costs related to identifying, investigating, and preventing worker misclassification.</p> <p>Except for those contracted with a government entity or subcontracted to a government entity, individuals should be properly classified as employees or independent contractors and the employer shall pay the appropriate unemployment insurance taxes for the employment of any individual retained.</p> <p>Any person that violates this requirement shall be liable to a penalty of up to \$200 imposed by the Texas Workforce Commission for each case of improper classification or neglect to appropriately pay unemployment insurance taxes. The Commission may determine the penalty amount based on the seriousness of the violation, history of previous violation, the estimated amount necessary to deter from future violations, and any efforts made by the offender to correct the violation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4147 By: Bell. Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to required mental health awareness training for first responders.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4147 requires that any first responder training program should include at least six hours of training on mental health awareness which should provide information regarding basic mental health issues for responders, the impact of chronic trauma on a first responder, signs and symptoms of mental illness, and strategies for attaining wellness and resiliency. First responders and trainees will be required to complete the mental health awareness training as part of the basic training program.</p> <p>HB 4147 requires HHSC to develop or adopt a curriculum for the first responder mental health awareness training in collaboration with agencies that license or certify first responders. Each of these agencies is responsible for ensuring that the required mental health awareness training is provided to and completed by first responders and trainees.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

			HB 4147 also requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to require the completion of the mental health awareness curriculum as a part of the minimum requirements for law enforcement officer training schools.	
HB 3564 By: Farrar	Relating to remedies after certain casualty losses to residential rental premises.	Business & Industry Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Current law allows for a tenant or landlord to terminate a lease with written notice if rental premises are rendered unusable after a casualty and if the damages are not caused by the negligence or fault of the tenant or anyone the tenant is responsible for.</p> <p>HB 3564 requires that this notice should be sent by hand delivery or by an email by which the two parties had used to communicate regarding the rental property. The bill also allows for the notice to be sent by mail to a provided forwarding address or to the place where the tenant normally pays rent. Any other method of delivery should be agreed upon by the tenant and landlord after the casualty loss.</p> <p>Any termination of a lease allowed by HB 3564, may not take effect until seven days after the delivery of the termination notice. If multiple methods of delivery were used to provide the notice, the date on which the earliest notice was delivered applies here.</p> <p>A landlord may not charge for rent which has accrued after the lease termination and vacating of the premises by the tenant. Within 30 days of the lease termination and vacating of premises, the landlord must refund to the tenant any prepaid rent along with all deposits, save for any lawful deductions for damages. The 30-day period may begin after the tenant provides a forwarding address to the landlord.</p> <p>If a casualty loss leaves a rental premise only partially unusable, the tenant is entitled to a proportionate rent reduction for the remaining months in the lease term that the premises remain partially unusable. To be eligible for this rent reduction, the tenant must give written notice to the landlord that includes information regarding the unusable portion of the rental premises and a statement of the proposed amount of rent reduction. The notice should also state that, if the landlord does not agree to the proposed rent reduction within 10 days after receiving the notice, the tenant intends to file suit.</p> <p>Within 10 days after the receipt of the notice, the landlord must provide a written response either agreeing to or objecting to the tenant's right to a reduction proposed amount of reduction. In the event that the parties are unable to come to an agreement, either party may file suit in an appropriate court. If the suit is filed in a justice court, the court should hear the case 6-10 days after the case has been cited. Until the court gives a final judgement, the tenant is liable for the normal rent amount unless the parties come to an agreement.</p> <p>There are some concerns that, because the tenant is required to pay a normal rent amount until the decision of the court and because the tenant may not have many alternatives at the time of the event that rendered the rental premises completely or partially unusable, the landlord is unfairly advantaged in this scenario, particularly if the tenant belongs to a vulnerable population.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 2206 By: Howard Frullo	Relating to private activity bonds.	Higher Education Vote: 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	<p>Private activity bonds (PAB) are tax-exempt bonds issued by or on behalf of a local or state government to provide special financing benefits for qualified projects. They are used to attract private investment for projects that will have public benefit and in relation to higher education this can be affordable rental housing or student loan refinancing. Currently, certain statutory provisions relating to PABs need an update and revision to potentially help reduce the burden on student loan borrows that can be of no cost to the state.</p> <p>HB 2206 provides the proper revisions relating to bond issuance and to ensure that qualified alternative loan lenders can offer education loan refinancing. HB 2206 specifies that an alternative education loan is made to a student, a former student, or any other person; may be for the benefit of a former student; and may be made to refinancing all or part of a student's or former student's cost of attendance at an accredited institution. HB 2206 revises the cap on the</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Marissa Gorena (956) 867-7232 Marissa@texaslsg.org

			<p>amount of an alternative education loan. H.B. 2206 revises specifications relating to information the Bond Review Board can require an issuer of qualified student loan bonds to provide with the issuer's application for a reservation.</p> <p>HB 2206 authorizes state and local government to issue private activity bonds and certain other bonds. HB 2206 revises the percentages of the state ceiling available for reservations by certain types of issuers before August 15 of each year, if the state ceiling is computed on the basis of \$75 per capita or a greater amount, by removing the designation of a percentage available exclusively for reservations by issuers of qualified student loan bonds that are nonprofit corporations able to issue a qualified scholarship funding bond, and redistributing that share of the state ceiling among issuers of qualified mortgage bonds, issuers of state-voted issues, and issuers of qualified residential rental project bonds.</p> <p>H.B. 2206, with respect to private activity bonds issued for purposes of certain housing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raises from 75,000 to 100,000 a county population threshold used to determine whether a residential facility or facilities rehabilitated or constructed in a county and proposed to be financed by an issue of qualified residential rental project bonds constitutes a project for purposes of such bond issuance • caps the maximum total fee required to accompany an application for a reservation or an application for a carryforward designation for a project that includes multiple qualified residential rental projects at \$25,000 • removes and repeals requirements, regarding the amounts of the state ceiling available before August 15 exclusively to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and to housing finance corporations for the issuance of qualified residential rental project bonds, that the board grant reservations from those set aside amounts in a manner that ensures that not more than 50 percent of each set aside amount is used for proposed projects that are located in certain qualified census tracts • changes the period in which the board is required to apportion the amount of the state ceiling set aside for housing finance corporations among the uniform state service regions proportionally by population from before May 1 to before March 1 and repeals certain additional requirements relating to that regional apportionment • changes the cap on the allocation a housing finance corporation may receive for the issuance of qualified mortgage bonds from \$40 million to the greater of \$50 million or 1.70 percent of the state ceiling • prohibits a housing finance corporation from being penalized for insufficient utilization of the corporation's allocation of the state ceiling if the application for a reservation is received after July 14 	
<p>HB 2732 By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to prohibited reporting of information regarding debt incurred for nonemergency medical care.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>There are concerns regarding surprise medical billing that the patient was unaware of at the time of care. Because the resulting debt can be reported to a credit agency, this causes an individual's credit score to unfairly reflect a debt that they were not informed of before services were provided.</p> <p>HB 2732 stipulates that a consumer report released by a credit agency cannot contain information related to the unpaid debt a consumer has incurred for nonemergency medical care. This is applicable whether the care was for the consumer or for another individual to whom the consumer has a legal obligation.</p> <p>A health care provider is also prohibited from releasing information to a consumer reporting agency regarding any debt incurred for nonemergency medical care for either the consumer or a person to whom the consumer has a legal obligation.</p> <p>HB 2732 requires the Executive Commissioner of the HHSC to prescribe the form and content of a disclosure form. DSHS is required to publish the disclosure form on their website. The disclosure form should include an itemized statement of the charges for the nonemergency care as well as an explanation that information will be reported to a consumer reporting agency at least 180 days after the medical bill has been received by the customer. HB 2732 grants DSHS the authority to add any other information deemed necessary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

			HB 2732 does, however, state that the prohibition on reporting may be waived if the consumer or a representative signs the disclosure before medical care is provided.	
HB 4256 By: Cortez	Relating to food allergen awareness in food service establishments.	Public Health Vote: 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4256 requires a restaurant or other food service establishments to provide notice on a poster display promoting food allergen awareness. The poster must be in an area where it can be seen by the employees. DSHS will be responsible for determining the form and content of the poster and is required to show a sample of such a poster on their website. The restaurant will be allowed to display the sample poster to fulfill the requirements of HB 4256. The poster display should include information regarding risks of an allergic reaction, the major food allergens, and methods for preventing cross-contamination in food preparation. The Executive Commissioner of the HHSC is granted the authority to adopt any rules necessary for the implementation of these provisions. Allowing for education on the seriousness of food allergies can ensure that restaurant staff take measures to protect customers from such allergens.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org
HB 3473 By: Perez	Relating to the fee for a permit authorizing the movement of certain vehicles transporting an intermodal shipping container.	Transportation Vote: 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Applications for the permitting of intermodal shipping container vehicles with six or seven axles was set at \$6,000 for each permit and the funds generated by the application fees are split up to go to several levels of government. The current split sends 50% to the state highway fund, 30% divided among each county in the permit application, 16% equally divided among each municipality in the permit application, and 4% to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. The current funds are not adequately distributed to local governments who handle most of the financial responsibility for reparations of infrastructural damages caused by large vehicles. HB 3473 adjusts the distribution of funds generated by the application fee in favor of counties and municipalities. The proposed split sends 32% to the state highway fund, 33% divided among each county in the permit application, 33% equally divided among each municipality in the permit application, and 2% to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Increasing commercial vehicle traffic all over Texas leads to damages and concerns for public safety and this falls on local governments and their limited budgets.	Favorable Evaluated by: Sophia Creede (832) 865-4774 Sophia@TexasLSG.org
HB 3807 By: Springer	Relating to the creation of the office of criminal district attorney of Cooke County, the abolition of the office of county attorney in Cooke County, the application of the professional prosecutors law to the district attorney for the 235th Judicial District, and the compensation of a county auditor in certain counties.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Vote: 5 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, Cooke County has a county attorney's office as well as a District attorney's office. The county attorney's office handles all of the misdemeanor cases while the District attorney handles all of the felony cases in the county. HB 3807 abolishes the office of the county attorney and consolidates that office into the elected office of the district attorney. Under HB 3807, Cooke county also becomes a county that elects its district attorney. HB 3807 establishes that if a vacancy occurs in the elected district attorney's office, the commissioner court will appoint a new district attorney until the next election. HB 3807 sets out the responsibilities that the newly elected district attorney will have. The responsibilities include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the state in all criminal matters in district courts and county courts • Perform the duties of the county attorney and district attorney • Appoint assistant district attorneys • Appoint necessary staff HB 3807 is a local bill that only affects Cooke county.	Favorable Evaluated by: Santiago Cirnigliaro (713) 435-9049 Santiago@TexasLSG.org
HB 4570 By: Larson	Relating to establishing an advisory board to study	Natural Resources	HB 4570 will establish the Surface Water and Groundwater Interaction Advisory Board to study surface water and groundwater interaction in order to develop better policies and strategies to manage the growing demand for water	Favorable Evaluated by:

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman

	surface water and groundwater interaction.	<p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>supplies in Texas. HB 4570 will require that the board include certain interests covered on the recommendations made by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to represent its interests and to be appointed jointly by the chairs of the house natural resources committee and the senate water and rural affairs committee. When conducting the study on surface water and groundwater interaction the board will be required to consult with the TCEQ, groundwater conservation districts, and river authorities. Once completed, the board shall deliver the study to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house representatives, and each member of the legislature a report on the determinations of the advisory board before December 1, 2020. The provisions of HB 4570 will expire on January 1, 2021.</p>	<p>Merci Mohagheghi (713) 382-7007 Merci@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1335 By: Price Huberty Coleman Thompson, Senfronia Bonnen, Greg</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of school-based behavioral health centers by public schools and a grant program administered by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission for the operation of those centers.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1335 allows for schools to establish a school-based behavioral health program to provide accessible behavioral health services to use a number of strategies aimed at an improvement of mental health in students and the community. HB 1335 adds the clarification that a school-based behavioral health center may be combined with a school-based health center or any other district program offering primary health care services to students. The Center may only provide services to a student with the consent of a parent or guardian.</p> <p>HB 1335 specifies that such a school-based behavioral health center must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be located at or near a school district facility • be organized with assistance from the community and relevant health care providers • provide behavioral health services during school hours that is aligned with applicable governmental laws, established behavioral health practice and community standards <p>The school-based behavioral health center must be administered by an eligible entity which includes a school district, an open-enrollment charter, a hospital, a local health department, a federally qualified health center (FQHC), a community mental health center, a licensed mental health care provider whose who provides only school-based behavioral health services, a local Communities In Schools program or any other appropriate nonprofit health care or behavioral health agency.</p> <p>HB 1335 requires the Executive Commissioner of HHSC to administer a grant program to assist school districts with the costs of operating the Centers. The entity that is responsible for the administration of the Center is also eligible to apply for this HHSC grant if it establishes or proposes to establish a Center that meets the requirements of this bill and provides information to indicate the local need for the Center and its services. The applicant entity should also provide evidence that the application for the grant has been approved by the appropriate school district. The applicant must also provide certain information including confirmation that the Center will not provide services without parental consent, that services will be provided on site during each school day, and that the Center will be integrated and coordinate with the school environment as needed. To qualify for the grant, the applicant entity must assume all responsibility for the administration, operation, and oversight of the center. The Executive Commissioner of the HHSC is authorized to request any other information deemed necessary to evaluate eligibility for the grant program.</p> <p>When awarding grants, the Executive Commissioner of HHSC should give priority to a Center that has already been established, has been established at a campus without a Center, serves in an area in which there are barriers to behavioral health service access, or aims to serve a campus where 50 percent or more students are insufficiently insured or educationally disadvantaged.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Sharon Jacob (920) 675-9865 Sharon@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution –  Rep. Daniel Coleman

		<p>When awarding grants to eligible applicants, the Executive Commissioner is given the authority to determine the award amount with consideration to the financial need of the school district housing the Center and other funding provided for the operation of the Center along with any other relevant factor. HB 1335 specifies that any monies awarded under this grant program may only be used for the salaries of those who provide behavioral health at the Center and for costs related to managing the Center's programs. HB 1335 gives the Executive Commissioner of the HHSC the right to adopt any rules necessary for the implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of school-based behavioral health centers.</p> <p>The implementation of HB 1335 allows for underserved areas to receive assistance in providing behavioral health services and resources to students and their families who might not have otherwise had access to such services. Improving the behavioral health of a community can result, not only in positive health and mental health outcomes, but also positive life outcomes.</p> <p>School-based behavioral health centers allow for students and family members to access crucial services and resources in an environment that is familiar, comfortable, and non-threatening. It also allows for the behavioral health staff and school personnel to coordinate to ensure that student's education is improved and enhanced. However, none of these services or strategies will be put into action without the consent of a parent or guardian. This consent can be withdrawn at any time. Behavioral health providers will also be required to maintain the same standards of confidentiality that such a provider would in any other setting.</p> <p>Because this bill attempts to reach medically underserved families and because children in such families oftentimes stay with family members or family friends that are not lawful guardians, there are concerns that the necessity for consent from parents or guardians before the Center can provide mental health services might be a barrier keeping certain children from accessing the resources that the Center could provide.</p>	
--	--	--	--

OK for Distribution -  Rep. Daniel Coleman