



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

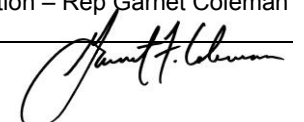
LSG Floor Report for Emergency Calendar – Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 4 Rep. Huberty, et al.	Relating to a high quality prekindergarten program provided by public school districts.	Public Education	<p>At the beginning of this session, Governor Abbott identified early childhood education as an emergency item. Across the country, states have prioritized prekindergarten programs to ensure that children have the greatest chance of success in life and can actively participate in the American economy. Research has shown that students who participate in pre-k programs overwhelmingly exhibit increased competence in math and reading, reduced chance of repeating grade levels, and a reduced need for remedial assistance later in education. Beginning school at an early age also positively impacts graduation rates, higher education enrollment, and job attainment. This in turn facilitates socioeconomic mobility for low-income and minority students that have continued to show disparities in achievement due to structural barriers to educational attainment.</p> <p>Currently, Texas requires school districts to offer a free half-day prekindergarten program, if there are 15 or more children who are at least four years of age and meet one of the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be unable to speak and understand English language 2. Be educationally disadvantaged, such as students who are eligible for the free or reduced-priced lunch program 3. Be homeless, as defined by federal statute, regardless of the residence of the child, of either parent of the child, or of the child's guardian or other person having lawful control of the child 4. Be the child of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by proper authority; or is the child of a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the state military forces or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty 5. Be in, or have been in, the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) following an adversary hearing held as provided by Section 262.201, Family Code <p>Statute broadly sets requirements that programs must follow, and Texas is lacking eight of the ten quality standards of successful prekindergarten programs, as recommended by research. HB 4 provides additional funding for districts that implement specific quality standards.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p> <p>Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman

		<p>Quality improvements include:</p> <p>High Quality Prekindergarten Program. HB 4 requires the commissioner to establish a funding program, from appropriated funds for which school districts and open-enrollment charter schools are awarded, to implement a high-quality pre-k program that is free of tuition or fees. Participating districts must achieve all program standards and abide by appropriate laws. In addition to the funding granted to implement a pre-k program, districts are eligible to receive additional funding for half-day programs under the Foundation School Program based on specified criteria, such as average daily attendance (ADA) and age of student when the program begins. A district is required to use this additional funding to assist in quality improvement. To be eligible for additional funding, a district must adopt a curriculum that incorporates the established statutory guidelines and measures the progress of students in achieving recommended learning outcomes. Teachers involved with prekindergarten programs must be certified and awarded the CDA credential.</p> <p>Parent Engagement Plan. School districts must develop and implement a parent engagement plan to achieve and maintain parental involvement, which has been shown to better student performance and outcomes.</p> <p>Program Evaluation. School districts must select and implement evaluation methods that appropriately assess the district’s program classes, by measuring student progress. The data and information collected must be made available to parents.</p> <p>Program Funding Evaluation. The commissioner is required to evaluate how funding is utilized and if the instructional strategies implemented by the school districts are effectively improving student outcomes.</p> <p>Report of Additional Information Required. On a Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) report a district must include the class size, instructional staff to student ratios, and type of assessments administered to students in pre-k programs offered. This requirement is only for the districts that receive the additional funding granted by the commissioner.</p> <p>Eligible Private Providers. Any district offering pre-k is allowed to contract with eligible private providers for services or equipment to further program functionality. Private providers must be licensed, in good standing with DFPS, and be accredited by a research-based, nationally-recognized, and universally-accessible accreditation system approved by the commissioner.</p> <p>As a note, any districts that are unable to meet the quality standards or choose not to will continue to receive funding under the current pre-k program. However, HB 4 offers additional funding to improve pre-k quality standards for programs to further the success of Texas students. This bill continues to offer the traditional Foundation School Program funding, a formula method, to districts with the pre-k program, <i>but</i> any additional funding will be given through an established grant funding program, based on ADA. This poses concern as pre-k students are funded as 0.5 of ADA (half a student because the pre-k program is half day). Therefore, the additional funding through a grant program is unstable and offers little increased funds. Additionally, half-day pre-k programs, continued in legislation by HB 4, do not provide sufficient time for instruction for students to engage in educational curriculum, with necessary breaks and activities factored into the school day. Moving forward, it is imperative that Texas consider offering formula funding for full-day prekindergarten programs to better prepare students with the educational tools and life skills necessary to succeed in school and an increasingly competitive economy. High quality full-day prekindergarten is a cost-effective investment in the future of the students, community, and economy of the state.</p>	
--	--	--	--

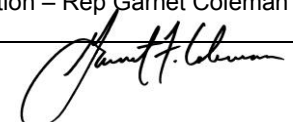
OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman



<p>HB 12 Longoria, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the border prosecution unit.</p>	<p>Homeland Security and Public Safety</p>	<p>HB 12 codifies the Border Prosecution Unit (BPU) created by Gov. Perry as an independent unit and offers clarification about the role of the BPU and what constitutes a border county. It formalizes practices already being used by the BPU, providing statute to cover the BPU's actions. The unit will be governed by a board of directors primarily made up of district attorneys to provide oversight.</p> <p>The bill defines border crime and allows the BPU to develop a nonexclusive list of offenses not included in the bill to be considered as border crime. BPU will develop best practices in regard to border crime prosecution, and will serve as a focal point for information and help develop and provide training on border prosecution for attorneys and law enforcement agencies. This bill requires local authorities to cooperate with BPU.</p> <p>HB 12, along with HB 10 and HB 11, will help us continue to support our state in combatting crime related to drug and human trafficking, smuggling, and other cartel and criminal enterprise activities.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 571-213-2362 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><u>LSG Floor Report for Major State Calendar – Wednesday, April 8, 2015</u></p>				
<p>HB 1678 Rep. Raymond, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities works to provide equal access for people with disabilities so that they may achieve independence, productivity, and self-determination. HB 1678 contains the Sunset recommendations and extends the committee to 2027. The bill removes functions that didn't relate to the purpose or resources of the committee, such as requiring the committee's biennial report to include information relating to federal and state law compliance. The committee's functions are expanded to include identifying plans by state agencies and nonprofit organizations that are required by federal law as well as review and analyze the plans, identifying disparities in state laws and the services provided, and making recommendations to address the disparities. Maintaining the committee ensures that people with disabilities in Texas will have dedicated advocates and a support system to ensure full and fair functionality in society. Providing information that evaluates agencies and nonprofits services for people with disabilities allows the state to actively work to better serve this population.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>Amendment To HB 1678</p>	<p>By Rep. Raymond</p>	<p>#840680</p>	<p>Language within the bill is amended to match SB 219, which become law earlier this month. Additionally, it strikes language that requires the evaluation of Texas' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal and state law relating to rights and opportunities for individuals with disabilities.</p>	
<p>HB 1680 Rep. Raymond, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Health Services Authority as a quasi-governmental entity and the electronic exchange of health care information.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>The Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) is a public nonprofit corporation created by the legislature in 2007 to promote the use of electronic records and health information exchanges (HIEs). HIEs are the secure method of transferring health records between physicians, hospitals, health care payers, and other health care providers involved in the care of a patient.</p> <p>HB 1680 contains the THSA Sunset recommendations and extends its expiration date to 2021. The bill removes any statutory code that involves THSA, its current expiration date, and any other information related to THSA and its functionality as of September 2015. Additionally, privacy and security standards and certifications will continue beyond the future ending date of THSA and will be adopted by the HHSC, granting authorization to the commission, requiring specified duties to take place. Lastly, the composition of the THSA board will be changed by number and type of members appointed to have broader representation.</p> <p>THSA originated with the intent to be a private sector entity, offering THSA several years more to develop revenue-producing sources to</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

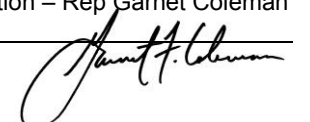
			ensure a spot in the private sector.	
Amendment To HB 1680	By Rep. Collier	#840672	This amendment requires that one member of the advisory committee must be a Texas resident receiving publicly funded health services from one of the health and human service agencies. Requiring that a member of the committee be a recipient of the services offers a unique perspective of how patients are impacted by the Texas Health Services Authority and provide suggestions that may directly affect this population.	
Amendment To HB 1680	By Rep. Davis, S.	#840671	This amendment requires HHSC to ensure reasonable fees be charged for the certification process specified in the bill. The HHSC is permitted to revoke the designation or authority of a private nonprofit organization or entity to establish the process or offer certifications specified. By requiring certifications and fees, private nonprofits are held to fair standards.	
Amendment To HB 1680	By Rep. Raymond	#840668	This amendment changes language in Section 7 of the bill to match SB 219, reading as “the governor shall also appoint at least two ex officio, nonvoting members representing the health and human services agencies as state agency data resources,” excluding the indication of the department.	
HB 2463 Rep. Raymond, et al.	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services.	Human Services	<p>The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) was created in 2003 to provide services and support to individuals with disabilities, so that they can achieve full participation in society. While HB 2463 contains several significant modifications from the Sunset recommendations for DARS, the commission did not recommend the continuation of the department but the consolidation with other health and human serve organizations. The bill extends the expiration date of DARS to 2027 in the case that the consolidation of the HHSC departments does not become law, listed below are the specific provisions of the bill.</p> <p>Integrates independent living services. The independent living programs for people who are blind or visually impaired and the independent living programs for people with significant disabilities are combined into a single independent living program.</p> <p>Defines DARS role in the provision of independent living services. Services provided under the independent living programs must be provided by centers for independent living (CILs) and cannot be provided by the agency. Instances in which a CIL does not exist in an area or cannot provide certain necessary services, DARS is required to identify a CIL willing to contract with outside entities to provide those services. CILs that are unwilling or able to contract with outside entities for specific services will require DARS to directly contract with entities. DARS must evaluate and monitor individual CIL’s and subcontractor’s services, providing training or technical assistances for the CIL to provide an array of services.</p> <p>Requires new guidelines for caseworkers. In establishing guidelines for caseworkers, DARS will utilize data and best practices. The method of guidelines includes specific categorization, intermediate goals for clients, criteria to determine client progress. Caseworkers are allowed to recommend guidelines beyond those that are established, if there is documented need to exceed the guidelines and</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p> <p>Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman



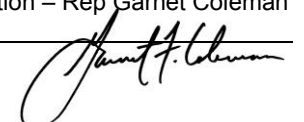
			<p>approval is granted by their supervisor.</p> <p>Requires a new case review system. A uniform case review system will be established and maintained for all direct services programs to be evaluated in various specified manners. The review system will help supervisors to evaluate and offer guidance to assist caseworkers' in their performance.</p> <p>Requires DARS to designate staff to monitor program performance. Staff that is not involved in direct services programs will be designated to monitor all programs by collecting, analyzing and reporting data to various levels of executive management. With collected information, monitoring staff will work with the direct services program staff to develop measures for the programs. DARS is authorized to conduct internal peer reviews of field offices to evaluate compliance of federal and agency regulations.</p> <p>Established two existing programs in statute. DARS will operate a comprehensive rehabilitation services program to provide services to people with traumatic brain or spinal cord injuries. In addition, DARS will operate a children's autism program to provide services to children with autism spectrum disorders.</p> <p>Repeals statute. Two sections of the Human Resources Code are repealed, requiring DARS to provide guidance to caseworkers and monitor their delivery services.</p> <p>Although the Sunset Advisory Commission offered valuable and necessary suggestions for efficiency and quality in HB 2463, such as a better proposal of caseworker guidelines and review system, several concerns arise. The integration of the two separate independent living services programs, conflates two unique populations to be served by the same staff. Both, individuals who are blind or visually impaired and individuals who have significant disabilities are two distinct populations with specialized needs. The combination of their services may create a confused system that will hinder the services provided. This may ultimately regress the services into becoming the same way they exist today, unorganized and ineffectual, in which the Sunset Advisory Commission heavily critiqued.</p>	
Amendment To HB 2463	By Rep. Raymond	#840670	This amendment eliminates the service delivery and training and supervisions of counselors sections of the Human Resources Code that was amended and designated in SB 219.	
HB 1606 Rep. Burkett, et al.	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Investment Council, including assumption of the duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board.	Economic & Small Business Development	<p>The Texas Workforce Investment Council (TWIC) was created to promote the development of an educated and skilled workforce and ensure a quality and integrated workforce by securing services that will address the needs of businesses and their employees.</p> <p>HB 1606 contains the sunset recommendations for the TWIC, which includes continuing the council as well as transferring the powers and duties of the Texas Skills Standards Board (TSSB) to TWIC. The TSSB was created to identify and develop a system of statewide system of skill standards and credentials for occupations that allow sub-baccalaureate employees to receive strong employment and earning opportunities. The bill abolishes TSSB and removes language the enabling legislation for the board while establishing new requirements for the TWIC to obtain for its new duties. During the sunset review process feedback indicated that TSSB accomplished a majority of its key tasks through one meeting and therefore, could be easily absorbed by TWIC to maintain the TSSB's responsibilities and eliminating the nonessential need for a separate workforce advisory board.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman



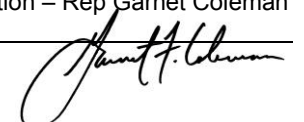
<p>HB 3279 Rep. Gonzales, L.</p>	<p>Relating to the authority and duties of the office of the inspector general of the Health and Human Services Commission.</p>	<p>General Investigating & Ethics</p>	<p>HB 3279 seeks to make changes to the OIG in HHSC in line with recommendations made by the Sunset Commission, which found deep management and due process concerns in the OIG’s efforts to detect Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. This bill also requires a special purpose Sunset Review in 6 years, for the 87th legislature, to make sure the provisions in this bill are successful in addressing the management and due process concerns. One particular concern is that the responsibility for appointing the HHSC OIG is transferred from the governor to the HHSC director. This is the proverbial “fox guarding the hen house” and is bad policy. The responsibility for appointing the HHSC OIG should remain outside of HHSC.</p> <p>HB 3279 prescribes changes to how investigations are carried out, including prescribing time frames in which preliminary and full-scale investigations related to fraud, waste, and abuse be carried out to improve the effectiveness of the OIG. The bill seeks to strengthen oversight of special investigative units in MCOs (Managed Care Organizations), improve management practices, and streamline the credible allegation of fraud hold payment system within the OIG. The OIG is also permitted to share the confidential drafts of audits with DFPS if it concerns the death of a child in DFPS custody.</p> <p>This bill amends the definition of fraud for the HHSC OIG, removing references to other parts of statute and affirming that unintentional mistakes are not considered fraud. Finally, HB 3279 strengthens the audit appeals process for pharmacies to give them more independence in decision-making. This bill improves transparency and accountability within the Office of the Inspector General to better serve low-income Texans who are reliant on Medicaid; this will strengthen protections from Medicaid MCOs from being able to take advantage of consumers in committing fraud and abuse.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 571-213-2362 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>Amendment To HB 3279</p>	<p>By Rep. Gonzales, L.</p>	<p>#840669</p>	<p>This amendment provides slight language changes, replacing “Medicaid program” with “Medicaid.” There are no substantive changes.</p>	
<p>HB 100 Rep. Zerwas, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 100 authorizes boards at universities to issue tuition revenue bonds for the following universities: Texas A&M System; UT System; UH System; Texas State University System; University of North Texas System; Texas Women’s University; Midwestern State University; SFA University; Texas Tech University System; TSU; and Texas State Technical College System.</p> <p>These funds will be used to construct new buildings, such as (but not limited to): a nursing & health sciences building at Texas A&M-Commerce; a health and biomedical sciences center at UH; and an industrial technology center at TSTC – West Texas. All bonds are used so universities can acquire, purchase, construct, improve, renovate, enlarge, or equip property and facilities, which allows universities to stay competitive and serve students successfully.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 571-213-2362 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><u>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 8, 2015</u></p>				
<p>HB 122 Rep. Pickett</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Mobility Fund.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>The Texas Mobility Fund (TMF) issued by voters in 2001 is the most flexible bonding source at the discretion of the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT. Unlike Proposition 12 and 14, which are primarily dedicated to the maintenance, construction, and improvement of highways, the TMF is a revolving fund that has the capacity to also cover capital expenditures associated with mass transit, though it is rarely used for this purpose.</p> <p>HB 122 is a fiscally responsible measure, which prohibits the Texas Transportation Commission and TxDOT from issuing bonds or entering into credit agreements payable from the TMF after September 1, 2015. The early repayment of current outstanding bonds would result in a total savings of \$339 million in avoided interest. The bill further amends code to stipulate that amounts in excess of</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman

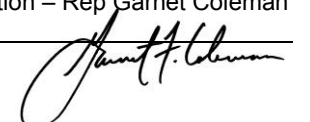


			<p>that set aside for the existing obligations and agreements be used for the express purposes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating debt service reserve accounts, which might function as savings accounts in the extinguishment of debt financed projects, • Paying interest on obligations for no more than two years, • Canceling or refunding existing obligations, and • Constructing, maintaining, acquiring, and expanding highways, other than tolled facilities, and acquiring and designing necessary rights-of-way. <p>The bill then restricts the types of projects able to be funded at value by the TMF to those related to non-tolled highway construction and maintenance. While it might be advantageous to encourage paying down debt, funding instead of financing projects, and focusing on roads vital to our economy and quality of life, this restriction of use might hinder TxDOT’s ability to address myriad needs. In the past TMF funds have been used to purchase rail cars for the Trinity Railway Express in the DFW area and have been used to support DART line connectivity in Denton County.</p> <p>Revenue shortfalls at the federal level have caused uncertainty for future surface transportation funding. It might be helpful when federal funding cannot be projected to maintain the flexibility of a state source that can bridge the gap for a variety of projects, should federal funding for a project be delayed or in the event of some other unforeseen circumstance.</p>	
<p>HB 1252 Rep. Pickett</p>	<p>Relating to uniform weighing procedures requirements for motor vehicle weight enforcement officers.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>HB 1252 requires DPS to adopt and promulgate standard weighing procedures in order to accurately weigh vehicles stopped by weight enforcement officers. Currently, officers may use stationary or portable wheel load scales to conduct weight inspections, and portable scales can produce varying reads if used without proper operational knowledge. The bill allows DPS to revoke the weight inspection authority of any enforcement officer found out of compliance with the adopted rules, and it establishes a defense to prosecution for persons or corporations whose vehicles were improperly weighed due to noncompliance with procedure. State penalties for infractions related to operating or loading an overweight vehicle range from \$100 to \$10,000 and can double upon third offense. Establishing best practices to minimize weighing errors will help to ensure that businesses and persons following the law are not wrongfully shouldering a potentially devastating financial burden.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 505 Rep. Rodriguez, E., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to a prohibition of limitations on the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a public high school student may enroll.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Currently, traditional high school students are limited to 2 dual credit courses per semester and only 12 credit hours while in high school. Whereas, early college high schools allow their students to enroll in college credit courses of up to 60 hours. HB 505 prohibits the Commissioner of Education and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from creating a rule that limits the number of dual credit courses or hours a student may enroll in while in high school, as well as for each semester or academic year. This will allow more students the opportunity to be alleviated of higher education financial burdens and prepare students for college and the workforce earlier in their education.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 497 Rep. Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of the law governing saltwater pipeline facilities located in the vicinity of public roads.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p>	<p>Last session legislation was written to provide standards for the locations, maintenance and installation of saltwater pipelines in easements along highways. HB497 cleans up the language of this bill to specify that saltwater pipelines leaving oil or gas production sites to saltwater pipeline facilities are included under these permissions. Enacting this bill would reduce pollution and road wear and tear by getting water bearing trucks off the roads, and allowing that water to instead come down pipelines.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

OK for Distribution – Rep Garnet Coleman



<p>HB 1286 Rep. Simmons, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of injury to a child, elderly individual, or disabled individual.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Assaultive offenses against children, the elderly, and disabled individuals carry more severe penalties than the same offenses committed against others, as these protected classes might be less able to defend against and be more vulnerable to such violations. At present, 'disabled individual' is defined as one who by reason of disease, defect, or injury is substantially unable to protect or care for himself and is over 14 years of age.</p> <p>HB 1286 expands this definition by adding those with autism spectrum disorder, developmental or intellectual disability, severe emotional disturbance, and/or traumatic brain injury. It eliminates the current age restriction. These changes reflect a more accurate and inclusive definition of 'disabled,' which will now protect those who are higher functioning but are still more likely be targets of bullying and hate crimes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 904 Rep. Smith, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the transfer of certain inmates to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence.</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>Currently, there are two kinds of inmates who are not eligible for release on bail pending appeal but despite this, remain in county jails until their appeals process is over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • persons sentenced to 10 or more years for a felony conviction • persons convicted of a felony for which a judge is prohibited from ordering community supervision <p>These inmates may remain in county jails until their appeal is exhausted, which can take 3 years or more, and can become burdensome for counties due to the cost of housing a long term inmate and the county's limited resources. HB904 directs the transfer of these defendants to TDCJ pending a mandate from the court of appeals or Criminal Appeals. This would alleviate both beds and costs in large and small counties.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1184 Rep. Paddie, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing certain utility cost savings and alternative fuel programs as eligible for local government energy savings performance contracts.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p>	<p>Previous legislation has been enacted to provide standards for contracts between local government and providers for high efficacy energy or water conservation through such measures as weather stripping, energy recovery systems, energy efficient lighting fixtures, landscaping etc. The contracts include a guarantee that the savings brought about by the improvements will offset the cost of implementation.</p> <p>HB 1184 expands the projects available through energy savings performance contracting, adding alternative fuel programs for local government vehicles. This will allow for better fuel efficiency and reduce pollution on the roads in Texas.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1447 Rep. Dale, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to protective orders for certain victims of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Currently, a protective order (PO) for victims of sexual assault, abuse, stalking, and trafficking is not required to be filed until after an assailant has been released from prison. Because the assailant must be served the notice of hearing in-person, it is sometimes challenging for officers to locate and serve these individuals post-release. HB 1447 seeks to remedy this problem and to provide at least one year of legal protection, post-conviction, for survivors of sexual assault and related offenses. It requires prosecuting attorneys to educate their clients and/or their legal guardians on their right to file for a PO at the time of the defendant's criminal conviction. If it is within the court's jurisdiction to file PO applications and with client or legal guardian consent, it allows the application to be filed immediately following conviction.</p> <p>Filing for and obtaining a PO is an invasive and stressful process that requires a survivor to testify before a judge and sometimes before the defendant in regards to an unconscionable act. Asking a survivor who has already begun to heal to do this at a later date, up to years after an attack, exposes them to retraumatization and is a deterrent to seeking lawful protection. This bill streamlines an arduous process, respects the survivor's right of self-determination, and empowers them to take a necessary precaution when it is most relevant.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>



<p>HB 2208 Rep. Herrero</p>	<p>Relating to access to criminal history record information by a county tax assessor-collector.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p>	<p>HB 2208 allows county tax collector-assessors to perform statewide criminal background checks to people/entities applying for a motor vehicle title service license. Allowing county tax collector-assessors to do background checks would cut down on fraudulent motor vehicle title services that prey on people of low economic status. While legitimate title service companies exist, there are those that act as fronts for money laundering for drug cartels. This would prevent people who were convicted of white-collar crimes in one county from getting a motor vehicle title service license in another county, protecting Texans from being taken advantage of.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 571-213-2362 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
--	--	--	--	---

