



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

LSG Floor Report for Postponed Business – Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 3279 Rep. Gonzales, L.	Relating to the authority and duties of the office of the inspector general of the Health and Human Services Commission.	General Investigating & Ethics	<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>
HB 2769 By Rep. Rodriguez, E.	Relating to the date of expiration of a certain pilot revolving loan program established under the loanstar revolving loan program to provide for energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technology for certain	Energy Resources	<p>In the 82nd session, legislation was passed establishing a pilot program offering loans to promote renewable and energy efficient technology for non-profit organizations & churches. HB 2769 extends this program two years to end on Dec. 31st, 2017 instead of the current expiration date on Dec. 31, 2015. Utility bills are often some of the largest expenses for non-profit agencies and places of worship. This bill would help to alleviate those costs, allowing these organizations to focus their funds on serving the community.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

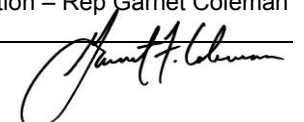
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	organizations.			
HJR 75 By Rep. Bonnen, D., et al.	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect.	Ways & Means	Currently Texas has homestead exemptions for the widows of disabled veterans who have died after 2009. HJR 75 is a constitutional amendment that is contingent on the passage of HB 992, and retroactively extends the exemption to widows of veterans that would have qualified for the exemption, but passed away prior to 2009. This bill would provide relief to families of those who have served our country.	Favorable Evaluated by: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 992 By Rep. Bonnen, D., et al.	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the total appraised value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran.	Ways & Means	Currently Texas has homestead exemptions for the widows of disabled veterans who have died after 2009. HB 992 retroactively extends the exemption to widows of veterans that would have qualified for the exemption, but passed away prior to 2009. This bill would provide relief to families of those who have served our country.	Favorable Evaluated by: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org

LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Wednesday, April 22, 2015

HB 1290 Rep. Keffer, et al.	Relating to the sunset review of river authorities.	Natural Resources	Currently Texas River Authorities are independent entities that manage everything from water quality to electricity generation through their rivers. These river authorities are varied in their procedures, oversight boards, and focus. HB1290 mandates that 18 of the largest river authorities be subject to sunset review to make sure that the River Authorities are meeting their core functions and to determine if there are opportunities for improved efficacy and efficiency. Proponents of this legislation say that the bill encourages open government and transparency. HB 1290 would not allow a sunset review to abolish a river authority. Opponents of this bill site the \$90,000 burdensome cost to the river authorities for the sunset review. For instance the Bandera County River Authority has a \$600,000 tax funded annual budget and would not be able to raise taxes high enough to accumulate the money by the time they were supposed to be reviewed. Despite the cost, it would be beneficial to have the River Authorities reviewed for consistency and uniformity.	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 22, 2015

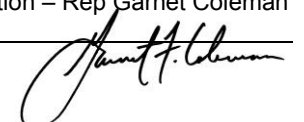
<p>HB 1321 By Rep. Bonnen, D.</p>	<p>Relating to route designation for the issuance of a permit for the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles in certain counties.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Port Freeport facilitates transportation and a means of access for a high volume of international cargo, ranking 24th in the U.S. in this capacity. Texas’s petrochemical industry are dependent on Port Freeport to export their materials and are able to keep inland expenses down and subsequently reduce road usage as a result. “Heavy lift” corridors have been established in prior legislative sessions, which allow specially oversized/overweight permitted vehicles to carry heavier loads on the most direct routes from certain points into the port.</p> <p>HB 1321 adds two more routes for permitted vehicles from the intersection of North Velasco Blvd. and South Avenue J in Freeport and from 21441 Loop 419 in the city of Sweeny to Port Freeport. It is projected that this will reduce truck traffic by 20-22% on these routes, increasing road safety and reducing emissions in the area. Port Freeport works with TxDOT to arrange for specialized permits, factoring in increased road maintenance costs incurred by heavier loads. DPS spot checks these vehicles to ensure compliance with established regulations. HB 1321 supports Texas’s economy without compromising its infrastructure.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2027 By Rep. Bonnen, G., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to establishing precincts for elections held on a uniform election date by certain political subdivisions.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 2027 requires a political subdivision to use uniform county precinct polling locations for any election held on a uniform election date. This essentially applies the practices already in place for November elections to May elections, which in certain suburban and urban communities can be inconsistently administered and chaotic due to multiple elections held by different districts on the same date. In some localities, emergency service district, school district, and municipal utility district elections, might require a voter to travel to different locations to participate in all elections. This measure will help to synchronize these elections.</p> <p>HB 2027 also addresses the practice of “rolling polling,” or voter targeting. Some districts have abused the practice of taking voting machines to non-uniform locations on an inconsistent basis to gain votes from some segments of the electorate at the exclusion of others, specifically to pass school bond issuances. The bill would require that political subdivisions using mobile voting practices to also use all of their county election precinct polling locations to ensure that elections are administered fairly to all voters. HB 2027 reduces voter confusion, encourages turnout and participation, and discourages the selective solicitation of votes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 700 Rep. Giddings, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the repeal of the Texas B-On-Time student loan program.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 700 would repeal the Texas B-On-Time program. The B-On-Time program benefits less than 1% of all students in Texas universities, incentivizing on-time graduation by offering a loan that is forgiven if the student graduates on time. The money for this program comes from 5% of all tuition costs from all students across the state. It is then re-allocated to students who qualify for the program. The problem is that some schools give more money to the program than they get back because of higher numbers of part-time students who work full-time. For example, the University of Houston Clear Lake sent \$1.5M to the program and only got \$242,000 back, and UT-Arlington sent \$17M to the program and only got \$6M back. This bill would not affect current B-On-Time recipients; money in the account (\$149M) would be used to help the students in the program finish up and remaining funds would be refunded to the universities. The 5% that goes to the fund would also stay in the individual universities, allowing universities to come up with financial aid programs that assist the students they serve and help them succeed. This would benefit a far greater number of students than the current B-On-Time program and would help Texas students graduate with less debt in a manner that makes sense for them – be they nontraditional or traditional students.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2104 By Rep. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to procedures for the management, sale, or lease of certain state-owned real property and the</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p>	<p>HB 2104 updates General Land Office policy to account for current technology and system practices. It deletes outdated language and increases efficiency. It cleans up statute and provides that information previously published in local newspapers be published online instead. It allows statute to be in line with current practices and overall has a positive impact on the GLO.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>

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	management or collection of related funds, including disputed oil and gas royalties owed to the state.			
HB 1595 By Rep. Murr, et al.	Relating to testing certain defendants or confined persons for communicable diseases.	Corrections	Current statute states that a defendant or confined person shall be tested for communicable disease should they initiate contact with a peace officer and their body fluids come into contact with that peace officer as a result. HB 1595 amends statute to include magistrates and correctional facility employees along with those peace officers. The bill also expands the timeframe in which a test can be mandated beyond the initial arrest, to include a pretrial period during judicial proceeding and confinement post-conviction. Currently if a correctional facility employee or a magistrate who comes into contact with the bodily fluid of a defendant or confined person, there is a lengthy process before testing can be done, and that can result in a missed window of treatment for a communicable disease. Opponents of this bill are concerned with expanding the situations in which an individual must undergo forced medical testing.	<u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 1049 By Rep. Rodriguez, E., et al.	Relating to the classification of licensed massage therapy programs as postsecondary education programs.	Economic & Small Business Development	Under new federal accreditation rules, certain massage therapy schools are functioning as uncertified postsecondary education programs. HB 1049 complies with these rules by officially establishing massage therapy schools as postsecondary education programs so they may be certified.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org
HB 943 By Rep. Thompson, S.	Relating to the applicability of a wage and salary presumption to an incarcerated person for purposes of determining child support obligations.	Juvenile Justice & Family Issues	Incarcerated parents are not able to appear in court, provide documentation to the courts, or earn adequate income to pay child support while incarcerated. Under current law, in the absence of proof of income, the court is required to presume that a parent is working at least 40 hours per week and earning the federal minimum wage. HB 943 addresses this by removing this presumption for any parent who is subject to an order of confinement to a local, state, or federal jail or prison that exceeds 90 days. Without this exception, the courts will continue to presume an inaccurate income of an incarcerated parent and require child support payments, which can create an insurmountable debt for that parent, and hinder positive outcomes toward eventual financial recovery.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org
HB 1331 By Rep. King, P.	Relating to the treatment and recycling for beneficial use of certain waste arising out of or incidental to the drilling for or production of oil or gas.	Energy Resources	While HB 1331 seeks to incentivize the recycling of drill cuttings, it also allows oil & gas operators to avoid any possible liability for the future impact of hazardous waste products from their fracking wells. Drill cuttings are the subsurface byproducts of fracking that are lifted to the surface and can include the water and chemicals used in production. The impacts of pollution and waste from fracking wells have been widely debated in communities across the US and in communities near fracking wells in Texas. Long term effects of the radioactive elements and hazardous chemicals in the fracking process have not been assessed. Oil & Gas wastes are exempted from the Federal oversight that all other industry waste is subject to. The EPA granted control to the states for this oversight and although Texas has a mandate to protect public health and the environment, there is little to no tracking or testing of this hazardous waste. It is beneficial to all that the waste is being reused and recycled instead of simply disposed of; however, the bill would limit liability in tort to the company that the oil & gas operator sells the drill cuttings to, thereby allowing oil and gas operators to avoid all responsibility while profiting from their waste byproducts. When companies have a vested interest in avoiding liability, there are significant concerns that those companies are aware of future public health risks and are seeking to absolve themselves of responsibility.	<u>Will of the House with Concerns</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org

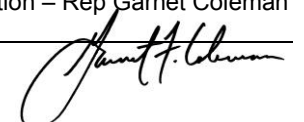
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<p>HB 1061 By Rep. Turner, C., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of the offense of interference with public duties.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Currently, individuals who interfere or impede with a police officer’s ability to perform their duties can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor for criminally negligent behavior. However, the law provides for a defense to prosecution when the alleged offense is solely speech-based. HB 1061 modernizes code to protect police officers from the emerging threat of “doxing,” which is the practice of researching and broadcasting another’s personally identifiable information, such as home address, phone number, credit information, SSN, and so forth, with the intent to threaten that individual or expose them to malicious acts. The bill nullifies the defense to prosecution for speech-based offenses, only if it is found that the defendant intentionally disseminated an officer’s personal, private, or confidential information. HB 1061 simply facilitates the prosecution of this specific retaliatory act. With the amount of personal data made readily available through the internet, it’s crucial that the law respond to technological advances and their abuses.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 229 By Rep. Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the disposition of certain surplus motor vehicles and other law enforcement equipment by the Texas Facilities Commission.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p>	<p>HB 229 allows DPS to donate surplus vehicles to local law enforcement, particularly to economically depressed areas and along the border. This will help law enforcement agencies to acquire much-needed equipment.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 311 By Rep. Canales</p>	<p>Relating to an executor contract for the conveyance of real property; providing a penalty.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p>	<p>An executory contract is a contract for the sale of property in which the seller keeps the property title from the buyer until the entire contract price has been paid. Typically, sellers exact high interest rates, between 12% and 18%, on top of the contract price. If the buyer defaults on their payments, the forfeiture clause of many of these contracts allows the seller to terminate the contract, keep all payments made as liquidated damages, and repossess the home, leaving the buyer without home or legal title and with limited means of recourse.</p> <p>HB 311 provides for stronger consumer protecting by requiring the conveyance of legal title to the purchaser upon recording of the executory contract, subject to a lien on the property for the unpaid portion of the contract. The bill provides that the purchaser is entitled to convert the purchaser’s interest into legal title, whether or not the executory contract was recorded.</p> <p>While executory contracts are required by law to be recorded, it is estimated that one-fifth of them are not. HB 311 holds a seller liable to the purchaser for failure to record the executory contract, utilizing the same fee structure for damages as is already in place for failure to transfer the title upon full payment. It caps damages at the greater of the amount paid under the contract or the value of the property. This measure greatly incentivizes the seller to comply with current law and record the contract.</p> <p>The bill clarifies the seller’s rights. If a contract has not been recorded, a seller must give notice to a buyer and days to cure, then can rescind and forfeit the contract. If the buyer has paid 40% or 48 months, or the contract has been recorded, then the buyer cannot use the remedy of rescission and must sell the property through a trustee.</p> <p>Researchers that surveyed 10 border and interior counties found approximately 5,451 active executory contracts in those counties alone, often held by people living in deep poverty. By incentivizing public recording of these transactions, HB 311 discourages fraudulent practices</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 1378 By Rep. Flynn, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the fiscal transparency and accountability of certain entities responsible for public money.</p>	<p>Investments & Financial Services</p>	<p>HB 1378 makes changes to reporting annual financial information for political subdivisions and open-enrollment charter schools to ensure transparency of uses of public money. The bill requires political subdivisions to prepare annual financial reports with financial information relating to funds, debt, obligation information, and other relevant or necessary information. This information must be posted online, on the website run by the subdivision or on a social media website in which the subdivision is in charge of posting. An alternative to annual financial reports for political subdivisions would be to report the financial information to the comptroller of public accounts, in a fashion required by the comptroller. This information will be translated on the comptroller website so that it may be available for inspection. Additionally, certificates to pay a contractual obligation for a bond proposition is prohibited from being authorized by the governing body of an issuer of a certificate in specified circumstances. Similarly, open-enrollment charter schools will also be required to prepare annual financial statements that will be made public and posted on the website. HB 1378 improves transparency, which benefits Texans concerned with how their tax dollars are spent.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2051 By Rep. Crownover</p>	<p>Relating to a volume-based exemption from reporting requirements for certain accidental discharges or spills from wastewater facilities.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>Current law requires any domestic sewage spill must be reported to TCEQ immediately no matter how small. If the spill reaches a drinking source, it must be reported to local government officials and the media. These reporting requirements serve a beneficial purpose, but there is no distinction between a one drop or 1,000,000 gallon spill. HB 2051 creates a threshold of 1000 gallons before public utilities have to report the spill to TCEQ. This 1000 gallon threshold follows reporting standards of other states and would have exempted 73% of reports to TCEQ. HB 2051 reduces the reporting burden for TCEQ as each report takes hours to complete that they could be using to do their core work. This bill does not change the reporting requirements for when sewage spills reach a drinking water source. Opponents of this bill argue that it is difficult to visually assess whether a spill is above or below 1000 gallons, and that it does not allow TCEQ flexibility to require increased reporting standards for those operators that have a bad compliance record. Further, we worry that more lax reporting requirements will encourage certain operators to become less diligent in preventing spills since they know that smaller ones will not be reported.</p>	<p>Will of the House with Concerns Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2050 By Rep. Rodriguez, E.</p>	<p>Relating to voter information provided by a voter registrar to the secretary of state.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>In 2011, the 82nd legislature passed a law requiring county voter registrars to electronically submit voter record data to the Secretary of State's office. However, some counties fail to distinguish between early voting by mail and early voting in-person in their submissions, rendering much of this data unusable. HB 2050 articulates that the voter registrar must report whether the voter voted on election day, early by mail, or early in person, to accurately reflect how voters participate in an election. This data, which is public information, will help political parties more closely cater to and assist their membership by furnishing applicable persons with ballot-by-mail applications and early voting reminders. Counties already have the technological means to fully notate the record of each voter, and the majority already are. In the long run, this measure will save them the hassle and human resources of complying with numerous open records requests for accurate data and will facilitate stronger participation in elections.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4001 By Rep. Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of habilitation and certain health care services by a home and community support services agency; authorizing a fee, providing penalties, and requiring an occupational license.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>Community First Choice (CFC) is a Medicaid program that offers home and community support services (HCSS) to Medicaid recipients. Home and community support services were rolled out through managed care in June, but as of today these services have still not been delivered. HB 4001 makes applicable statutory changes to include specific services in home and community support services agency (HCSSA) so that they may begin to appropriately deliver these services in a consistent and quality manner. The changes made relate to requiring an HCSS license for those delivering habilitation services, person-centered services, designated services on licenses, requirements of individuals tasked with surveying these agencies, licensing for those providing habilitation services, as well as exemptions for HCCS licensing requirements.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p>HB 1560 By Rep. Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to investment options for property recovered in a suit by a next friend or guardian ad litem on behalf of a minor or incapacitated person.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 1560 simply removes the discontinued higher education tuition savings plan, Texas Tomorrow Fund, and replaces it with the successor plans available under the statute. Currently, a next friend or appointed guardian ad litem representing a minor or incapacitated person in a lawsuit may elect that any awarded monies be placed into either (1) a FDIC insured interest-bearing savings account or (2) the now-discontinued Texas Tomorrow Fund. HB 1650 replaces the Texas Tomorrow Fund with the successor higher education tuition savings plan; currently, the Texas College Savings Plan or the Texas Tuition Promise Fund. These depository options ultimately protect the ward in saving for personal care or educational expenses, and allows the state to responsibly save the monetary award in which it has been entrusted.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1618 By Rep. King, K.</p>	<p>Relating to the period of eligibility for support from the universal service plan for certain providers.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>Certain incumbent telecommunications providers, which became ineligible for continuing support from the universal service fund (USF), petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to receive financial support. Although this was granted by legislation last session, statute limited PUC financial assistance to 24 months after they stopped receiving USF assistance. HB 1618 extends the period of time for providers to receive funds from the PUC until Dec. 31, 2017, if it is later than 24 months after USF assistance discontinuation.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2089 By Rep. Darby, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the repeal of certain occupational license fees and taxes.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedure</p>	<p>HB 2089 makes revisions to fees, surcharges and taxes that were temporarily assessed against certain professions that were not subjected to a franchise tax when the legislation was originally enacted. The professions currently paying the annual \$200 licensing fee have since had the franchise tax imposed against them, so it is duplicitous to continue to levy both fees. The occupational licensing fee was temporarily implemented during fiscal deficits and should be removed and the statute updated to reflect the change.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2491 By Rep. Pickett</p>	<p>Relating to licensing and appointment of title insurance escrow officers; changing the limit applicable to a fee; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>HB 2491 allows escrow officers licensed by Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), to be issued a single license. Currently escrow officers are employed by title agencies for various tasks and there are occasions where an officer has multiple escrow licenses, corresponding to each title agency they are working with. HB 2491 outlines the obligations for record maintenance by TDI, licensing responsibility of escrow agents, and certification requirements for insurance and title agencies. The provisions of HB 2491 will improve the efficiency of title agents, escrow officers and TDI.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2825 By Rep. Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to the provision and administration of indigent defense services.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>Currently, The Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TDIC) provides financial and technical services to counties to assist them in improving their indigent defense system. HB 2825 allows TDIC to provide grants to a collection of counties that are operating through an inter-local agreement to improve indigent defense services. HB 2825 promotes county collaboration and cost savings within counties by simplifying the grant distribution process and decreasing the administrative work</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Marisela Gomez 512-763-0031 marisela.gomez_HC@house.state.tx.us</p>
<p>HB 2717 By Rep. Goldman, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the deregulation of hair braiding.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>HB 2717 removes occupational and educational requirements for natural hair braiders due to a recent court ruling. The ruling determined that current barber and cosmetology law, which requires licensing and formal education, is unnecessary when applied to the natural hair braiding process. Natural hair braiding does not use chemicals or equipment, and is not commonly taught at traditional barber or cosmetology schools. This bill empowers natural hair braiders to continue their professional service and removes the unnecessary regulations and financial requirements imposed upon the profession.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 3742 By Rep. Smith</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Texas department of Licensing and regulation to determine applicant eligibility for a license.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedure</p>	<p>HB 3742 broadens the acceptable ways in which professionals licensed outside of Texas can obtain licensing within Texas. The bill allows TDLR to determine alternative means for licensing eligibility to include the applicant’s education, training, experience, and military service. TDLR can waive licensing prerequisites for applicants who are currently licensed in another state, if that state has either (1) licensing requirements equivalent to those in Texas, or (2) a reciprocity agreement with Texas. In the event that there is no existing reciprocity agreement, this bill allows TDLR, with governor approval, to enter into one. HB 3742 attracts qualified professionals to our state by creating procedures for license transfer.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1246 By Rep. Koop, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the methods of delivery for required financial statement forms sent to certain municipal officeholders and candidates for municipal office.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1246 expands the delivery methods for financial statement forms required by municipal officeholders and candidates for municipal office. Currently, the clerk or secretary is required to mail two copies of the form to each officeholder, and mail one copy to each candidate. This bill will allow the clerk or secretary to submit at least one copy to both officeholders and candidates either via personal delivery, mail, email, or any other means of electronic transfer.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1344 By Rep. Sheets</p>	<p>Relating to credit to certain ceding insurers for reinsurance ceded to certain assuming insurers.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>HB 1344 positively affects the way in which Texas can invest funds that are held as security for reinsurance contracts. Under current provisions, insurance investments are restricted to securities that are marketable over a national exchange, have a maturity date of less than 1 year, and are listed by the Securities Valuation Office (SVO). Only Texas and Minnesota limit investments of this type. National standard allows states to invest the assets in securities listed by SVO; this bill will align Texas with that standard. This bill removes the time limit criteria and allows assets to be invested in Texas, so long as they are SVO approved investments. This will allow insurers to get the best return possible on their investment, and allow business to stay in Texas.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>

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