



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

LSG Floor Report for Postponed Business – Thursday, April 30, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 1618 By Rep. King, K.	Relating to the period of eligibility for support from the universal service plan for certain providers.	State Affairs	Certain incumbent telecommunications providers that became ineligible for continuing support from the universal service fund (USF), petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to continue receiving 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.	<u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 3442 By Rep. Raney	Relating to a surcharge imposed for the use of a debit card or stored value card; providing a civil penalty.	Investments & Financial Services	Currently, it is illegal for a merchant to impose a surcharge on a buyer using a debit or stored value card. However, there is no penalty that enforces this law. HB 3442 enforces a civil penalty for merchants who knowingly impose a surcharge on a buyer using a debit or stored values card. The attorney general or prosecutor representing the state may bring a suit to recover the civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 per violation of this provision. The state must notify the merchant of the action against him. If the violator complies with the civil penalty within 30 days of notice, the violation is cured. The state is entitled to recover expenses incurred by the suit. HB 3442 protects buyers from merchants committing fraudulent activity by imposing illegal surcharges.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org
HB 861 By Rep. Dale, et al.	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of online solicitation of a minor.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>Oftentimes when a sexual predator assaults a child, they first work to gain the child's trust through a process known as grooming. As part of this process they may engage the child in multiple exchanges over the internet which might become lascivious in n before luring the child into an encounter of sexual assault. Our laws surrounding online solicitation of a minor were created to enable law enforcement to go after a predator in the process of grooming to prevent the assaultive offense. However, in the recent case of Ex Parte Lo a Texas appellate court struck down our statute for being overly broad and infringing on first amendment rights, opining that sexually explicit speech is protected speech. The court then suggested the statute be focused on conduct instead of speech.</p> <p>HB 861 brings current statute related to online solicitation of a minor into constitutional compliance by spelling out that a person commits an offense if they engage in online communication with a minor with the intent to engage in: indecency with a minor, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, sexual performance by a child, or possession or promotion of child pornography. The process of grooming can take days, weeks, even years, and have significant psychological impact on a child, resulting in lasting trauma. HB 861 is a better tailored law, which will enable law enforcement to go after a predator in the process of grooming instead of having to wait for an assaultive act to be committed. Without passage of such a measure, we cannot adequately protect child welfare and expose our most vulnerable to harmful communication and acts.</p>	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org

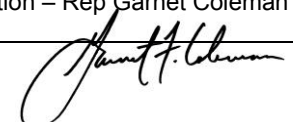
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<p>HB 2848 By Rep. Crownover, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the amount and allocation of the annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 2848 provides increases in allocations to the following public universities and university systems to account for growth and increased funding needs: Midwestern State University; University of North Texas System; Stephen F. Austin University; Texas State University System; Texas Tech University System; Texas Woman’s University; University of Houston System; Texas A&M University System; and Texas State Technical College System Administration. The funding increases are contingent on general appropriations being approved in the final budget bill. Additionally, HB 2848 increases constitutional appropriations limits to the above universities and university systems, plus Texas Southern University. Increases in funding would help state universities provide the best value to Texas students, benefitting higher education across the state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
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LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Thursday, April 30, 2015

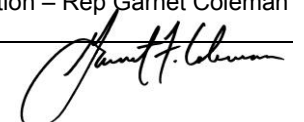
<p>HB 13 By Rep. Pickett, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to categories of and funding allocation for transportation projects by the Texas Department of Transportation and local transportation entities.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>We have made several one-time infusions to help finance transportation, but the fact is, we need a stable source to meet our ongoing infrastructure challenges. TxDOT estimates that it needs an additional \$5 billion per year, a low estimate based upon congestion in 2010 -- \$3 billion to address mobility issues, \$1 billion for recurring maintenance, and \$1 billion to address safety and repairs from energy sector usage. The transport of overweight vehicles, machinery, and petrochemical products has caused serious deterioration that shouldn’t be ignored. Additionally, we have to keep pavement safe for commuters, our bridges structurally sound, and expand highways to meet the travel demands of our current and projected population.</p> <p>The federal government requires that we submit fiscally restrained short and long-term plans, proving that we have the money in the bank for our short-term needs and can identify sources to meet our long-term plans. What has been proposed for the biennium, but which is not certain and contingent on legislative action is an additional \$620 million per year from gas tax diversions and a rider that could provide an additional \$750 million per year. These infusions put a Band-Aid on a much larger problem. Even if we can appropriate these funds they barely chip away at our needs for the coming biennium.</p> <p>HJR 13 amends the constitution to temporarily dedicate part of the state sales and use tax to the state highway fund to provide for a stable source of dedicated funds. If approved by voters, the amendment provides an additional \$3 billion annually, beginning in FY 2017 and expiring at the end of FY 2025. It provides an additional 2% of remaining sales & use tax revenue, beginning in FY 2016 and expiring in FY 2025. The money deposited under the bill is required to be used to construct, maintain, or acquire rights-of-way for non-tolled public roads and to be used to pay down debt. With more fuel efficient vehicles on the road and inflation at a high, our vehicle fuels tax revenue has fallen short at both state and federal levels, and we are not in a political climate to raise taxes. A stable source of transportation finance is then necessary, especially when federal transportation funds are grappling to stay solvent, are in flux, and cannot be projected for the foreseeable future. Further, transportation projects require comprehensive long-term planning and often take more than a decade to plan and break ground, so volatile sources do not adequately support continual need and lengthy project timelines.</p> <p>We are struggling to keep pace with our growth and usage. While undeniably the state has other dire needs like public education and healthcare, our population is expected to grow by a little over a third by 2040 – 17 million additional people. Unfortunately, congestion already significantly impacts Texans on a daily basis. We waste approximately \$10.1 billion sitting in traffic each year. The human cost is that people breathe in more smog, combat asthma, struggle to plan, get into fatal car accidents, and so on, and our current funding is only maintaining the status quo. Investing in mobility offers a high return through access to jobs, savings in lost wages, better health, increased safety and quality of life for Texans.</p>	<p>Favorable with Concerns Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
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			While realistically we cannot mitigate congestion and sustain our current growth without stronger public transit, rail initiatives, and alternative strategies such as ride-sharing and telecommuting, which this measure does not entail, we need more funding and a stable source to meet a critical fraction of our surface transportation needs. While we search for sustainable solutions to our transportation challenges, HJR 13 keeps us mobile and safe.	
HB 20 By Rep. Simmons, et al.	Relating to the operations of and transportation planning and expenditures by the Texas Department of Transportation and local transportation entities.	Transportation	<p>HB 20 addresses public concerns regarding a lack of transportation funding transparency by requiring TxDOT to implement a performance-based planning and programming process. This process is meant to provide the executive and legislative branches with data on progress made towards attaining department goals. Performance metrics must be created to evaluate strategic planning for statewide, rural, and unified transportation programs. Metrics must also evaluate decision-making, effectiveness, performance, and delivery of scheduled projects, and must be reported in an accessible format to the public, government, and stakeholders. The bill does not allow this process to replace or be replaced by currently required budgetary performance measures.</p> <p>HB 20 also requires local transportation entities to submit a list ranking projects in order of funding priority to TxDOT. Priority must be given to projects that have already been approved in a regional transportation plan. The bill also requires TxDOT to prioritize statewide projects. The department must set performance-based funding levels for projects under the unified program for approval by the commission. The commission is prohibited from authorizing use of more than 10% of TxDOT's biennial budget for discretionary funding.</p> <p>At least 30 days after the bill's effective date, the House and Senate will appoint members to each chamber's Select Committee on Transportation Planning. TxDOT is required to submit a report on the performance-based planning and programming process to the committee for their review and evaluation.</p> <p>Transparency is not only an emergency item on Greg Abbot's list, but it is also beneficial for increased trust in government and allows legislators to make more informed decisions when making policy.</p>	Favorable Evaluated By: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org
HB 3123 Rep. Price	Relating to governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.	State Affairs	The sunset commission reviews state agencies every 10-12 years, grouped by their subject matter. HB 3123 corrects the alignment and grouping of certain agencies by shifting the dates on which they will be reviewed. The bill moves forward the review date of the Credit Union Dept. and Credit Union Commission from 2021 to 2019 in order to align it with groups such as the Office of Banking Commissioner and the Finance Commission of Texas. It moves back the review date of the Texas Facilities Commission from 2015 to 2021, since it was reviewed last session. This would also align its date with the review of the Department of Information Resources & Comptroller Procurement. It repeals the review for the Sulphur River Basin Authority, since it will now be under the River Authority Sunset review outlined in HB 1290.	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
Amendment To HB 3123	By Rep. Gonzales, L.	841105	This amendment moves the date of the sunset review for the office of banking commissioner forward from 2019 to 2017.	
Amendment To HB 3123	By Rep. Gonzales, L.	841106	<p>This amendment moves the sunset review dates forward from 2019 to 2017 for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Finance Commission of Texas - The Office of Banking Commissioner - The Office of Savings and Mortgage Lending - The Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner 	

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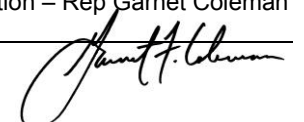


Amendment To HB 3123	By Rep. Howard	841107	This amendment moves back the date for sunset review of the Intermunicipal Commuter Rail Districts from 2017 to 2021. This will give the rail more time to become properly established before being reviewed.
Amendment To HB 3123	By Rep. McClendon	841127	This amendment moves the date of the sunset review for the Texas Juvenile Justice Board and the Texas Juvenile Justice Department back from 2017 to 2021.

LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Thursday, April 30, 2015

HJR 13 By Rep. Pickett, et al.	Proposing a constitutional amendment temporarily dedicating a portion of the revenue derived from the state sales and use tax to the state highway fund.	Transportation	<p>In a vacuum, this is a good initiative because it will allow us to maintain and expand our highways. However, we do not live in a vacuum and this is the first time that general revenue funds through sales tax collections will be dedicated to highways. This Legislature has traditionally frowned upon dedicated funds. It limits the amount of dollars available for programs like higher ed, public education, and healthcare. We are continuing to analyze this bill and will distribute more information prior to this resolution being laid out.</p> <p>Additional information will soon be provided.</p> <p>We have made several one-time infusions to help finance transportation, but the fact is we need a stable source to meet our ongoing infrastructure challenges. TxDOT estimates that it needs an additional \$5 billion per year, a low estimate based upon congestion in 2010 -- \$3 billion to address mobility issues, \$1 billion for recurring maintenance, and \$1 billion to address safety and repairs from energy sector usage. The transport of overweight vehicles, machinery, and petrochemical products has caused serious deterioration that shouldn't be ignored. Additionally, we have to keep pavement safe for commuters, our bridges structurally sound, and expand highways to meet the travel demands of our current and projected population.</p> <p>The federal government requires that we submit fiscally restrained short and long-term plans, proving that we have the money in the bank for our short-term needs and can identify sources to meet our long-term plans. What has been proposed for the biennium, but which is not certain and contingent on legislative action is an additional \$620 million per year from gas tax diversions and a rider that could provide an additional \$750 million per year. These infusions put a Band-Aid on a much larger problem. Even if we can appropriate these funds they barely chip away at our needs for the coming biennium.</p> <p>HJR 13 amends the constitution to temporarily dedicate part of the state sales and use tax to the state highway fund to provide for a stable source of dedicated funds. If approved by voters, the amendment provides an additional \$3 billion annually, beginning in FY 2017 and expiring at the end of FY 2025. It provides an additional 2% of remaining sales & use tax revenue, beginning in FY 2016 and expiring in FY 2025. The money deposited under the bill is required to be used to construct, maintain, or acquire rights-of-way for non-tolled public roads and to be used to pay down debt. With more fuel efficient vehicles on the road and inflation at a high, our vehicle fuels tax revenue has fallen short at both state and federal levels, and we are not in a political climate to raise taxes. A stable source of transportation finance is then necessary, especially when federal transportation funds are grappling to stay solvent, are in flux, and cannot be projected for the foreseeable future. Further, transportation projects require comprehensive long-term planning and often take more than a decade to plan and break ground, so volatile sources do not adequately support continual need and lengthy project timelines.</p> <p>We are struggling to keep pace with our growth and usage. While undeniably the state has other dire needs like public education and</p>	<p><u>Will of the House With Concerns</u></p> <p>Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

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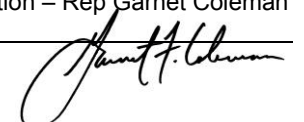


			<p>healthcare, our population is expected to grow by a little over a third by 2040 – 17 million additional people. Unfortunately, congestion already significantly impacts Texans on a daily basis. We waste approximately \$10.1 billion sitting in traffic each year. The human cost is that people breathe in more smog, combat asthma, struggle to plan, get into fatal car accidents, and so on, and our current funding is only maintaining the status quo. Investing in mobility offers a high return through access to jobs, savings in lost wages, better health, increased safety and quality of life for Texans.</p> <p>While realistically we cannot mitigate congestion and sustain our current growth without stronger public transit, rail initiatives, and alternative strategies such as ride-sharing and telecommuting, which this measure does not entail, we need more funding and a stable source to meet a critical fraction of our surface transportation needs. While we search for sustainable solutions to our transportation challenges, HJR 13 keeps us mobile and safe.</p>	
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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Thursday, April 30, 2015

<p>HB 26 By Rep. Button, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to state economic development measures, including administration of the Texas Enterprise Fund, creation of the Economic Incentive Oversight Board and the governor's university research initiative, abolishment of the Texas emerging technology fund and certain programs administered by the Texas Economic Development Bank, and renaming the Major Events trust fund to the Major Events Reimbursement Program.</p>	<p>Economic & Small Business Development</p>	<p>Texas is a leader in job creation; however, continued effort is needed remain this way. Reformed economic development and policies for effectiveness and efficiency are necessary to maintain the status of Texas. HB 26 ensures accountability and transparency of the economic development incentive programs and policies. The bill's major provisions are as follows:</p> <p>Eliminates the Emerging Technology Fund. After the fund is eliminated, the remaining balance may be appropriated to Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP), Texas Research University Fund (TURF), the University Research Initiative Fund, and/or the comptroller.</p> <p>Creates Governor's University Research Initiative. The research initiative will be administered by the Economic Development and Tourism Office within the Office of the Governor to assist eligible institutions to recruit distinguished researchers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The process of awarding grants requires institutions to first apply for a matching grant from the fund and receive approval from the advisory board.</p> <p>Establish Economic Incentive Oversight Board. The Board will meet at least quarterly to examine the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and funds used to award state monetary or tax incentives to entities.</p> <p>Restructures the Texas Enterprise Fund. Under the fund, a grant program is established for university research development with private sponsorship. Grants will be provided by the governor to public or private higher education institutions to fund projects for commercialization of intellectual property or other property developed through research.</p> <p>Eliminates the Linked Deposit Program and Small Business Industrial Development Corporation.</p> <p>Changes the name of the Major Events Trust Fund to the Major Events Reimbursement Program.</p> <p>Standardizes the Application Process for the Economic Development Incentive Program. An electronic state portal and application will be created for users to access information about Texas business incentives, and to apply for such incentives.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2031 By Rep. Lucio III, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the diversion, treatment, and use of marine seawater and the discharge of treated marine seawater and waste resulting from the desalination of marine</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 2031 is a comprehensive bill that expedites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The permitting process for desalinating marine seawater that is beyond a bay or estuary but within six miles of the coast. • The process for the discharge of treated marine seawater into the bed and banks of the state, so long as the treated waters are equivalent to the background source of surface water in which they will be discharged • The process for a permit to discharge the concentrated waste from the desalination of marine seawater provided that in no circumstance shall the expedited process apply to the discharge into any bays or estuaries of the state. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

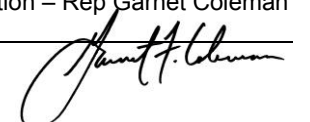
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	seawater; adding provisions subject to a criminal penalty.		<p>HB 2031 also requires an applicant to identify intake and discharge zones to where marine seawater may be obtained and require comment by Texas Parks and Wildlife and General Land Office on these zones. Additionally, TCEQ must work with the input from the TPWD and GLO to designate appropriate zones for intake and discharge zones the purpose of desalination by 2020.</p> <p>Texas’ lack of water has been a pressing issue for several years. HB 2031 addresses the state’s serious water scarcity issue through the desalination of an abundant and close resource.</p>	
Amendment To HB 2031	By Rep. Lucio III	841121	This amendment is a floor substitute of the bill itself, creating its own subchapter within the Water Code on Marine Seawater Desalination Projects. The amendment changes the location of the point of diversion in order for a person to obtain a permit to divert seawater to be less than 3 miles from the coast, as opposed to 6 mile. It also replaces “water supply entity” with “person” to allow for private industry to partake in these projects.	
HB 1051 By Rep. Wray	Relating to the creation of a campus of the Texas State Technical College System in Ellis County.	Higher Education	HB 1051 changes the makeup of the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) North Texas to include a campus in the city of Red Oak in Ellis County, where currently only an extension center exists. Ellis County has experienced fast-paced growth and the high school in Red Oak already offers dual enrollment with TSTC North Texas. HB 1051 provides for a needed expansion of services to students in Ellis County.	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 175 By Rep. Miller, R., et al.	Relating to the establishment of the Veterans Recovery Pilot Program to provide certain veterans with hyperbaric oxygen treatment.	Public Health	<p>Hyperbaric oxygen treatment (HBOT) has been shown in other states to help veterans with traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and PTSD. This treatment enhances the body’s natural healing processes through the inhalation of 100% oxygen in controlled amounts. The extra oxygen helps body tissues to heal faster. HBOT is FDA approved to be administered in HBOT chambers. HB 175 requires DSHS to establish a Veterans Recovery Pilot Program to provide diagnostic services, HBOT, and support services to eligible veterans who have PTSD or a TBI. Facilities wishing to participate must submit treatment plans with information specified in the bill to show eligibility and cost related to providing the treatment. Approved facilities that provide treatment must report regularly to DSHS about progress the veteran patients are making.</p> <p>The commissioner of state health services may appoint an advisory board to assist DSHS in developing the program. HHSC’s executive director will establish rules to govern the program, including eligibility requirements. HB 175 establishes a Veterans Recovery Account as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund, which consists of gifts, grants, donations, and any interest earned. This fund will pay for the pilot program, as well as travel and living expenses for veterans participating in the program. Facilities that provide treatment under the pilot program will do so free of charge to the veteran, but may request reimbursement from the Veterans Recovery Account. The commissioner of health shall reimburse facilities that meet specified requirements in the bill. DSHS will provide a biennial report to the legislature on the status of the pilot program, including treatment outcomes for veterans, effectiveness of the program, and number of veterans and facilities participating in the program. The pilot program expires September 1, 2021. This program could benefit veterans who are struggling to readjust to life with PTSD or a TBI and can give the legislature information for expanding the program later if it is found to be successful in helping the veterans of Texas.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org

<p>HB 189 By Rep. Thompson, S., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the elimination of the statute of limitations for the offenses of sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>82% of rapes go unreported, often because the survivor fears that they won't be believed and is grappling with psychological trauma, shock, humiliation, and a vast array of emotions. 80% of victims know their rapists, further confounding the healing process with betrayal and disbelief. For these reasons and many others, survivors often take years - decades even - to come forward and seek justice. Men often report at a longer delay than their female counterparts, on average 10 years after the crime -- our current statute of limitations.</p> <p>HB 189 eliminates the statute of limitations to prosecute sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault cases, recognizing both the seriousness of these crimes and the reality of the healing process. Confronting your attacker at any time is a brave act, and by allowing that to happen in a courtroom we acknowledge the gravity of the crime, its lasting impact, and the survivor's strength to overcome it.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1865 By Rep. Morrison, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to environmental permitting procedures for applications filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>Currently, certain, air, water quality, and waste permit applicants must undergo a contested case hearing conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOHA) in order to receive an official permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). During a contested case hearing, citizens are able to submit evidence and testimony on the permit's direct impact on their community. In cases where the permit is found to endanger health and safety, it will not be granted.</p> <p>HB 1865 will limit citizens' ability to successfully contest a detrimental permit. The bill does so by requiring the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The waiting period for contested cases must be limited to 180 days. The EPA standard is 240-270 days with the possibility of an approved extension. 2. The TCEQ draft prepared permit must be initially taken as legitimate and in accordance with all TCEQ and EPA legal standards and regulations until successfully disputed. 3. The TCEQ must determine whether citizens who are contesting the permit are legitimate "affected persons" entitled to a standing in the hearing. This shifts the burden of proof from the applicant to the contesting person or group. <p>The bill intends to streamline the permit application process, attracting businesses to Texas. However, the current process is already highly competitive with other states and is fair and efficient for all stakeholders. Barring extreme controversy, the average company is currently approved for a permit by TCEQ within four to six months.</p> <p>The issue lies with applicants that have great potential to cause harm to a community because they want to dig a landfill in an urban metropolis or build a PVC plant in a small rural community. While any new business offers Texas an increase in jobs and economic growth, the environmental impact cannot be ignored, especially if the negative impact could span generations to undo.</p> <p>HB 1865 disproportionately serves already wealthy companies because they are familiar with the TCEQ permitting process and have attorneys and experts to overcome obstacles. Small communities lack the resources, knowledge, and time to challenge these large companies. If HB 1865 passes, there is potential for two major ramifications: (1) The EPA may decide to revoke Texas' ability to review its own permits; and (2) lawsuits may flood our courts, which can gain Texas the reputation of being the worst state to apply for a permit because its citizens will file lawsuits.</p> <p>Ultimately, the process addressed under HB 1865 is limited to only 1% of all permit applicants, but it is the most concerning of applications that are subject to the contested case hearing process. In its current form, the hearing process seeks to bring all stakeholders to the table. HB 1865 limits transparency, discourages stakeholder involvement at the local level, and will undermine the safeguards currently in place to protect Texans and their community.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>

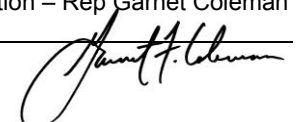
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<p>HB 218 By Rep. Márquez, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to certification requirements for teachers in bilingual education.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Currently, a teacher must be certified to teach bilingual education by the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC). However, these certifications do not specify between bilingual education models. HB 218 requires that teacher certifications must be specific to the bilingual education model used in the school district they will teach in.</p> <p>HB 218 requires teachers using the transitional bilingual/early exit program model and transitional bilingual/ late exit model to be appropriately certified by The State Board for Educator Certification. The bill requires teachers using a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model to be appropriately certified by the Board, for both the component of the program provided in a language other than English, and the component of the program provided in English. Additionally, a school district that provides a dual language immersion/one-way or two-way program model may assign a teacher certified for the language other than English component of the program, and a different teacher certified under for the English language component.</p> <p>As demographics of Texas’ public schools become more diverse, it is necessary that education policies in Texas adequately address these needs. Therefore, it is necessary to tailor teacher abilities to the recommended models for each school district, in order for them to most effectively teach bilingual or dual-language curriculum.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 298 By Rep. Wu, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 298 improves the transparency regarding transferring credits from public junior colleges to other institutions of higher education. Currently, many students get frustrated during the transfer process from a two-year to a four-year school when they learn that many of the courses they took at the junior college will not transfer. This discourages students, many of whom never finish a degree due to wasted money and time on courses that do not count toward their degree. Those who do finish their degree typically take longer and spend more money, increasing student loan debt, because they are not able to have their credits transfer.</p> <p>HB 298 requires universities to create articulation agreements with public junior colleges from which at least 5% of their students come from. It also requires universities to publish on their website for prospective students at least 12 courses that regularly transfer from public junior colleges, and what requirements the courses have to meet to transfer. This bill will increase students’ knowledge of transfer requirements at universities and help them make transfers that make sense for them. It will save Texas’ students money and time, and help them complete their degrees more quickly.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 158 By Rep. Larson, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation and use of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>Of the \$7-800,000,000 of deferred maintenance for the Parks & Wildlife Department, approximately \$197,000,000 of it is urgent. Parks like the San Jacinto Monument and the Dinosaur Valley State Park have had partial closings due to faulty fire system and elevator controls, and electrical failures. These parks generate \$704,000,000 in sales and fixing them would be roughly a 2500% return on investment. Since 1993, a portion of the sales tax revenue generated by sporting goods has been statutorily allocated to fund state park operations, capital, and local park grants.</p> <p>HB 158 repeals the provision prohibiting the comptroller of public accounts from crediting to the Parks and Wildlife Department or the Texas Historical Commission any applicable taxes equaling more than what was appropriated to the department or commission for that biennium. This allows more money from the lubricating and motor oils and sporting goods taxes to go to the Parks and Wildlife Department.</p> <p>Texas’ historic parks and monuments should be adequately maintained and preserved for future generations.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 255 By Rep. Guerra, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to certain fees charged for the adjudication of pharmacy benefit claims.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>HB 255 prohibits Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) from applying transaction fees to the adjudication of pharmacy benefit claims. PBMs are currently forbidden to charge transaction fees, but vagueness in current statute has created loopholes allowing for fees to be applied. Most fees are small, less than \$1; however, they add up when applied to every prescription transaction. Large franchise pharmacies (such as CVS) are not as affected by these fees, as the umbrella corporation often owns both the pharmacy and the PBM. It is the small, family-owned pharmacies that are at risk for being nickel-and-dimed out of business. Small pharmacies often provide much-needed personalized planning and assistance to customers in a way that large box stores cannot. These pharmacies, which have often served generations of customers, are being run out of business-- and the ill or infirmed Texans who rely on their services are paying the price.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2182 By Rep. Clardy, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the collection and refunding of certain fees and deposits by a county clerk or district clerk; increasing certain fees.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 2182 seeks to align court user fees between the county and district clerk of courts offices, which can vary greatly within a county and outside jurisdictions. Many of the proposed changes to the administrative court costs have not seen an increase in decades. Streamlining of fees in the standard amount of \$50, will create consistency among the courts; whereas, current fees range from \$2 to \$50 and is very confusing for most users. Updating administrative court costs to one amount for most fees will minimize confusion of payment. The listing of updated fees is itemized in the bill.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 484 By Rep. Capriglione, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of a person to be a candidate for or holder of a public elective office.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 484 requires that candidates for public office be registered to vote in the territory from which that office is elected on or before the filing deadline of their candidacy application or by another date specified in the bill. All elected or appointed officials should be civically engaged active voters. HB 484 simply enacts what many expect of their public officials and what many assume to already be in law. It might also help to ensure that persons with multiple addresses reside in the territory for the office for which they are being elected.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 574 By Rep. Bonnen, G.</p>	<p>Relating to the operation of certain managed care plans with respect to health care providers; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>De-listing is the practice of a health insurance provider cancelling the contract of a physician, dentist, or other healthcare provider who refers a patient out of network. If the contract is terminated, the physician's only recourse is to hire legal representation. HB 574 will prohibit the practice of insurance companies de-listing a preferred provider for referring a patient out-of-network.</p> <p>Knowing a patient through repeated visits allows the preferred provider to give the best possible care. Once a preferred provider is de-listed, a family may no longer be able to afford to see their now out-of-network doctor. This would have a devastating impact in rural areas, which may only have one in-network healthcare provider practicing in the region. Furthermore, Texans are entitled to knowledge about which out-of-network healthcare provider will be able to most successfully help their condition. HB 574 allows them to have access to that information, and prevents providers from risking their contract for giving that information.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 684 By Rep. Sheets</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a county to adopt a fire code.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>Currently, only counties with a population over 250,000 are allowed to adopt fire codes and the rules necessary to administer and enforce the fire code. HB 684 will remove the population bracket and will expand the authority to establish a fire code to the commissioners court of any county. This will allow every county to have access to emergency services, such as first responders, and enforce fire safety standards in order to improve public safety.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Mya Strauss 512-763-0031 mya.strauss_HC@house.state.tx.us</p>
<p>HB 48 By Rep. McClendon, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a commission to review convictions after exoneration and to prevent wrongful</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 48 creates an exoneration review commission to examine post-conviction exonerations. The commission is named after Timothy Cole who died in prison serving a 25-year sentence for a rape he did not commit. He was convicted based upon eyewitness misidentification and improper forensics and was proven innocent a decade after his death through DNA testing. Unfortunately, his story is not singular; Texas has exonerated 48 men serving life terms and 10 men on death row over the past 26 years.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

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	convictions.		<p>The bill comprehensively outlines the structure and duties of the exoneration review commission. It would be composed of judges and experts in the field of forensics and criminal justice serving at no pay, whom may receive guidance from an advisory panel of working criminal defense attorneys and scholars. Structurally, the commission would fall under but be operationally independent of the Texas Judicial Council and share administration with the Office of Court Administration. Members would undergo ethics training and would be held to standards regarding ethics and conflicts of interest. Functionally, the commission would review cases in which the defendant was wrongfully convicted and exonerated, identify defects present in the criminal justice system, and propose necessary reforms. The commission would also review habeas petitions and report on potential professional misconduct and ethical violations, tightening our lattice of checks and balances.</p> <p>While it is imperative that we fund and support the work of innocence projects that overturn wrongful convictions, it is also important that we identify patterns in the miscarriage of justice to begin breaking the cycle of wrongful incarceration. Sometimes systems become so mechanized that they warrant further scrutiny, hopefully, we can call out oppression and deficiencies where they exist and learn from our mistakes.</p>	
HB 716 By Rep. Lozano	Relating to the certification of certain peace officers to enforce commercial motor vehicle safety standards.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	HB 716 expands where a police officer may apply for certification to enforce commercial vehicle safety standards to include municipalities within the San Patricio County. There has been an increase in traffic in the Gulf of Mexico region and this would help officers better police this region.	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 885 By Rep. Paddie, et al.	Relating to the meetings of certain county bail bond boards.	County Affairs	HB 885 increases the population of a county that require a county bail bond board to meet at least four times each year from 50,000 to 150,000. The bill also allows the presiding officer of the board to call meetings at their discretion. Currently, bail bond boards are required to meet once a month even when there is no pending or new business to discuss. HB 885 allows bail bond boards to use their time more efficiently and meet only when necessary.	Favorable Evaluated by: Marisela Gomez 512-763-0031 marisela.gomez_HC@house.state.tx.us

