



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

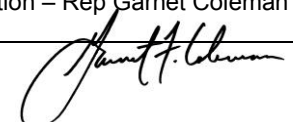
Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

LSG Floor Report for Postponed Business – Thursday, May 7, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 2114 By Rep. Murphy, et al.	Relating to the repeal of the inheritance tax.	Ways & Means	The comptroller's office has reviewed its procedures and identified 5 areas where the cost of processing the taxes is more than the revenue received from the tax collection. HB 2114 addresses one of those areas by repealing the inheritance tax. This tax generated just \$12,000 in 2014. While it is probably fair to say that the harm to certain Texans probably outweighs the good we could ever do with \$12,000, the LSG continues to be concerned with further justifications to reduce state tax revenue while so many important areas remain underfunded. Is this good policy? It's probably a wash. There's little reason to vote against the bill, but it still rubs us the wrong way.	<u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 2704 By Rep. King, T.	Relating to the sale or use of an incorrect weighing or measuring device; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty.	Agriculture & Livestock	HB 2704 will help protect consumers from inaccurate or fraudulent weighing or measuring devices, such as fuel pumps, livestock scales, and grocery scales. Previous legislation added the requirement that parties must "knowingly" commit fraud or negligence, limiting TDA's ability to protect consumers. This bill strikes "knowingly" from the code, returning TDA's strict liability enforcement.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 27 By Rep. Button, et al.	Relating to state economic development measures, including administration of the Texas Enterprise Fund, the abolishment of the Texas emerging technology fund, and the disposition of balances from the Texas emerging technology fund.	Economic & Small Business Development	HB 27 is legislation that is a component of HB 26. The changes in the Texas Enterprise Fund and the abolishment of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund are necessary to support the initiative to reform economic development in the state to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. These changes are an opportunity to garner more interest in the state, bringing business operations and increase job growth. Restructuring Texas Enterprise Fund. The governor is required to adopted rules for awarding grants and other procedures, as well as provide grants to higher education institutions for projects relating to the commercialization of intellectual property or other property from research developed by the institution. Eliminating Texas Emerging Technology Fund. The Texas Emerging Technology Fund and the respective advisory committee will be abolished. Any remaining balance from the fund will be moved to the Texas Research Initiative Program (TRIP), the Texas Research University Fund (TRUF), and the comptroller.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org

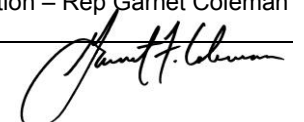
OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman

<p>HB 28 By Rep. Button, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to an audit by the state auditor of certain programs and funds providing economic development incentives to entities and other persons.</p>	<p>Economic & Small Business Development</p>	<p>During the interim, the Select Committee on Economic Development Incentives revealed that there is no formal review or audit process for many state programs. HB 28 requires audits to be conducted on 21 programs once every 12 years from their specified dates. The state auditor is authorized to determine the structure and the objective of the audit, consistent with government auditing standards. If an audit exception is scheduled and warranted, the auditor must notify the Legislative Audit Committee and legislative committees responsible for economic development. It is necessary to systematically review state incentive programs to ensure transparency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1545 By Rep. Naishtat</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the State Cemetery preservation trust fund.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>Following the sale of cemetery lands owned by TxDOT, the State Cemetery was meant to receive \$10 million in earnings. However, these funds remain in holding because there is no current method for the State Cemetery to receive funds from TxDOT. HB 1545 addresses this issue by establishing the State Cemetery preservation trust fund, in which money transferred to the State Cemetery may be placed.</p> <p>The State Cemetery preservation trust fund may only be used to undertake much-needed cemetery repairs, preservation efforts, and capital improvements, as well as to purchase additional land if necessary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2311 By Rep. Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to the failure to handle certain animals in accordance with rules of the Texas Animal Health Commission; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock</p>	<p>HB 2311 seeks to improve the health and safety of livestock and fowl. The bill expands what constitutes a class C misdemeanor for individuals who knowingly fail to handle animals that are exposed to certain diseases or are subject to a testing requirement due to a risk of exposure after notification by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). Diseases on the TAHC include tuberculosis, anthrax, foot-and-mouth, rabies, and bacillary white diarrhea among fowl.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 300 By Rep. Gonzales, L., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the allocation to the Parks and Wildlife Department of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>Currently, funding for state, small, and large local parks is determined by fixed percentages of the sporting goods sales tax credits. State parks receive 75% of credits, small local parks (in municipalities with populations under 500,000) receive 15% of the credits, and large local parks (in municipalities with populations over 500,000) receive 10% of the credits. HB 300 strikes these fixed percentages, and allows the legislature flexibility in determining the parks' funding amounts from the sporting goods sales tax each session.</p> <p>Due to this session's initiative to spend down the sporting goods tax account towards its original intent—parks-- the Department will be receiving historically high funding across all areas. State parks will receive \$217 million under this bill, as opposed to \$193 million under the original fixed funding formula. However, small local parks will only receive \$19 million as opposed to \$39 million under the formula and large local parks will only get \$13 million rather than \$26 million under formula funding. While state parks see a slight increase, small and large local parks take a significant hit by not using formula funding.</p> <p>Although this bill allows the legislature to customize funding for parks to fit each session's needs, it would be more prudent to maintain current funding formulas to ensure that funding is distributed more equally across all parks now and in future sessions.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated By: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2675 By Rep. Larson</p>	<p>Relating to excepting manufacturers engaged in certain commercial research and development from certain provisions of the</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 2675 allows certain manufacturers located in secure facilities engaged in certain commercial research and development activities to be exempt from the stringent reporting requirements for chemical laboratory apparatus. Currently, anyone who sells, transfers, or otherwise furnishes chemical laboratory apparatus, including beakers and flasks, must keep detailed and accurate records of all transactions related to the apparatus. This was originally to help curtail illicit manufacture of controlled substances, but places an unnecessary burden on manufacturers who are engaged in legal activities and are located in a high security environment and that are following, or willing to start following, stricter federal guidelines. HB 2675 helps these companies focus more on the research and</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>



	Texas Controlled Substances Act.		development, as they will spend less time on paperwork.	
HB 1484 By Rep. Blanco	Relating to regional coordinators within the veteran entrepreneur program.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	<p>The Veteran Entrepreneur Program aims to strengthen veteran entrepreneurship in Texas. HB 1484 authorizes the implementation of the second phase of the program, which establishes regional coordinators in major economic centers to expand program reach, and provides entrepreneurial education for veterans.</p> <p>The program, begun in 2012, has provided services to over 2,000 aspiring veteran entrepreneurs. It is the only program of its kind in the United States. HB 1484 allows this program to proliferate, so that veterans may learn business skills that could not be acquired during their service, and become successful entrepreneurs.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 704 By Rep. Farrar	Relating to disclosures on selection or modification of an account by a customer of a financial institution.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	<p>HB 704 seeks to address an interim charge given to the judiciary committee to identify alternative probate procedural options for low-income families. A workgroup convened in response to the interim charge and determined that many low-income clients couldn't receive the entire value of a decedent's bank account, due to the costs of attorney fees and other probate related expenses. Often, these expenses exceeded the value of the assets. Informing families of a streamlined process called 'paid-on-death' depository accounts, which allows a benefactor to simply establish the account, name a beneficiary, and sign disclosure statements, can help them avoid costly probate procedures. HB 704 will require banks and other financial institutions to provide disclosures of these types of accounts separately from other accounts to increase general awareness about these special accounts.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org
HB 14 By Rep. Morrison, et al.	Relating to the Texas emissions reduction plan.	Environmental Regulations	<p>The Texas Emission Reduction Plan, or TERP, is the primary vehicle Texas uses to create financial incentives to eligible individuals, businesses, or local governments to reduce emissions from polluting vehicles and equipment. HB 14 provides legislation that will extend TERP's expiration from August 31, 2019 to August 31, 2023. The extension of the TERP program will allow the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to continue to use TERP incentives to help reduce ground-level ozone in targeted areas, and meet the EPA guideline for reduction of non-attainment areas. Non-attainment areas are areas considered to have worse air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.</p> <p>Further highlights of HB 14 include: Adding Bell, McLennan, and Webb Counties to the list of counties eligible to qualify for TERP grants. TCEQ will continue to provide grants and incentive opportunities to existing counties indicated in the bill.</p> <p>The Alternative fueling Facilities (AFF) program and the Clean Transportation Triangle (CTT) will be combined and retain the AFF program name. The programs provide similar, often overlapping functions. Combining the two will eliminate redundancy and streamline the effectiveness of both programs. HB 14 outlines the grant process within the bill, along with a listing of grant award eligibility for the alternative fueling facilities, which cannot exceed \$600 thousand.</p> <p>Focus is given to oil field flaring and releasing by making changes to New Technology Implementation Grants (NTIG) and expanding project funding for eligible programs. Specifically, these programs will address emission reduction from oil and gas production, storage, and transmission activities by focusing on emissions produced from stationary sources, rather than point sources.</p> <p>Automobile emission reduction is addressed through programs like The Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP), the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org

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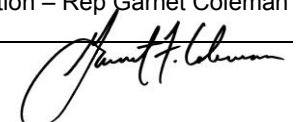


			Grants Program (TNGVGP), and the Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive (LDPLI) Program, which are amended under HB 14 by streamlining documentation requirements, making information and applications available online, and eliminating delays to simplify the process for participants.	
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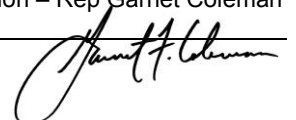
LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Thursday, May 7, 2015

<p>HB 3298 By Rep. Larson, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 3298 requires the Texas Water Development Board, (TWDB), to evaluate improvement to the transfer of water entitlement and the establishment of a water grid - an integrated network of pipelines, pumping stations etc. to move water between river basins, water sources and areas of water use in Texas. The study requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of previous relevant studies • Identification of necessary and useful features of an efficient market for water- like water rights, institutions and infrastructure. • Review of global case studies of markets in other jurisdictions • Identification of water sources for the water grid • Identification of water use areas to be served by the grid • Evaluation of alternative facilities and whether grid should convey treated or untreated water • Development of a strategy for water grid to achieve optimal water use efficiency, supply reliability, economic efficiency etc. • Connection of the establishment, construction, operation, and management of the water grid to the state water planning process • Evaluation of alternative methods for ownership, construction, operation, maintenance, control, and financing of the water grid from state agency ownership to private enterprise in public market • Identification and evaluation of methods to fund the establishment of a water grid- from HB1 to private investment capitol • Evaluation of methods to incorporate conveyance infrastructure into grid • Consultation with TCEQ • Offering opportunity for public input <p>Proponents of this bill cite Texas’s growing drought, and burgeoning population are increasing the demand on the state’s dwindling water supply. This bill would be the first step to running pipelines across the state to satisfy the populace’s ever growing thirst.</p> <p>Opponents of the bill note that this study focuses on how to implement a water grid, not the question of whether or not one would be good for Texas. They also note that establishing a major water conveyance network would syphon large volumes of water from rural areas.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
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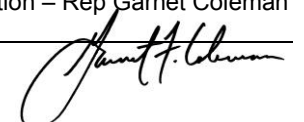
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<p>HB 1446 By Rep. Dale, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to reimbursement of certain medical costs for victims of certain sex offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>In addition to the emotional and psychological devastation caused by rape, a survivor is forced to shoulder the cost of her own forensic exam if she chooses not to report her case to the police. Literally, a survivor is billed for her own rape. HB 1446 would allow the attorney general to reimburse or pay for reasonable emergency medical care for a survivor of sexual assault, regardless of whether or not the person reports to law enforcement. The bill expands crime victim’s compensation to include making such payments and reimbursing DPS for the cost of rape kits for survivors who do not choose to report and prosecute their cases. HB 1446 affects those survivors who at the time of their exam are traumatized and do not know whether or not they want to prosecute their rapist. This will remove one more barrier to reporting and prosecuting sex crimes, by making the timely collection of evidence practical.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3302 By Rep. Darby</p>	<p>Relating to highway landscaping projects.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>HB 3302 amends the TxDOT’s Green Ribbon Project, which requires a small percentage of funds for new roads to be set aside for beautification along those roads. This project has been a great success, resulting in a better looking state. This bill makes a few good changes, but we want to make sure that the cap on spending doesn’t negatively affect the status quo.</p> <p>HB 3302 requires TxDOT to adopt guidelines for a beautification project on a state highway right-of-way, using only native and regionally appropriate plants, prioritizing use of low-maintenance and drought-resistant species. Native plants require fewer resources to thrive and support a variety of native butterflies, birds, and insects. For every highway project totaling \$5 million or more TxDOT must allocate funds for landscaping improvements within the district or districts of the project, taking into consideration other local and private funds available. The bill caps the amount allocated for a project. Currently, TxDOT is required to spend a set percentage of the total cost of a transportation contract on beautification, which can exceed the amount necessary to complete a landscaping project. HB 3302 is a better use of both our natural and financial resources.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3356 By Rep. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to regulation of production of wells for retail public utilities by a groundwater conservation district.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>Groundwater Conservation Districts, (GCDs), are the preferred method of water management in Texas; and the vast majority of rural systems in Texas are served either solely or primarily by groundwater. Currently when GCDs make permitting decisions, they may permit the amount of groundwater production based on the tract size or acreage of the applicant. There are concerns that this method of decision making does a disservice local rural communities that rely on their water utility to provide potable service from a small well site. HB 3356 requires GCDs weigh retail public utility credit for the groundwater rights “owned” by their customers when making permitting decisions.</p> <p>HB 3356 clarifies that while tract size or acreage of a well site can continue to be used as a determinate of the production amount for a retail public utility; a ground water conservation district shall determine the production amount by also considering the service needs or service area of the retail public utility. This version still provides discretion and flexibility to groundwater districts permitting decisions, and how they interpret service needs of a utility, but it also ensures that the service needs are taken into account.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3307 By Rep. Miller</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Employees Retirement System of Texas to make available a TRICARE Military Health System supplemental plan.</p>	<p>Pensions</p>	<p>HB 3307 requires the Employees Retirement System (ERS) to make available a TRICARE Military Health System supplemental plan for any ERS retiree who qualifies for TRICARE benefits. This supplemental plan will be available for those veterans who waive the basic plan coverage. The board of trustees for ERS are not permitted to contribute to the cost of the TRICARE supplemental plan at all. HB 3307 seeks to off-set out-of-pocket costs associated with TRICARE benefits by incentivizing use of benefits through the offering of a supplemental plan. It is believed that this will help both the state and retired veterans save money on healthcare costs.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>

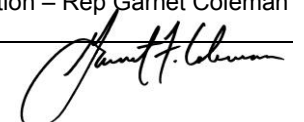


<p>HB 635 By Rep. Price, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the disposition of fetal remains.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 635 requires hospitals to release the remains of a miscarried or stillborn fetus to the parents just as they would any other human body, per their request. HB 635 allows these parents to grieve the loss of their child in a manner consistent with the parents' desires and beliefs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3880 By Rep. Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the requirements for placement on a general primary election ballot as a candidate for judicial office in certain counties.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 3880 repeals the law requiring that those running for judicial offices or for justice of the peace in urban counties must submit a petition with 250 registered voter signatures and pay a filing fee, or submit a petition with 500 registered voter signatures in lieu of the fee. This additional step in the application process is not required of other elected offices and imposes a barrier to fresh candidacy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2351 By Rep. Harless, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to conflicts of interest and discrimination policies for an ethics or medical committee review of an advance directive.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>Given the intricacy of end-of-life care, Texas' Advance Directives Act needs clarity. Currently, an ethics committee reviews a doctor's decision when there is a disagreement between the family of a patient and a doctor over treatment decisions, but current statute does not offer any definite policy or guidance for an ethics committee to implement for conflicts of interest arising during an assessment or for the consideration of a patient's permanent physical or mental disability during an assessment.</p> <p>HB2351 directs each health care facility that provides review by an ethics or medical committee to adopt a policy to prevent financial and health care professional conflicts of interest that may arise during a review under that section. Each facility must also adopt a policy to prohibit consideration of a patient's permanent physical or mental disability during a review unless the disability is relevant in determining whether a medical or surgical intervention is medically appropriate.</p> <p>HB2351 requires health care facilities to adopt and implement policies to prevent financial conflicts of interest and discrimination based on disability. These committees need to be operating with the highest ethical standards. This is a reasonable first step toward more transparency in the composition & decision processes of ethics committees, without overreaching by setting policy that every hospital in Texas would have to comply with, regardless of regional differences and local communities. This bill recognizes that decisions regarding treatment should be made through the lens of inherent sanctity of human life, while understanding that sometimes major medical conditions do have an impact on the effectiveness or appropriateness of a given medical intervention. The approach in HB 2351 is reasonable, implementable, and enforceable and protects the most vulnerable among us.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1096 By Rep. Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the residence address of a person for purposes of a response to a confirmation notice sent by the registrar.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>If the voter registrar has doubt as to the legitimacy of a voter's registered address, the registrar is required to send a notice requesting confirmation of the voter's residence. HB 1096 adds requirements to the confirmation notice response form, requiring a voter to provide <i>evidence</i> confirming their residential address, such as driver's license with correct address, a CHL, a DPS issued personal ID card, and so forth. Currently, a citizen is only required to submit information that would be provided on the voter registration application. The bill poses a violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) if the documentary evidence requirement is being used to suppress votes. Federal law does not require such evidence for the confirmation notice response process; it just requires the voter to state their residential address.</p> <p>This bill was drawn up, in part, possibly in response to an incidence in the Woodlands in which 7 voters committed fraud by registering at a hotel address. While the bill might prevent people from registering at post office boxes and commercial properties, its ramifications</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>



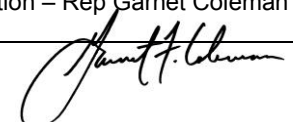
			extend far beyond the few that abuse the system. The fact is, we live in an increasingly mobile society. While the bill exempts students and military from this additional proof requirement, more people than just students and military move often and fail to keep an updated driver's license -- a cost-prohibitive measure for some at \$11 per update. 60% of Austinites are renters and move once per year, while their Texas driver's license is good for six years. As our urban centers grow denser and as our middle class atrophies, it is unreasonable to expect every citizen to comply with that law, and certainly should not be grounds to infringe upon a citizen's right to vote. HB 1096 creates an unnecessary obstacle to voting, which poses a violation of federal law and a threat to low-income, minority, and young voter participation, at a time when our electorate really needs to be galvanized and engaged.	
HB 659 By Rep. Raymond, et al.	Relating to the waiver of state park, museum, and other state-operated facility entrance fees for persons with certain disabilities.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism	HB 659 will allow persons with disabilities, and their personal attendant, to have entrance fees waived for museums, state parks, and other recreational areas under Texas Parks and Wildlife and Texas Historical Commission jurisdiction. HHSC, TPWD, and the Historical Commission will consult to determine eligibility and implementation procedures. Since the state has moved away from institutionalized care, many people who have a disability require a personal caretaker. Allowing a person with a disability and their caretaker free admission will lessen the burden of cost for these individuals to enjoy the recreational and historic treasures that Texas has to offer.	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 1058 By Rep. Farias	Relating to notice and information provided by a solid waste facility and a commercial transporter of solid waste regarding recycling programs for certain electronic waste.	Environmental Regulation	HB 1058 authorizes and encourages the proper collection and recycling of TVs and computer equipment. HB 1058 requires the owner or operator of a solid waste facility to post signage provided by TCEQ alerting the public that electronic waste is accepted at the facility. The owner or operator is not liable for the disposal or collection of the e-waste; however, a good faith effort must be made to post notification. It is not clear what "good faith effort" entails, but it is clear that no liability will fall upon the facility or the transporter in the collection of e-waste. The collection and disposal of the e-waste would fall under the manufacturer's recovery plan. Additionally, HB 1058 requires that the solid waste transporter contracted to pick up and transport the e-waste will provide an annual notice regarding the e-waste program to the waste facility that contracts with the commercial transporter. Recycling is good for the environment, creates new jobs, and is good policy that is in sync with the rest of the nation.	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org
HB 1626 By Rep. Johnson, et al.	Relating to the designation of certain areas as banking or credit union development districts to encourage the establishment of branches of banks or credit unions in those areas.	Investments & Financial Services	Texas has one of the largest un-banked and under-banked populations in the United States. This is especially common in areas with high populations of economically disadvantaged families. Living in an un-banked or under-banked location has led to more than 10% of Texas households not having account at an insured institution. Additionally, 27% of Texas households have an account, but have used alternative financial services such as payday loans within the past year due to lack of bank access. Living in an un-banked or under-banked area leads to many financially-straining issues for families, such as paying high fees to cash checks at convenience or grocery stores or using high-interest payday or title lenders. Because of this, families get caught into a cycle of debt, and have no ability to plan for the future or build a safety net by saving. This is a serious issue that needs to be addressed, so that many families who already have financial struggles can be relieved from these recurring challenges. HB 1626 seeks to encourage the opening of credit unions or bank branches in areas where there is a demonstrated need for financial services. The bill would require the Credit Union Commission and the Finance Commission of Texas to administer a Credit Union or Banking Development Districts program. The program would allow cities or counties to designate an area as a Credit Union or Banking Development District. Designating an area as a development district would allow for a credit union or bank to receive property tax abatements and state and local deposits. New York successfully implemented a Banking Development District program, resulting in 61,750 new bank accounts created and 6,673	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org

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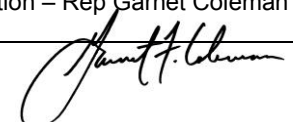
			personal and small business loans totaling in a positive growth of \$538.8 million. If HB 1626 is passed, Texas could see the same positive impact as New York.	
HB 1743 By Rep. Galindo, et al.	Relating to the use of a credit or charge card by certain state agencies to make certain purchases.	Government Transparency & Operation	HB 1743 requires state agencies, with certain exceptions, to use the contracted State of Texas charge card program for appropriate purchasing and travel expenses. It prohibits agency employees from using personal credit or charge cards to make purchases for the agency. HB 1743 specifies that, if the comptroller finds another method of payment to be more advantageous to the state, the agency shall use the more advantageous method. HB 1743 seeks to streamline the payment process for agency purchases, and benefit agencies by using contracted charge card programs that have payment rewards programs. If more state agency purchases are on contracted charge cards, the rebate amount could increase from 1.73% rebate to 1.80% rebate. By increasing the percentage of state spending on the card program from the current 0.157% to the national average of 0.86%, over \$12 million in revenue increase could be obtained. The state of Texas could obtain an even greater increase in revenue by putting more than 0.86% of state purchases on the State of Texas charge card. In a time period when taxes are being cut, such increases in revenue are needed and welcome.	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 2665 By Rep. Moody	Relating to access to and receipt of certain information regarding a ward by certain relatives of the ward.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	When elderly persons become incapacitated, it typically falls upon the spouse to become their guardian. In some instances, the adult child of the aging parent is refused access to them because of a contentious relationship with their guardian. This is but one scenario of strained family dynamics. HB 2665 addresses this by allowing the child to petition the court for visitation or communication with the incapacitated parent. The bill mandates that the guardian must adhere to the court's order. Given the sensitive nature of the ward's condition, HB 2665 mandates that a hearing be scheduled within 60 days of the petition, and if the ward's health is declining or death is imminent, the court will grant an emergency hearing in no later than 10 days. Under the provisions of HB 2665, the court is to consider various factors to determine the applicant's eligibility for visitation or communication with the ward. Additionally, the court can mandate the ward's guardian to inform the child applicant about any changes to the ward's health, condition, or untimely death. Strained relations between family members are unavoidable, but it is good policy to allow the courts to help children maintain bonds with their ailing parent-- even during the most trying of times.	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org
HB 991 By Rep. Bohac	Relating to the display of notice of federal and state tax rates for motor fuel sold at retail.	Business & Industry	HB 991 requires the Texas Department of Agriculture to display the current tax rates for each type of motor fuel sold at the gas pumps. We have not increased gas taxes -- 18 cents per gallon for the federal government and 20 cents per gallon for the state, since 1993 and 1991, respectively. Due to inflation, we have fewer tax dollars to put towards the skyrocketing costs of transportation materials and highway and bridge construction. While HB 991 might provide for greater transparency at the pump, it's unclear why we should use our resources in this manner with more pressing concerns.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org
HB 1455 By Rep. King, P.	Relating to procedures required before certain condominium associations file a suit or initiate an arbitration proceeding for a defect or design claim.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	HB 1455 addresses concerns that homeowner associations' initiation of lawsuits has resulted in devaluation of units. These lawsuits by the association are to remedy defects incurred in the design and construction of the condos. In an attempt to reduce the number of lawsuits, HB 1455 requires a condominium association, before filing a suit, to obtain a written report identifying information relating to the claim by a third party licensed professional engineer. The association must then obtain 67 percent of approval from association members to move forward with the claim at a special meeting. Associations were concerned that this would unfairly restrain the ability of residents to independently or jointly seek legal remedy. The	Will of the House with Concerns Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org

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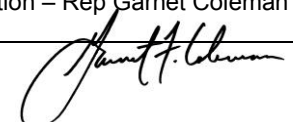
			majority of condo owners in current disputes testified that they live in communities with 100 or more units. This would make required in-person voting virtually impossible to coordinate. Additionally, the bill requires a 30-day notice for an association to hold a special meeting and requires the association to pay for the third party inspection. While the bill attempts to encourage associations to create cooperation among condo owners, this creates unnecessary burdens on condo owners simply seeking to have their homes repaired.	
HB 1458 By Rep. Bohac, et al.	Relating to the sales and use tax exemption for the repair, remodeling, or maintenance of aircraft.	Ways & Means	<p>HB 1458 expands sales tax exemptions on maintenance, including machinery, tools, supplies and equipment, to all non-commercial aviation aircraft. Non-commercial aviation aircraft are those used for recreation, training, and agriculture. Currently, only commercial aircraft are given this tax exemption. This bill addresses concerns that Texas may not currently be competitive with states who already have this exemption in place. It contends that offering this exemption will generate a larger net income for non-commercial aviation-related businesses, and prevent aircraft from seeking repairs in other states.</p> <p>If put into place, the bill would drain more than \$10,000,000 from general revenue for the 16-17 biennium. By 2020, \$28,000,000 will have been bled from general revenue. Given the high unlikelihood that the non-commercial aviation industry will generate any significant fraction of these costs back to the state, the passage of HB 1458 is simply irresponsible fiscal policy.</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org
HB 947 By Rep. Workman	Relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to change the date of their general elections.	Elections	<p>HB 947 allows a political subdivision that holds its general election on a date other than the uniform November election date to change its election date to the uniform date to align with federal elections, thereby increasing civic participation in local elections. Synchronizing elections in this manner will also allow smaller jurisdiction to save in the cost of election materials.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org
HB 1083 By Rep. Márquez, et al.	Relating to a mental health assessment of certain inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.	Corrections	<p>Some have estimated that 50% of the Texas offender population has a mental health disorder. Once incarcerated, many of these inmates are held in solitary confinement. Rates of suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm in solitary confinement are far higher than rates in the general population, and mental health experts agree, it can worsen the condition of individuals with mental illnesses. This is not rehabilitation, this is torture. HB 1083 requires that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice provide inmates with a mental health assessment prior to solitary confinement. If the assessment indicates that type of confinement is not appropriate for the inmate’s medical or mental health, then the TDCJ cannot implement it.</p>	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 3682 By Rep. Geren	Relating to the categorization and resolution of violations of laws enforced by the Texas Ethics Commission.	General Investigating & Ethics	<p>HB 3682 repeals current TEC categorization of violations applicable to complaint procedures and hearings. To replace this, it requires the TEC staff categorize, in increasing order of seriousness, each violation as: a technical, clerical, or de minimis violation; an administrative or filing violation; or a more serious violation. The commission must define which violations fall under which category. HB 3682 requires the commission to resolve complaints according to the most severe violation category that the violation falls under. It specifies how violations in different categories will be resolved. It updates confidentiality, reporting, and paperwork standards for TEC complaints. HB 3682 sets into motion improvements for the Texas Ethics Commission, increasing transparency and improving the process of resolving ethical violations.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 91 By Rep. Flynn, et al.	Relating to the regulation of raw milk and raw milk products; adding a provision subject to a criminal penalty.	Public Health	<p>HB 91 allows the sale of raw milk by permit-holding farmers directly to consumers at farmer’s markets and through delivery arrangements set up between the farmer and consumer, including delivery to a consumer’s residence in a refrigerated truck by the farmer or at the farmer’s place of business (i.e. the farm, which is currently allowed in statute). It does not extend the sale of raw milk to grocery stores or similar retail markets, nor does it allow farmers without a permit to sell raw milk. Raw milk that is sold must be labeled with the permit holder’s name; the permit number; the date of packaging; and a warning label regarding health risks associated with unpasteurized, or raw, milk. DSHS is mandated to keep record of inspections of farms that sell raw milk, and make those inspection records available to the public. HB 91 sets forth the following health and safety standards for raw milk: it must be in sterile or single use</p>	Will of the House with Serious Concerns Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031

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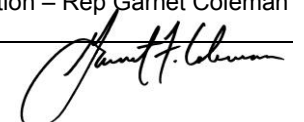
			<p>containers; it must avoid direct sunlight and stay below 45 degrees Fahrenheit during transport; and permit holders may contract for transportation with joint and several liability. While it is necessary that refrigeration be maintained, the health department or local health authority may not specify how refrigeration occurs, giving farmers discretion in that matter.</p> <p>Proponents for HB 91 note that increased accessibility would make it easier for people who live further from farms to access raw milk. There is anecdotal evidence that raw milk can be helpful or more nutritious than pasteurized milk, but there is a dearth of scientific, peer reviewed studies to back up these claims. Grade A raw milk dairies must meet the same or higher regulatory standards that pasteurized milk dairies must meet, and in Texas, there have been only six foodborne illnesses connected to raw milk consumption in the last 17 years, compared to over 19,500 illnesses from foods in general in Texas. Proponents of raw milk point out that pasteurized milk can cause illnesses as well. Proponents for raw milk contend that other products, such as rare meat, sushi, and raw oysters, have higher risks of foodborne illness than raw milk, but are legal in Texas.</p> <p>However; HB 91 will present increased risk of foodborne illness to Texans. The current system of buying directly from the farm, while cumbersome, is working. Those most vulnerable to the foodborne illnesses that are common in raw milk are young children, the elderly, immuno-compromised individuals, and pregnant women. These illnesses can cause death, particularly in the aforementioned vulnerable populations. Children are unable to make informed decisions about what they ingest, and parents may be uninformed or under-informed about the risks posed by raw milk. 60% of all dairy-related disease outbreaks were related to unpasteurized products, and 75% of these outbreaks were in states that allow the sale of unpasteurized milk. It’s important to keep in mind that many of these dairy-related diseases from unpasteurized products were from cheeses, which will remain illegal.</p> <p>By increasing accessibility at places like farmer’s markets, raw milk is being presented to people who may not have done the research to know the risks and benefits of raw milk. While there will be warning labels printed on bottles, these labels might be overshadowed by marketing and may not be readable to Spanish-speaking shoppers. Raw milk is currently available to those who want to purchase it, but there is little need to expand the availability when there are many other sources of protein available for those not willing or able to travel to a farm to purchase raw milk. Ultimately, while this bill may benefit dairy farms in rural communities, it also increases access to a product known to cause foodborne illnesses that can lead to death or other serious medical concerns.</p>	<p>paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1623 By Rep. Laubenberg</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of providers for the provision of certain home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1623 allows Medicaid reimbursement for home-based telemonitoring for children who have complex medical needs who already have an established patient-doctor relationship. This will help medically fragile children with complex or chronic illnesses who are being treated with at least 3 medical specialists. The monitoring would be for vital signs, including blood pressure, body temperature, and weight. The idea is to keep a very sick child at home, but under observation and care by their existing physician. HB 1623 allows physicians to be able to monitor these children at home and be reimbursed for it. Keeping medically fragile children at home when possible and giving parents tools to be better caregivers by allowing telemonitoring with physicians is sound public policy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 939 By Rep. Dale, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to unenforceable restrictive covenants regarding standby electric generators affecting residential homes.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p>	<p>During Hurricane Ike Texas families were without power for 2 to 3 weeks. For some, electric generators provide back-up to literally “weather the storm,” but for those with a critical medical condition who require a ventilator or other machine support, such a generator is necessary to survive a power outage.</p> <p>HB 939 prohibit a property owners' association from enforcing a dedicatory instrument provision that restricts a property owner from owning and operating a permanently installed standby electric generator. The bill does allow for the association to regulate installation of the generator by licensed professionals, in accordance with code, manufacturer’s specifications, and city ordinances. It also allows for the adoption of reasonable maintenance, safety, positioning, and aesthetic regulations. For an association requiring an application for</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>

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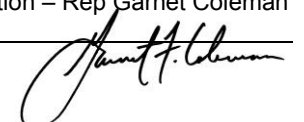
			improvements, the information that may be requested in such an application can be no more than for other improvements. Additionally, approval cannot be withheld so long as the proposed installation meets or exceeds the permitted provisions. In a hearing or proceeding regarding a compliance issue, the burden of proof is on the party asserting non-compliance, and installation by a licensed contractor or an acceptance of the installation by a political subdivision serves as conclusive proof of compliance. Given that power outages have tripled since 2009, HB 939 can provide temporary relief and prevent fatality.	
HB 1170 By Rep. Farney	Relating to the applicability to open-enrollment charter schools of certain laws regarding local governments and political subdivisions.	Public Education	<p>Currently, charter schools lack the same protection that public schools have been afforded. It is important that similar protections are given to charter schools, so that they may plan and manage risks regarding civil liabilities, employee benefits, and workers' compensation.</p> <p>In order to achieve these same protections afforded to public schools, HB 1170 changes statute so that open-enrollment charter schools are to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local governments under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. Charters are also to be considered local governments under Government Code relating to self-Insurance by governmental units. However, charter schools are prohibited from issuing public securities. • Political subdivisions under the Texas Political Subdivision Employees Uniform Group Benefits Act. Additionally, if a charter school extends workers' compensation benefits to employees via any method available to a political subdivision under the Labor Code, the school will be considered a political subdivision. • Insurance carriers under the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, if the charter chooses to extend workers' compensation benefits. 	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org
HB 1633 By Romero Jr.	Relating to application and notification requirements for a permit to drill an oil or gas well in or near an easement held by the Texas Department of Transportation.	Energy Resources	<p>Oil & gas wells are numerous around the state of Texas. As the fracking boom continues, the rate of drilling is not likely to decrease. The population of Texas is also booming and requiring more road construction to meet those civic needs. Currently when the oil and gas industry applies to drill a well, the well log data includes the exact coordinates of the well site, but there is no requirement for the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) to communicate this location info to any other state entity. The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's), ignorance of well placement could cause instances where construction projects are put on hold because road plans cross paths with existing wells sites. To avoid that, HB1633 requires the RRC to send a copy of the application to drill an oil or gas well to TxDOT for wells that are located inside or within 50 yards of an easement held by the department.</p> <p>HB1633 will help prevent future transportation expansion projects from running into existing well sites and would also help stop the time consuming plan alterations, which results in stalling projects that are funded by taxpayers.</p>	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HB 4015 By Rep. Martinez Fischer	Relating to land bank demonstration programs.	County Affairs	Urban land bank demonstration programs provide counties and municipalities the opportunity to address decaying neighborhoods. The program allows counties and municipalities the opportunity to work together and improve neighborhoods by turning tax delinquent properties into affordable housing. HB 4015 authorizes a county with a population of 1.18 million or more and with a total area less than 1,300 square miles to implement an urban land bank demonstration program. HB 4015 allows counties to use available resources for the betterment of the community and families.	Favorable Evaluated By: Marisela Gomez 512-763-0031 info@texaslsg.org

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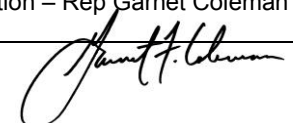
<p>HB 3097 By Rep. Paul, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the governance and operation of municipal management districts.</p>	<p>Special Purpose Districts</p>	<p>This bill will make it harder for management districts to be created and make it easier for them to be dissolved. Texas is a notorious low tax state, and our continued spending cuts have made it necessary for local spending to increase. Management districts have become an increasingly important to make sure local communities make the necessary investments to continue to thrive. HB 3097 takes steps to limit the creation and performance of these kind of districts.</p> <p>Specifically, HB 3097 changes the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a required petition for a district to be created before finance services and improvement projects are conducted, and for bond election • eligibility and qualifications of a director to serve in the board of directors of the district • recommendations for succeeding board of directors • specific powers of a district • limitations on dissolution by the board of directors 	<p><u>Unfavorable</u> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4069 By Rep. Smith</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of barbering and cosmetology.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>HB 4069 is a catch-all bill pertaining to barbering and cosmetology services, education, and modifications to an industry advisory board.</p> <p>It enables licensed professionals to perform limited services outside of a licensed salon in preparation for a special event, such as a wedding or quinceañera. It removes threading (a type of eyebrow tweezing) from the definitions of barbing and cosmetology. The definition of cosmetology is expanded to include hair removal using chemicals, tweezers, or other devices. The scope of practice for a manicurist/ esthetician is expanded to include eyelash extensions.</p> <p>Regarding barber and beauty school, the time allowed to finish incomplete courses or re-enroll in a program is changed from 4 years to 2 years. This decrease in allowable hiatus assures the integrity of the school, because it keeps learning and training relevant to an industry that sees many advancements on an annual basis.</p> <p>Regarding the advisory board, membership is increased from 9 to 11 members, allows for one manicurist, and makes changes to term limits.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3405 By Rep. Isaac</p>	<p>Relating to the territory and authority of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District to regulate certain wells for the production of groundwater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>The Edwards Aquifer Authority vs Day Texas Supreme Court decision allowed groundwater to be treated like other minerals, preserving the right of capture. However, it maintained that the state still retains the right to regulate groundwater use through Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). The impacts of what this means for future decisions are still disputed. Currently in Hays County there is an area that has never held an election or sought coverage by any GCD. Some speculate that they knew that they weren't covered, but preferred less government and didn't want to pay the taxes to support a GCD. Others say residents of the area felt they were covered by the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Either way, the water protections afforded by a GCD were not in place when the Houston-based company, Electro Purification, began leasing and buying water rights in the region. Electro Purification has plans to pump anywhere from 3 million to 5 million gallons per day out of the Trinity Aquifer to satisfy its contracts to sell the water to Buda and Southwest Austin. This water is to supply the growing populations in those areas. Some say that since Electro Purification wants to continue to supply the area, they are invested in providing water to those areas for a long period of time, and will thus be more likely to preserve the water supply to the best of their ability.</p> <p>HB 3405 expands the Edward Aquifer Authority to include any territory inside the Hays County not within the boundaries of the Plum</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

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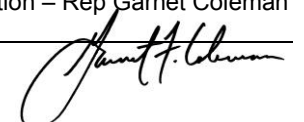
			<p>Creek Conservation District. It is not uncommon practice in legislature to enact bills like this, which place previously unfettered businesses under GCD rule to prevent real or perceived threats to a region’s water supply. However, with Hays County in close proximity to the Capitol, there is more notice to this issue.</p> <p>There is no clear right or wrong for this issue. Precedent has already been set with the EAA vs Day case, deciding in favor of rule of capture, and again in the legislature, allowing the expansion of GCDs to restrict businesses using what residents deem too much water.</p>	
<p>HB 4149 By Rep. Keough</p>	<p>Relating to the powers, operations, and boundaries of The Woodlands Township; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>Enabling legislation within Montgomery County was established over two decades ago, and as The Woodlands Township continues to grow, the district needs to make changes that are essential to promote health, safety and general welfare for The Woodlands residents, employers, and consumers. HB 4149 seeks to allow the district to provide safe and efficient movement of people by motor vehicles, rail, bus, trolley and other means of transportation. The district will be able to charge a fee, tax, or other charge for the use of the mode of transportation.</p> <p>HB 4149 will allow the district to engage in contract with another person, and have the ability to apply and receive state and federal transportation funding in order to accomplish transportation and traffic movement. Implementation will create job opportunities by becoming economically diverse and stimulating business opportunities. Moreover, HB 4149 will conserve property value and living conditions for the residents and promote traffic circulation and public safety within The Woodlands Township.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Mya Strauss 512-763-0031 info@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 633 By Rep. Bonnen, G.</p>	<p>Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for certain health care supplies.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>Although one could argue that both doctors and veterinarians are licensed practitioners of the healing arts, only doctors currently receive the tax exemptions for all qualified healthcare supplies. HB 633 allows veterinarians to receive the same tax exemptions for healthcare supplies, such as hypodermic syringes, insulin, prosthetics, etc. that doctors already enjoy.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 30 By Rep. Larson</p>	<p>Relating to conflicts of interest and discrimination policies for an ethics or medical committee review of an advance directive.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>Texas is in a drought and desalinating brackish groundwater is one possible solution to stave off water shortages in the upcoming years. HB 30 requires that each regional water planning group submit to the Texas Water Development Board, (TWDB), a regional water plan that identifies opportunities for and the benefits of developing large scale desalination facilities for seawater or brackish groundwater that serve local or regional brackish groundwater production zones. HB 30 includes brackish ground water in desalination studies and research where current statute only has seawater, and mandates that the biennial progress report include identification and designation of local or regional brackish groundwater production zones in areas of the state with moderate to high availability and productivity of brackish groundwater and that have certain geographical and chemical qualifications. HB 30 stipulates that the TWDB work together with Groundwater Conservation Districts on certain projects and in designating a brackish groundwater production zone, the board must determine & include in the designation description 30 and 50 year sustainable production and provide monitoring recommendations.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1101 By Rep. Turner, S.</p>	<p>Relating to extending the period over which the balance of the system benefit fund is to be eliminated.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>Last session, HB 7 eliminated the fee collected for the System Benefit Fund, which assists low-income Texans with their electricity bill. Although the fund was scheduled to be depleted by September 1, 2016, the Public Utility Commission states that excess funds will still be available afterwards.</p> <p>HB 1101 addresses this by allocating the remaining funds to be spent down to assist low-income electricity customers every month until September 1, 2017. The bill allows the commission to determine the monthly rate necessary to deplete the fund before that date.</p> <p>HB 7 ensures that the remainder of the System Benefit Fund is directed towards its original purpose, and that low-income Texans will</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>

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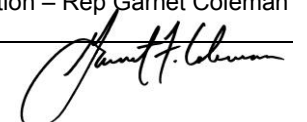
			continue to receive electricity assistance until September 2017.	
HB 127 By Rep. McClendon	Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates to honor recipients of the Commendation Medal.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	Members of our military earn the Commendation Medal through heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service, which may have occurred during direct contact with an enemy. HB 127 will honor these distinguished military members by requiring the DMV to issue specialty license plates for recipients. The license plate must include the appropriate emblem of the military branch served and the name of the medal.	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 725 By Rep. Turner, S.	Relating to the appeal of waiver of jurisdiction and transfer to criminal court in juvenile cases.	Juvenile Justice & Family Issues	Under current law, all appeals are heard at the same time- post conviction or after an order of deferred adjudication. In the instance of a juvenile standing trial for a crime, they must become certified to stand trial either as an adult or a minor. If they are for any reason incorrectly certified by the court, that child cannot appeal the certification until AFTER the entire criminal proceeding. This process can take years and is exacerbated when the child ages out of the juvenile system during the criminal trial process. Such is the case of Cameron Moon, who was a minor and sat in adult prison for 6 years among the adult inmates awaiting trial. When he had his post-conviction appeal heard, it was determined the court erred and overturned his certification, but Cameron was too old for juvenile trial once his appeal was heard. This is an abhorrent demonstration of Due Process. HB 725 will allow a juvenile to immediately appeal jurisdiction from juvenile court to adult court for a criminal trial. Enactment will authorize the Supreme Court of Texas to adopt rules ensuring the expediency of the appeal process.	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org
HB 988 By Rep. González, M.	Relating to a study of the feasibility of establishing a visitors center at Hueco Tanks State Park in El Paso County.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism	Hueco Tanks is one of the largest open-air mass imagery parks in the nation and has been listed as one of the top 20 parks by USA Today. Hueco Tanks has been used by various peoples since the Ice Age, which is reflected in the imagery and artwork in the Park. Hueco Tanks is also the birthplace of Kachina beliefs and a holy place for the Ysleta Del Sur tribe. Despite its historical, spiritual, and cultural value, Hueco Tanks State Park does not have visitors center. The lack of a visitor center prevents TPWD from implementing needed programs and limits attendance. HB 988 will require TPWD to conduct a study to determine the need for, and feasibility of, establishing a visitor center in Hueco Tanks. TPWD will collaborate with the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo tribal counsel in planning and developing the center.	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 258 By Rep. Miles, et al.	Relating to the provision of the reason for rejecting a voter registration application.	Elections	HB 258 requires a voter registrar to provide a reason for rejection of a voter registration application, identifying the sections that were improperly filled out, incomplete, or which contained information making the individual ineligible to vote. The bill requires that a uniform rejection letter prescribed by the secretary of state's office be used for this purpose and authorizes the SOS office to adopt procedures for its administration. Such a letter is already in use, the bill just requires that all counties use the letter, which provides the voter with feedback to correct their mistakes. Missing an item on a form should not prevent an individual from successfully registering and voting in an election. Texas ranks 48 th in voter turnout, and any barrier to full engagement of the electorate should be addressed.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org
HB 1169 By Rep. Flynn	Relating to the confidentiality of certain information in the possession of an appraisal district; amending provisions	Government Transparency & Operations	HB 1169 clarifies what is and is not confidential concerning information in the possession of an appraisal district. It removes the following from the list of documents considered confidential: real and personal property reports; attachments to those reports; and attachments to rendition statements. It clarifies that information contained in rendition statements is considered confidential. It also specifies that other information provided by property owners in relation to the appraisal is only held confidential if a confidentiality promise is provided by the appraisal district. HB 1169 will reduce confusion as to what is and is not confidential for appraisal districts.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org

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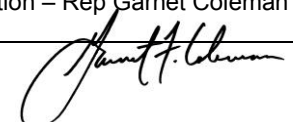
	subject to a criminal penalty.			
HB 3512 By Rep. Davis, S.	Relating to lobbying activities and the registration of lobbyists.	General Investigating & Ethics	HB 3512 clarifies under which conditions a person must register as a lobbyist. It states that a person is not required to register as a lobbyist if the person spends no more than 26 compensated hours during a calendar quarter engaged in activity, including preparatory activity, to communicate directly with a member of the legislative or executive branch with the intent to influence legislation or administrative action. This will include establishing goodwill with a member for the purpose of later communicating with the member to influence legislation or administrative action. This promotes transparency and accountability of lobbyists and lobbying efforts in the state.	Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 1715 By Rep. Oliveira	Relating to a report by the comptroller on wage theft.	Business & Industry	HB 1715 requires the comptroller of public accounts in collaboration with Texas Workforce Commission to prepare a report on wage theft for submission to the legislature. The report must include: the demographic groups and industries most affected by wage theft, its economic impact on workers, effect on competition in the market, analysis of available remedies and their feasibility, and policy recommendations regarding those remedies. According to Worker’s Defense Project, 1 out of 5 construction workers in Texas has been a victim of wage theft, and half of all construction workers have indicated that they cannot meet their families’ basic needs. HB 1715 will provide quantitative and qualitative data to inform how we address this problem.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org
HB 1171 By Farney	Relating to the applicability of certain immunity and liability laws to open-enrollment charter schools.	Public Education	It is important that charter schools’ employees, volunteers, and members of a governing body be given the same immunity to liability as is afforded to public school districts’ employees, volunteers, or trustees. However, charter schools are currently not afforded the same statutory protections and lack certain jurisdictional safeguards. This is despite the Dallas Court of Appeals’ ruling that public charters, by nature, do have immunity from suit. HB 1171 mandates that charter schools be regarded by the same rules and liabilities as public school districts under the Texas Tort Claims Act, including tort claims payments and adjudication of claims. To do so, the bill establishes charter schools as local governments. By instating these provisions, HB 1171 ensures that charters don’t face lengthy litigations using education dollars.	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org
HB 1425 By Rep. Fletcher, et al.	Relating to the amount of the fee paid by a defendant for a peace officer’s services in executing or processing an arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	HB 1425 increases warrant fees from \$50 to \$75. This fee is supposed to be non-punitive. A huge number of people in Texas have outstanding warrants against them, primarily for low-level traffic offenses. 11% of the citizens of Austin have a warrant outstanding currently. When a warrant is issued for a low-level traffic offense, it is typically because the individual could not pay the traffic ticket. To increase a fine on top of that individual who is struggling to pay the original ticket could be unnecessarily harsh. This fee has no ability-to-pay provision, so the reality of this fee is that can be punitive despite its intent as a non-punitive measure.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HB 1799 By Rep. Thompson, S., et al.	Relating to the adoption of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	HB 1799 seeks to enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) because the reliance on electronic materials is at an all-time high and safe guarding procedures for the use of legal documents enhances transparency and authenticity. Nearly a dozen states have enacted UELMA and its adoption is growing nationally. UELMA will not impact current publishing agreements or contracts, it simply provides for the authentication, preservation, and accessibility of state legal documents, such as the Texas constitution, statutes, and state agency rules. Additionally, adoption will limit the need to store duplicate forms of the original documents, as electronic storage has proven to be cost effective, space saving, and practical for record keeping.	Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 1878 By Rep. Laubenberg, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of providers under the Medicaid program for the provision of telemedicine medical services in a school-based setting.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1878 allows for Medicaid telemedicine reimbursement for physicians other than a child’s primary care provider if the services rendered are in a school; the physician is an authorized healthcare provider under Medicaid; and a health professional is present with the patient during treatment. The patient’s parent or legal guardian must provide consent as this affects children. Telemedicine in schools has been tested by the 1115 Waiver programs and found to be an effective way to offer medical services to low-income children under the Medicaid program. The bill requires the telemedicine physician to inform the child’s primary care physician of any actions taken if the parent or guardian consents to this. Telemedicine in schools would primarily consist of treatment of acute medical conditions that affect children, such as allergies and pink eye.</p> <p>Children who qualify for Medicaid often have parents who work long hours and work hourly jobs, meaning the parents often do not have the luxury of paid sick days. It makes it difficult for children to see a doctor other than an expensive emergency room after hours. HB 1878 increases access to medical care for children who may not be able to see a medical professional otherwise, improving health outcomes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2168 By Rep. Muñoz, Jr.</p>	<p>Relating to the payment date for annuities from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Pensions</p>	<p>HB 2168 requires that Teachers Retirement System (TRS) annuity payments be made the last working day of the month, rather than the first working day of the following month. Currently, sometimes TRS payments are made on the 2nd, 3rd, or even 4th of the month if the first of the month falls on a weekend or holiday. This can make it impossible for some TRS annuity receivers to make bill payments on time if payments are due on the firsts of the month. This is a cost-effective way to help retirees who are relying on timely payment of their annuities.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1984 By Rep. Bonnen, G., et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office and to the aerospace and aviation advisory committee.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p>	<p>Texas has paired up with several privately-owned spaceport development corporations to continue to advance technology and to bring commercial aerospace launches to our state. Florida has grown their aerospace industry similarly and seen a local impact of \$1 million for each launch.</p> <p>HB 1984 expands the responsibilities of the aerospace and aviation office within the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) to bolster our private sector aerospace industry. The bill outlines the following additional duties: supporting retention and expansion of spaceports, identifying economic and defense-related opportunities, increasing funds in the spaceport trust and determining appropriate funding levels to support ongoing projects, partnering with Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to foster technological advancement, and working with Texas Workforce Commission to identify the skills and human resources needed to lead in space exploration. The bill requires the aerospace and aviation office to identify policy initiatives and reforms, articulate short-term and long-term statutory, administrative, and budget-related recommendations to the legislature, and report biennially on implementation of these initiatives. HB 1984 adds members to the aerospace and aviation advisory committee, representing each of the partnering spaceport development corporations, and expands the scope of their duties as stipulated in the bill.</p> <p>Texas’s unique geography, business climate, infrastructure, and our existing human capital with rocket science expertise make our state ideal for commercial launches. HB 1984 will help to grow our economy and offer more, higher paying jobs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2014 By Rep. Sheets</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of military personnel to obtain certification to teach career and technology education classes in public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>Career and technical education (CTE) offers professional training for students to enter into various careers in Texas. As of today, an individual wanting to teach CTE must have a current license in the technical area they seek to teach. However, military technicians shouldn’t have to undergo the same requirements to obtain such licenses, because they have already gained the job experience necessary to teach classes. Using prior job experience as a way to obtain certification increases the supply of qualified educators with real-world experience, and helps veterans enter the workforce as educators after their service has concluded.</p> <p>HB 2014 addresses this by establishing that a current or former member of the U.S. armed services has satisfied professional credential</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

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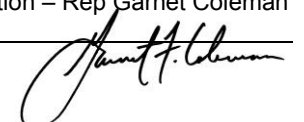
			requirements when seeking a career and technology education certification, if the person has experience in a specific trade obtained through military service. Additionally, the State Board for Educator Certification may not require a service member to hold a credential if experience was obtained through military service.	
HB 2162 By Rep. Simmons	Relating to municipal regulation of the use of alarm systems; authorizing a municipal fee.	Urban Affairs	<p>Technological advancements in regards to alarm systems have quickly grown over the last several years, and current regulations have failed to stay aligned with current need. HB 2162 updates requirements and stipulations on behalf of municipalities in regards to permitting fees, false alarm fees, and the determination of false alarms. The bill also redefines both “alarm system monitor” and “false alarm”, and determines property owner’s authorization for use of property.</p> <p>HB 2162 also stipulates that a municipality may not impose a fee for an alarm monitoring system over \$50 for residential and \$250 for commercial alarm system monitoring locations. Fees collected will allow municipalities to recoup the cost of responding. A municipality may not impose said fees if visual proof of possible criminal activity is recorded by the monitoring system before their arrival. A municipality must inspect the interior or exterior of the premises in question before determining if the alarm was false. If a location has had more than eight false alarms, a municipality may chose not to respond. The municipality is not held responsible unless the alarm fees are paid in full. Also, should a municipality not respond to an alarm signal, they are not liable for damages that may have caused the alarm. In addition, HB 2162 will allow property owners to opt-out of having a municipality notified if there is an alarm signal.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 3089 By Rep. Galindo, et al.	Relating to fire protection sprinkler systems in certain residential high-rise buildings in certain counties; creating a criminal offense.	Urban Affairs	<p>HB 3089 is in response to the Wedgewood Senior Living Center fire, where five senior citizens lost their lives. In an effort to prevent a similar event in Bexar County, HB 3089 will require the installation of sprinkler systems in residential, high-rise buildings that house elderly, disabled, or mobility-impaired individuals.</p> <p>HB 3089 stipulates that high-rise buildings must have fire protection sprinkler systems installed in compliance with National Fire Protection Association standards or face a fine of up to \$10,000. Intent of building owners to comply must be provided by September 1, 2018, and complete renovations by September 1, 2027. Buildings that have been deemed a historical or archaeologically significant site are exempt from HB 3089.</p> <p>While the costs of implementing such renovations may be beyond owners’ resources and lead to rent increases, the addition of sprinklers is imperative to ensure that tragic incidents like the Wedgewood Senior Living Center fire do not happen again.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
HB 1481 By Rep. Murphy	Relating to prohibiting the operation of an unmanned aircraft over certain facilities; creating a criminal offense.	Business & Industry	<p>Oil and energy companies are concerned over the threat of “aerial trespassing” by drones over their facilities. Currently, pilots are advised against flying over these facilities. However, there is no enforcement that specifically prohibits drones. Oil and energy companies contend that statute must be updated to respond to new technological threats to public safety in the form of drone crashes on their facilities. HB 1481 addresses this by making the operation of a drone 400 ft. or less over a critical infrastructure facility a Class B misdemeanor. It exempts drones operated by or on behalf of a government entity or law enforcement agency, as well as by those who have received prior consent from the owners of the facility.</p> <p>HB 1481 adequately addresses the concerns of some oil and energy companies, although drone crashes in these facilities have never been reported, and are unlikely.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org

<p>HB 1663 By Rep. Cook</p>	<p>Relating to a defendant's payment of costs associated with a court-appointed counsel.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>In upholding the Texas Fair Defense Act and a citizen's constitutional right to effective assistive counsel with or without ability to pay, we have adopted standards to assess a defendant's ability to pay in Article 26.04(n) of our Code of Criminal Procedure. These provisions must be followed in an initial indigence determination, and based upon a judge's findings, the defendant can be made to pay all, part, or none of the cost of their counsel. If the defendant's finances change, under current law their indigence determination may be reconsidered.</p> <p>HB 1663 authorizes a court to order a defendant, who was found indigent at the time of sentencing but could pay part of their legal costs, to pay the unpaid portion of their legal services, if during their sentence of confinement or community supervision the court determines that they have the resources to pay. While on its face this might seem fair, the bill fails to specify the procedures by which the court may make such a determination. At the very least, we should adopt the minimum standards and procedures outlined for the initial determination in Article 26.04(n) to ensure that a fair determination is made here and to provide consistency of law. If such a standard fails to be adopted, and a judge is just asking the defendant what they are able to pay, the indigent individual may feel obligated to comply, saying that they can pay in fear of losing their freedom. Under this unique set of power dynamics, we should at least ensure that minimum standards are adopted. These individuals have already been determined destitute by a court of law, so this additional money going to the county might otherwise be used for child support and to meet other basic needs while on parole. These individuals are already facing adversity in finding jobs and housing, and we should support every effort toward successful re-entry. More sustainable solutions for funding indigent defense need to be identified.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1449 Rep. Thompson, S.</p>	<p>Relating to child custody evaluations and adoption evaluations conducted and testimony provided in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship; providing penalties; creating an offense; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues</p>	<p>Deciding what parent or household is best suited to serve the needs of the child is challenging work for all parties involved. Currently, in making such a determination, the courts will send an evaluator to conduct an observation of the child in the home environment. That evaluation, with a determination of placement, is given to the court and heavily weighted in determining a custody order. Concerns have arisen over the consistency and qualification of the evaluators used throughout the state of Texas.</p> <p>HB 1449 is the result of many vested parties coming to the table to decide the qualifications of the child custody evaluator, the criteria by which they are selected, and deference given to the courts. Establishing solid qualifications is especially critical in rural communities, where custody evaluators are replaced by other permissible professionals because they are in short supply. Additional provisions are given for evaluators sent for adoption placements.</p> <p>The proper role of the state is to have a high standard when it comes to determining where a child should live, which home is best suited for the child, and which parent is best equipped to have primary care of the child. This is highly important work that will have a lasting impact on all parties involved. HB 1449 will ensure that those holding the greatest influence over the courts should be held to any equally high standard.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Shaina Pomerantz 512-763-0031 shaina@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1431 By Rep. King, S.</p>	<p>Relating to the development of a career-oriented foreign language program that public schools may offer.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 1431 requires the State Board of Education, with the guidance of the commissioner of higher education and business and industry leaders, to develop an advanced language course for districts to use in their foreign language enrichment curriculum. The course will provide students with industry-related terminology that prepares students to communicate in a foreign language about a specific professional, business, or industry environment.</p> <p>In our increasingly globalized society, it is imperative to create an advanced language course that prepares students for careers in international business, global studies, and foreign affairs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 1790 By Rep. Márquez, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to job performance on behalf of a fire fighter or police officer who is recovering from an off-duty injury.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1790 will allow fellow fire fighters and police officers to voluntarily work the shifts of a temporarily disabled fellow employee who was injured off-duty. Current law does not clarify whether a fellow fire fighter or police officer may volunteer regardless if injury was sustained on duty. Furthermore, on the days covered by volunteers, the injured officer or firefighter will not use sick leave, vacation time, or other accumulated time. This will allow for reduced scheduling conflicts and lower overtime.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1903 By Rep. Raney</p>	<p>Relating to the distribution of funds to campuses in the Blinn Junior College District service area.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 1903 requires the governing board of Blinn Junior College District, beginning in the next state fiscal biennium, to direct a proportionate amount of funds from tuition, fees, and funds to each of the district campuses of Brenham and Bryan. HB 1903 only affects campuses of Blinn with at least 1,000 students enrolled. Currently, the governing board, based in Brenham, can direct funding to the four campuses in any way they choose, which often results in Brenham getting a disproportionate share of the funding resources. As a result, Bryan, which is a quickly growing and increasingly financially self-sustaining campus, has become extremely overcrowded and services for students, such as smaller class sizes, meal options, and parking availability, have suffered. A more equitable distribution of resources would benefit all students in the Blinn Junior College District.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2714 By Rep. Phillips</p>	<p>Relating to commercial driver’s licenses and commercial learner’s permit and the operation of commercial motor vehicles; creating a criminal offense; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>In 2008, a commercial bus operating in violation of safety rules made national news by losing treading and crashing in north Texas. 17 people died and 39 were seriously injured. Potentially tragic incidents such as these, along with new federal updates to the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, necessitate HB 2714. The bill revises state law to comply with tightened federal minimum standards regarding the issuance of commercial driver’s licenses and permits. Major provisions of the bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes the definition of Commercial Driver Learner’s Permit and Driver License (CDL) to address the new Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP) • Requires each applicant to obtain a CLP and hold it for a minimum of 14 days before obtaining a CDL • The CLP must be a separate document from the CDL or non-CDL • CLP’s must contain the same information as a CDL • CLP’s may only have certain endorsements for purposes of training • Strengthens the legal presence requirements and increases documentation for the issuance of a CDL and CLP applicants to demonstrate legal presence in the United States • Limits the renewal period for CDLs and CLPs • Identifies when an applicant must surrender a CDL or CLP • Revises the term “Non-Resident CDL” to “Non-domicile CDL” • Establishes a process to downgrade commercial drivers that do not comply with federal medical requirements <p>With the tightened standards mandated by HB 2714, commercial bus drivers will be more properly trained in both driving and safety rules. Compliance with federal standards will also ensure that valuable federal highway funds will not be lost. Noncompliance would result in an expected loss of \$233,548,495 in federal funds over the 16-17 biennium.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2896 By Rep. Parker</p>	<p>Relating to apportionment of certain receipts of a broadcaster under the franchise tax.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>When cable operators pay movie and TV producers to air their shows, the franchise tax is not clear on how to categorize those fees. HB 2896 provides clarification by including FCC licensed TV stations, TV broadcast networks, Cable TV networks, and TV distribution companies, as broadcasters, and then allowing broadcasters to factor receipts from income resulting from distributing the programing, as long as the legal domicile of the broadcaster’s customer is in this state.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 2897 By Rep. Davis, S.</p>	<p>Relating to the identification requirements of certain health care providers associated with a hospital.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 2897 requires hospitals adopt certain policies regarding health care provider photo ID badges, which currently require the provider's name, department, and license type to be displayed along with the photo. The bill specifies the licenses that providers must clearly display on the ID badge, depending on the level of training the individual has, starting in 2017. HB 2897 will increase transparency so patients are aware of the level of training their trusted medical professionals have received, and it is set to start in two years so that hospitals have time to implement the new policy.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 4112 By Rep. Burns, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the rights of an owner of groundwater.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) vs Day Texas Supreme Court decision allowed groundwater to be treated like other minerals, preserving the right of capture. However, it maintained that the state still retains the right to regulate groundwater use through Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). The impacts of what this means for future decisions are still disputed. HB 4112 alters language regarding property rights and rule of capture to comply with one narrow interpretation with the EAA vs Day ruling. The bill establishes that not only do the heirs or lessees of the landowner have the right to drill for and produce the groundwater below the surface of real property without causing waste or malicious drainage to other property, they also have any right recognized under common law.</p> <p>Opponents of the bill are concerned that while HB 4112 attempts to codify the court ruling in Edwards Aquifer Authority vs Day, there was a great deal of language in the Day case decision, including language regarding the authority of GCDs to manage and regulate groundwater. The extent to which GCDs, in implementing their management plans and rules, can restrict or prevent production of ground water before crossing the line and engaging in an unconstitutional taking without compensation is unclear and still disputed. By excluding the language regarding the GCDs right to regulate groundwater use, the proposed legislation is not properly reflecting the full decision.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3683 By Rep. Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the electronic filing of personal financial statements with the Texas Ethics Commission.</p>	<p>General Investigating & Ethics</p>	<p>HB 3683 modernizes the TEC filing system for personal financial statements to require electronic filing, increasing efficiency.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3623 By Rep. Gonzales, L.</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by the National Hispanic Institute.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>As a certified non-profit organization, the National Hispanic Institute (NHI) is exempt from a federal income tax. Under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, NHI should also be exempt from a state property tax, but they have been compelled to pay these taxes in spite of their exemption. HB 3623 addresses this inconsistency by emphasizing NHI's non-profit status, and clarifying that they must be exempt from state property taxes until such time as status or ownership changes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2977 By Rep. Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to counties and certain other political subdivisions.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>HB 2977 is a county omnibus bill that seeks to help resolve several issues facing local Texas governments. The first issue is how counties may deal with county salvage and surplus property. Currently counties can sell, trade-in, destroy, and donate their surplus and salvage property. However, recycling is not option given to the counties. This bill will clarify that counties may choose the green option and recycle their surplus and salvage property, instead of having to wastefully throw it away when unable to sell, trade-in, or donate the property.</p> <p>The next issue facing counties, is that when counties bid for contracts the county is unable to consider the location of the bidder in</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Nicolas Kalla 512-763-0031 info@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>awarding the contract. HB 2977 will allow counties the same ability that municipalities have in giving contractors in their county a slight advantage over contractors out of the county. it allows counties to keep county tax dollars in the county.</p> <p>HB 2977 allows for local mental health authorities to build upon the success of last session’s implementation of mental health first aid in public schools. Last session the legislature made a commitment to early intervention in mental health by teaching educators in public schools mental health first aid. Mental health first aid has been successful, and HB 2977 will build upon that success by allowing local mental health authorities to teach mental health first aid to a wide range of public school employees.</p>	
<p>HB 2683 By Rep. Miller, R.</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of dyslexia practitioners and therapists by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; imposing an administrative penalty; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>The licensing program for dyslexia therapists and practitioners is currently within the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). After the Sunset review of DSHS, recommendations were made to abolish the licensing program. However, the license for dyslexia therapists and practitioners is important to maintain because it sets minimum standards that must be met by all professionals who deal with the most common learning disability. To ensure that children struggling to read and write are given quality care and attention, professionals working with dyslexia should be held to a certain level of competence.</p> <p>To ensure this, HB 2683 transfers the licensing program—including the powers and duties—for dyslexia therapists and practitioners from DSHS to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR). The Licensed Dyslexia Practitioner and Licensed Dyslexia Therapist Advisory Board is required to make recommendations to TDLR for administrative purposes. The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation will govern the licensing requirement for licensure, such as applications, renewing licenses, and payments. An advisory committee will no longer have to be consulted before determinations relating to a training program, a competency examination, or a waiver of an examination requirement can be made. Additional responsibilities such as refusing licensure and imposing an administrative penalty will be conducted by the commission or the executive director of TDLR.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2489 By Rep. Leach</p>	<p>Relating to regulation by a property owners’ association of residential leases or rental agreements.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p>	<p>Currently, there is no regulation regarding property owners’ associations’ degree of interference with a property owner’s right to rent out their domicile. This has caused much contention over what constitutes a violation of an individuals’ property rights by these associations. HB 2489 addresses this by limiting property owners’ associations’ enforcement powers while an individual is leasing or renting out their property. Specifically, property owners’ associations may not require a payment, fine, or fee from individual owners or their tenants. They also may not require the owner, rental applicants, or tenants to provide them their lease or application for their review or approval.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>

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