



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

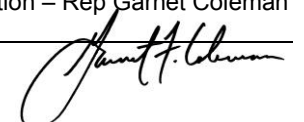
LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business – Monday, May 18, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
SB 876 By Sen. Eltife SP: Rep. Frullo	Relating to the licensing of insurance agents and adjusters; providing a penalty.	Insurance	<p>Recently, there has been an increased demand for agent and adjuster licenses in Texas. This, coupled with the greater complexity of certain filings, has strained agency resources and TDI's ability to deliver licensing services in a timely manner while simultaneously providing high-quality customer service. SB 876 subjects license renewals for a license issued by TDI for surplus lines agents, insurance agents, and insurance adjusters to the same expiration schedule as newly issued licenses and specifies that each such license expires on the second anniversary of the date the license is issued to or renewed by a person. In effect, the license acquired by insurance adjusters shall be in need of renewal, every two years, on their birthday, whether they received licensure on even or odd number years. This will alleviate confusion on behalf of the licensee, and create an easier remembered license renewal date.</p> <p>Additionally, SB 876 mandates that continuing education requirements for insurance licensure is increased and TDI's purview over continuing education is expanded. It clarifies waiting period provisions for license reapplication after a revocation or denial. It authorizes TDI to grant licensure to individuals who were licensed in another state and move to Texas, if the license is comparable and certain requirements are met. SB 876 improves and cleans up insurance licensure statute.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
SB 455 By Sen. Creighton SP: Rep. Schofield	Relating to special three-judge district courts convened to hear certain cases.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	<p>SB 455 would give the AG discretion over requesting the three-judge panel in lieu of a district judge if the case involves school finance or redistricting. This is obviously a politically-motivated bill to ensure that certain cases are not decided by certain judges. It is telling the two topics that are brought under this bill are ones in which courts have recently ruled against the Republican majority. This is arbitrary and not good policy.</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 amanda@texaslsg.org
SB 1173 By Sen. Nichols SP: Rep. Phillips	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	Transportation	<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 SB 1173. 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 	Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org

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	penalty; authorizing fees.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 SB 1173, 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>SB 206 By Sen. Schwertner, et al. SP: Rep. Burkett, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Family and Protective Services and procedures applicable to suits affecting the parent-child relationship, investigations of child abuse and neglect, and conservatorship of a child; affecting fee amounts and authorizing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) is a health and human service (HHS) agency that works to protect children and vulnerable adults by conduct investigations on alleged abuse and neglect. The state agency provides adult protective services (APS), child protective services (CPS), child care licensing, statewide intake, and prevention and early intervention. The Sunset Advisory Commission recently reviewed DFPS along with all other HHS agencies and recommended all agencies be consolidated. SB 206 contains the recommendations that Sunset provided if DFPS were to continue as a separate agency.</p> <p>The bureaucratic procedures that currently exist within DFPS have prevented caseworkers from performing quality work by overloading caseloads and burdensome paperwork requirements, and thus has resulted in a high employee turnover rate. The bill addresses this issue, as well as focuses on improving basic process and management to effectively serve the agency’s clients. Below are the major provisions that occur in SB 206:</p> <p>Eliminates, clarifies, or streamlines burdensome and prescriptive statutory requirements that affect Child Protective Services’ ability to do its job by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing unnecessary caseworker and overall agency workload, • Providing DFPS with additional flexibility to make its processes more efficient, • Conforming state law with federal law to eliminate confusion, and • Repealing archaic or unnecessary language and clarifies disorganized statutes <p>Makes changes to improve safety, permanency, and well-being of children in DFPS conservatorship, including changes to improve educational stability and opportunity for foster youth. Children in the guardianship of the state must be made a priority, especially when it comes to serving their unique needs.</p> <p>Requires CPS to implement an annual business planning process to focus its overall goals for improvement and demonstrate results. It’s important that the agency plan their goals and desired results to that it remains focused in the overall mission.</p> <p>Requires DFPS to develop and maintain a long-range foster care redesign implementation plan to mitigate inherent risks of this</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>

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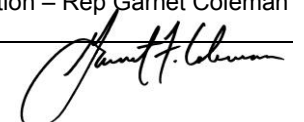


			<p>outsourcing approach to administering foster care. Redesigning the foster care system requires DFPS to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for its prevention and early intervention programs.</p> <p>Strengthens DFPS’ child care licensing enforcement efforts by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizing the agency to assess administrative penalties for high-risk licensing violations without first having to pursue non-monetary administrative sanctions; • Requiring DFPS to develop an enforcement policy in rule to guide child care licensing enforcement efforts; and • Granting cease-and-desist authority to DFPS for taking action against unlicensed child care facilities. <p>Gives DFPS flexibility in setting child care licensing and administrative fees, and establishes a child care license and registration renewal process.</p>	
<p>SB 268 By Sen. Watson, et al. SP: Rep. Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to the duties of a magistrate to inform an arrested person of consequences of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>SB 268 adds to the <i>Miranda</i> warning, requiring a magistrate to notify a non-citizen defendant that pleading guilty or “no contest” to a misdemeanor offense may affect that defendant’s immigration status and result in deportation. For felony proceedings, this admonishment is already required. SB 268 provides uniformity to ensure that defendants understand the consequence of their pleas in all criminal cases, upholding fair due process. This is critical to properly administering justice in misdemeanor cases because defendants are rarely assigned court-appointed counsel and would have no way to know that what might appear on its face to be a favorable plea bargain could dramatically jeopardize a life with their family, the opportunity to be naturalized, and have other life-altering implications. SB 268 closes a gaping loophole to equitable due process by enabling non-citizens to make informed pleas.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 1697 By Sen. Huffman SP: Rep. Smithee, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of certain information regarding procedures and substances used in the execution of a convict.</p>	<p>Government Transparency & Operation</p>	<p>SB 1697 requires identifying information of any person involved in the execution procedure, including people who use, supply, or administer lethal injection drugs and people who manufacture, transport, test, procure, compound, prescribe, dispense, or provide any lethal injection drug used in execution to be kept confidential and exempt from disclosure requirements. This bill takes away transparency and accountability, allowing pharmacies and manufacturing plants that dispense or produce substances used in lethal injection to avoid public scrutiny. Recently, there have been several high-profile cases in other states related to botched executions when using experimental drugs or drug combinations, often because the combinations were concocted in secret. With that in mind, it is unconscionable that we would allow suppliers and compounders anonymity when such mistakes are being made. The Constitution protects against cruel and unusual punishment in the 8th amendment, and this is an 8th amendment issue.</p> <p>There are concerns that credible threats to suppliers and compounders of lethal injection substances have caused some suppliers to fear for their safety and stop supplying the drugs. However, many pharmacies that have declined to supply the lethal injection drugs have done so for moral reasons related to the drugs’ use in executing people. Since 2001, 9 companies have released statements indicating they would no longer produce or dispense drugs used in lethal injection, or that they do not want their drugs used in lethal injection because they do not want a part in the execution process. If suppliers indeed feel threatened, law enforcement can step in, but obfuscating the process is not the answer. There is already a caveat in statute allowing for confidentiality of suppliers on a case-by-case basis if there are concerns for physical safety. Blanket confidentiality is not necessary. Death is the ultimate punishment the state can wield and it should do so with utter transparency. Obscuring the process destroys public trust and takes away the right to know where lethal drugs are produced.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>SB 20 By Sen. Nelson, et al.</p> <p>SP: Rep. Price, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to state agency contracting; creating an offense.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>An enormous part of our state budget is spent through contracts ranging from tiny amounts to over a billion dollars. For instance, DSHS contracts out for almost all of the services that they directly delivered 30 years ago, but no new accountability or oversight mechanisms were established. Guidance is needed not just in DSHS, but across Texas government there is a need to make sure all necessary processes and safeguards are up to date to ensure that tax payer dollars funneled through these contracts are spent appropriately, efficiently and effectively.</p> <p>SB 20 is an extensive bill that does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs the state auditor to work with Medicaid/CHIP Division to review performance on HHSC contracts worth over \$100 million/ year • Directs the state auditor to work with governor’s budget and policy staff to conduct a study about the practicability of consolidating state purchasing agencies. • Outlines document retention requirements • Provides 2-year waiting period before a state employee who managed contracts can work for the entity who received the contract and vice versa. • Includes “solicitations and contracting” under Enterprise Resource Planning • Details expanded training requirements, including ethics training • Mandates state agency conduct performance review and report of terminated or completed contract and specifies how vendors can protest a review. • Dictates that comptroller manage tracking system and contract database for agencies to enter performance reviews • Restricts state agencies that buy goods & services listed as schedule or state agencies buying goods off their specialized list from establishing contracts over \$1 million and provides bid structure for eligible contracts • Requires state agencies to develop, execute and post statements of work for contracts exceeding \$50,000 • Summarizes disclosure of conflict of interest requirements for TXDOT and Higher Education including posting requirements for transparency • Defines requirements for Higher Education and TXDOT contracts exceeding \$1million and \$5 million • Requires each state agency develop and implement risk analysis procedure and publish their contract management handbook • Adds a member from TEA, TXDOT and TCEQ to the Contract Advisory Team (CAT), and expands their duties to include determining justification for contract price increases of 20% or more, and reporting to the comptroller if justification was not found. • Mandates that CAT submit a quarterly report to LBB about number of contracts and whether CAT recommendations were followed. • Dictates that the Board of Regents for Higher Education prescribe framework for code of ethics, policies for internal audits, disclosure rules for outside activities etc. <p>Are the contracts the state is entering into ethically procured and efficiently borne out? Additional oversight requirements, scrutiny, fairness, competitive processes, ethical training, transparency & accountability are all greatly needed to make sure the answer to that question is a yes.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
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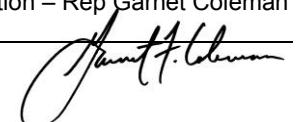
<p>SB 1282 By Sen. Eltife SP: Rep. Parker</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of consumer credit transactions and the regulatory authority of the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Investments & Financial Services</p>	<p>SB 1282 is a technical corrections bill for the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner (OCCC). It enables the commission’s duties to be performed more effectively and with oversight. Below are the key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes clarifications and improvements to regulatory procedures and replaces regulatory burden, providing compliance alternatives • revises the necessary statutory to allow the OCCC to maintain regulation of the credit industry • allows the OCCC may release confidential examination or investigation in certain circumstances • changes various Finance code provisions • allows a car dealer to add accessories and services related to the sale to itemized charges, where current law restricts <p>The bill removes a research component that is currently required of the Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner. This research component requires that the consumer credit commissioner to plan a program that addresses alternatives to high-cost lending in Texas. Removing this section reduces the transparency and accountability that financial and lending services severely need.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 461 By Sen. Perry, et al. SP: Rep. Parker</p>	<p>Relating to false or misleading packaging, labeling, or advertising of certain abusable synthetic substances; providing civil penalties; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Synthetic “designer” drugs can be lethal and cause a vast array of harmful side effects, including tachycardia, vomiting, tremors and seizures, kidney damage, cardiac issues, and so forth. Manufacturers have been able to elude law enforcement by tweaking the chemical structure of these compounds and selling the new “legal” compounds, in forms like potpourri, herbal incense, and as other deceptively-packaged, novelty items. SB 461 defines an “abusable synthetic substance” and prohibits a person in the course of business from knowingly producing, distributing, selling, or offering for sale a mislabeled abusable synthetic substance. The bill creates a criminal offense -- a Class C misdemeanor for initial offense, and a Class A misdemeanor upon repeat offense. It also creates a civil cause of action, enabling the attorney general or the county, city, or district attorney to take an offender to court to collect a civil penalty of \$25,000 per day for each offense. A penalty recovered in a suit initiated by a local government would then be paid to that local government. The bill allows for the court to make certain considerations in determining the penalty of the defendant, and it allows the defendant certain affirmative defenses, if applicable.</p> <p>The public and targeted businesses should be educated on the toxicity of synthetic abusable substances, as well as informed on all statute enacted and both the civil and criminal penalties involved with the manufacturing and sale of these mislabeled products. Provided that information is made available to small businesses that may unwittingly sell such items, SB 461 will provide needed relief to the counties and help to curb the supply of these dangerous products.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><u>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, May 18, 2015</u></p>				
<p>SB 55 By Rep. Nelson, et al. SP: Rep. King, S.</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a grant program to support community mental health programs for veterans with mental illness.</p>	<p>Defense & Veteran Affairs’</p>	<p>Many of our men and women returning to civilian life will face a future with a service-related mental illness, such as PTSD. Caring for our service members, after they have sacrificed so much in protecting our freedoms, is necessary, and current systems are inadequate. As many as two-thirds of servicemen and women with a mental illness did not seek treatment in 2011. For those that did seek assistance, the long waiting period before treatment could begin caused many to give up.</p> <p>SB 55 will help address the mental health needs of our veterans by mandating HHSC create a grant program supporting community mental health programs that offer services and treatment to veterans with mental illness. Unlike other programs, this program will be contracted with a private entity, who will support and administer the program, including match 100% of the funds from private sector.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>SB 339 By Rep. Eltife, et al. SP: Rep. Klick, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis and the regulation of related organizations and individuals; requiring a dispensing organization to obtain a license to dispense low-THC cannabis and any employee of a dispensing organization to obtain a registration; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>SB 339 is a very narrowly drawn bill that legalizes low-THC cannabis (less than 0.5% THC) for the treatment of intractable epilepsy, defined as epilepsy that does not remit or become controlled despite trying two or more seizure medications. Legalized low-THC cannabis must have at least 10% cannabidiol (CBD), which has been found to reduce or arrest seizure activity in some patients with intractable epilepsy. In other states, CBD oil has led to the drastically improved quality of life of some children with intractable epilepsy where other treatments have failed, and it has a very low side-effect profile compared to many FDA-approved epilepsy medications. SB 339 does not legalize any smokable form of marijuana and does not legalize marijuana with high enough levels of THC to make it desirable for recreational use – you cannot get high from the legalized extract.</p> <p>SB 339 requires a compassionate use registry, similar to the one used for cancer patients who can currently access medicinal marijuana in Texas. The compassionate use registry would include the information about doctors with prescribing powers and a list of all patients, including their names, dates of birth, dosage, means of administration and total amount of low-THC cannabis required to fulfill the prescription. The registry will also include the total amount of low-THC cannabis dispensed by each licensed dispensing organization.</p> <p>Only licensed dispensing organizations may dispense low-THC cannabis, and licensing requirements are stringent, including the ability to maintain accountability for all products and byproducts related to the production of low-THC cannabis, registering as specified in the bill, and passing a background check. Dispensing organizations must complete a form every time they fill a low-THC cannabis prescription to add to the registry so that a person cannot fill a prescription multiple times. The compassionate use registry allows that the government can easily keep track of where low-THC cannabis is and how it is being used.</p> <p>SB 339 is a carefully drafted bill that gives epileptologists and neurologists who spend a significant portion of their clinical practice treating children or adults with epilepsy the authority to prescribe via compassionate use laws low-THC cannabis in a small number of cases, and limits that authority by mandating two separate physicians both agree that low-THC cannabis is warranted. Only epileptic patients who are permanent residents of Texas and who fail conventional treatments will qualify, and it is tightly controlled with significant DPS oversight.</p> <p>SB 339 affects a very small, but very ill population. During session alone, two children have died of intractable epilepsy. Some of these children have hundreds of seizures per day and have no hope of living a normal life with current conventional treatments. In order to currently access low-THC cannabis, some parents have felt compelled to relocate with their children as medical refugees in Colorado or a similar state to save their children’s lives.</p> <p>Low-THC cannabis has been proven to be effective for intractable epilepsy cases. Its legalization would give parents and patients hope, and allow medical refugees to come back home.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>SB 169 By Sen. Uresti, et al. SP: Rep. King, S.</p>	<p>Relating to ensuring that certain military members and their spouses and dependents maintain their positions on interest lists or other waiting lists for certain health and human</p>	<p>Defense & Veterans’ Affairs</p>	<p>Waiting for services from various assistance and health services programs is a notoriously long process. The wait is exacerbated by the current process of moving a military member off of the waitlist for services if he or she is temporarily assigned out of Texas. As the waitlist for some services is years, and thousands of patients long, this removal can have devastating effects on a veteran’s health.</p> <p>SB 169 mandates HHSC or other human services agency to maintain the waitlist position of a military member who has temporarily been reassigned out of state. Should the military member’s place in line come up before he or she returns to Texas, the services will be made available as soon as there is an opening. These same rules will apply to an active military spouse or dependent child who is a legal Texas resident, or to the spouse or dependent child of a service member who was killed in action or during the course of service.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>



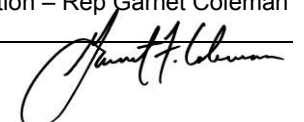
	services assistance programs.			
SB 912 By Sen. Eltife SP: Rep. Crownover	Relating to a volume-based exemption from reporting requirements for certain accidental discharges or spills from wastewater facilities.	Natural Resources	Current law requires any domestic sewage spill to be reported to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality immediately no matter how small. If the spill reaches a drinking source, it must be reported to local government officials and the media. These reporting requirements serve a beneficial purpose, but there is no distinction between a one drop or 1,000,000 gallon spill. SB 912 creates a threshold of 1000 gallons before public utilities have to report the spill to TCEQ. While this 1000 gallon threshold follows reporting standards of other states and would have exempted 73% of reports to TCEQ, 1000 gallons is a lot of sewage. Simply envision a one-gallon bottle or jug of water or some other liquid, and then envision 1000 of those bottles or jugs, and you have a sense of how large a volume 1000 gallons is. This is not a “small” spill. A much lower threshold is warranted. However, SB 912 does reduce the reporting burden for TCEQ as each report takes hours to complete that they could be using to do their core work. This bill does not change the reporting requirements for when sewage spills reach a drinking water source. Opponents of this bill argue that it is difficult to visually assess whether a spill is above or below 1000 gallons, and that it does not allow TCEQ flexibility to require increased reporting standards for those operators that have a bad compliance record. Further, we worry that more lax reporting requirements will encourage certain operators to become less diligent in preventing spills since they know that smaller ones will not be reported.	<u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
<u>LSG Floor Report For Resolutions Calendar – Monday, May 18, 2015</u>				
HCR 90 By Rep. Hunter, et al.	Relating to the speaker and lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast	Natural Resources	HCR 90 requests that the Lt. Governor and speaker of the House create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast, and that said committee follow rules that the 84 th Legislature determines.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HCR 96 By Rep. Hunter	Requesting the speaker of the house of representatives and the lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study the issue of advertising public notices.	Government Transparency & Operations	HCR 96 creates a joint interim committee to study the issue of advertising public notices. There are concerns that posting notices online is not cost-effective and that it would not reach a broad audience. However, others contend that posting notices online would broaden the reach of such notices, arguing that most people have access to the Internet in some fashion. These individuals also argue that, because using existing infrastructure is an option, it is both cost-effective and efficient to post notices online. HCR 96 allows a joint interim committee to examine both sides of the argument so that notice posting can be efficient, cost-effective, and reach a broad audience in the future.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org
HCR 57 By Rep. Anchia, et al.	Urging the U.S. Congress to end the ban on crude oil exports.	International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs	In an attempt to enforce price controls when fuel was expensive and scarce in the 1970's, the U.S. banned crude-oil exports. Since this is no longer the case, HCR 57 urges US Congress to lift the crude oil export ban. If lifted, crude oil exports are expected to boost national GDP by more than \$86 billion. A large portion of this growth would be enjoyed by Texas. However, lifting the ban may increase fuel costs for Americans. Additionally, in the event that the petrol price raises and fuel is once more in short supply, exporting the nation's precious crude oil would be a costly mistake. Fuel exports will also encourage more drilling	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org

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			and may further endanger our environment. There are strong arguments for and against lifting the crude oil export ban. Although HCR 57 is a proactive step in correcting this ban, further research should be conducted to evaluate its impact on our country and state.	
HCR 63 By Rep. Wu, et al.	Urging the U.S. Congress to expedite natural gas exports.	International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs	HCR 63 urges US Congress to lift the natural gas export ban. If lifted, natural gas exports are expected to boost fracking states', such as Texas, GDP by 31 billion. However, natural gas is not extremely plentiful in the US. If exported, more demand and less supply would drive up natural gas costs and could prevent Americans from affording to pay ever-rising utility rates. Natural gas exports will also encourage more fracking, which has linked devastating environmental and health effects -- from earthquakes to cancer and neurological damage caused by drinking contaminated groundwater. Although HCR 57 is a proactive step in lifting this ban, further research should be conducted to evaluate its environmental, health, and fiscal impact on our country and state.	Favorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org
HCR 26 By Rep. Flynn, et al.	Relating to the establishment and governance of certain regional transportation authorities.	State & Federal Power & Responsibility	In 2008, the nation was plunged into the largest financial crisis since the Great Depression. A thorough investigation by the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission (FCIC), composed of both Democrat and Republican appointees, concluded that lack of oversight and the financial system's unrestrained risk-taking were its undeniable root causes. In an attempt to avoid future crisis and increase the financial system's oversight, the current administration issued the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. HCR 26 urges the US Congress to repeal the Act, and allow the same reckless financial climate that gave rise to the Great Recession to perpetuate.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org
HCR 74 By Rep. Davis, Y.	Directing the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to support the creation of a model water recycling project in an appropriate location.	Natural Resources	Texas is in a sustained drought, and purifying and recycling treated waste water is a good way to reduce water use. Several cities have the opportunity to develop a model project to purify substantial quantities of recycled waste water to reuse as drinking water and for household use. Implementation of advanced water purification technology could offer critical new water resources. A project like this could provide sufficient water supply to areas of Texas. HCR 72 urges TCEQ and the TWDB to provide assistance to the Region C Water Planning Group for the development of these projects to serve as a model for Texas. It encourages seeking federal funding, or using available state funds or loan programs to get this project underway. It urges the TWDB and TCEQ to educate and encourage both renewable energy and water purification and reuse programs, and to make this a priority.	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org
HCR 107 By Rep. Hunter	Requesting the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House of Representatives to create a joint interim committee to study human trafficking in Texas.	State Affairs	Human traffic is serious and pervasive, especially in Texas. Human trafficking is hugely profitable and puts almost 250,000 American children and youths at risk of sexual exploitation. Texas is a major point of illegal entry and its size makes it easier for criminals to blend in. We must do more to combat this modern-day form of slavery. To this end, HCR 107 request the Lt. Governor and the Speaker of the House to create a joint interim committee to study the problem of human trafficking in Texas and report back to the legislature by January 2017.	Favorable Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org

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<p>HCR 109 By Rep. Paul, et al.</p>	<p>Urging Congress to encourage the Department of Defense to relocate the United States Africa Command to Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston.</p>	<p>State & Federal Power & Responsibility</p>	<p>In 2007, the United States Africa Command (AFRICOM) was created as one of six of the US Defense Department’s geographic combatant commands. It is responsible for maintaining US Defense Department operations, exercises and security in Africa, as well as maintaining military relations with African countries, the African Union, and African regional security organizations. When established, its headquarters was temporarily placed in Stuttgart, Germany. It was planned to be moved to Africa, but remained in Germany due to costs and diplomatic issues.</p> <p>HCR 109 urges US Congress to move AFRICOM from Germany to the Ellington Field Joint Reserve Base in Houston. Its move is estimated to save the Pentagon \$60 million to \$70 million a year. Moving expenses are likely to be recouped within two to six years. Further, the Ellington Field base is equipped to handle military aircraft. It also houses military from all five US armed services, some of which already conduct training and missions for AFRICOM. Houston is the ideal stateside location because of its port access and its strong cultural, educational, medical, and diplomatic ties with many African nations. Additionally, AFRICOM’s move is likely to generate economic benefits for Texas and the city of Houston.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HR 1508 By Rep. King, T., et al.</p>	<p>Expressing support for the use of sound science to study and regulate modern agricultural technologies and opposition to legislative or regulatory action that may result in unnecessary restrictions on the technologies.</p>	<p>State & Federal Power & Responsibility</p>	<p>Modern technologies, particularly genetic engineering and certain pesticides, have been used in the agricultural industry amidst much controversy. HR 1508 formally expresses opposition to the restriction of these and other modern technologies under legislation.</p> <p>While many agricultural producers argue that chemicals and genetic engineering are necessary to sustain abundant productivity and protect crops from harmful pests, it has been proven that human consumption of these crops may be linked to many illnesses, including antibiotic resistance and increased cancer rates. Further, there are many examples of large-scale farms which utilize non-toxic or organic methods to produce sufficient – and sometimes larger yields – than farms which use these technologies. The answer to agricultural sustainability and growth lies in clean technology innovations, rather than in the risky technologies protected by HR 1508.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>

