



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

Treasurer, Rep. Elliott Naishtat

### LSG Floor Report For Postponed Business – Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>SB 268</b> By Sen. Watson, et al.  SP: Rep. Anchia	Relating to the duties of a magistrate to inform an arrested person of consequences of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.	Criminal Jurisprudence	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.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maia McCoy 512-763-0031 maia@texaslsg.org

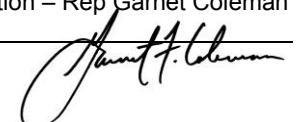
### LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Tuesday, May 19, 2015

<b>SB 212</b> By Sen. Birdwell, et al.  SP: Rep. Burkett, et al.	Relating to the abolishment of the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities and the transfer of its functions to the Texas Workforce Commission.	Human Services	<p>The Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (TCPPD) is an agency dedicated to creating policy that encourages and assists Texans with disabilities to achieve independence through employment. TCPPD oversees the Texas State Use Program, a partnership between government and private nonprofits established in 1975 that promotes employment for people with disabilities. The Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed the TCPPD and determined the agency should be abolished, as it lacked the expertise and resources to effectively oversee the Texas State Use Program. SB 212 is the legislation that makes statutory changes regarding TCPPD and its functions and powers, so that people with disabilities will continue to be served in this manner.</p> <p>SB 212 makes three significant statutory changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<b>Abolishes TCPPD and transfers its functions to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).</b> Transferring the functions of TCPPD to TWC allows the services for people with disabilities to have stable and better support that it lacked previously. The TWC guarantees active oversight of the State Use Program and ensures that the program benefits its clientele.</li> <li>-<b>Establishes an advisory committee.</b> The advisory committee will assist the TWC in setting performance goals and objectives for the State Use Program. Additionally, information and standards for community rehabilitation programs will be set.</li> <li>-<b>Requires the TWC to determine the best method to structure the management fee.</b></li> </ul> <p>The TWC has extensive experience in employment in Texas, including assisting people with disabilities, which aligns with the goal of the State Use Program. Also, TWC has the experience, capacity, and resources that are essential for designing, executing, and overseeing activities related to the State Use Program.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org
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<b>Amendment to SB 212</b>	By Rep. Burkett	841910	This amendment: -replaces an advisory committee member with “the executive commissioner of the HHSC or designee” -changes language to <i>require</i> the TWC to provide administrative support to the advisory committee	
<b><u>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, May 19, 2015</u></b>				
<b>SB 782</b> By Sen. Eltife  SP: Rep. Smithee	Relating to the investigation by the commissioner of insurance of acts of insurance fraud.	Insurance	As technology increases, so does the ability to commit insurance fraud. Currently, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) uses an outdated reference in Penal Code to direct insurance fraud investigations. SB 782 will update this reference to broaden the commissioner of insurance's authority to investigate insurance fraud if the commissioner has reason to believe a person has engaged in, is engaging in, has committed, or is about to commit a fraudulent insurance act. The commissioner will aid in the enforcement and investigation of fraud by providing technical or litigation assistance to other governmental agencies.  With the price of insurance increasing dramatically, any effort to lower costs, such as successfully reducing fraud, will aid in affordable insurance.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
<b>SB 318</b> By Sen. Hinojosa, et al.  SP: King, S.	Relating to the amount the Texas Military Preparedness Commission may grant to local governmental entities for certain purposes.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs	Defense facilities and military installations are an integral part of the Texas economy and identity. It is estimated that the military presence in Texas creates over \$150 billion in value, and accounts for 6% of the economy. Communities who have had defense contracts terminated, or experienced an expansion of military missions are greatly affected. The Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program assists defense communities that have undergone major changes, such as base closures or reductions, a reduction or expansion of military missions, and aiding communities in improving their BRAC score. SB 318 will raise the cap in grants awarded by the Texas Military Preparedness Commission from \$2 million to \$5 million. This will allow communities to better adjust and prepare for changes associated with their military installations.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org
<b>SB 836</b> By Sen. Watson  SP: Rep. Rodriguez, E.	Relating to management services for the physical facilities of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf.	Public Education	Currently, the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) is responsible for several facilities-related maintenance and operation activities for the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf. Services of the schools that are not under the responsibility of the TFC are custodial, security, and ground maintenance activities. SB 863 ensures that all maintenance and operations of the facilities for both schools are transferred to the TFC, so that one agency can perform all the duties to provide efficient and consistent delivery of the services.  SB 863 transfers the following to the Texas Facilities Commission: -all maintenance responsibilities of the schools' respective physical facilities; -any obligations and contracts related to transferring the responsibilities; -all property and records related transferring responsibilities; and -all funds appropriated by the legislature for the responsibilities. Both schools must enter into separate memoranda of understanding with TFC, establishing a plan for transferring records, personnel, property, and unspent appropriations related to maintenance responsibilities.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Brittany Reyes 512-763-0031 brittany@texaslsg.org

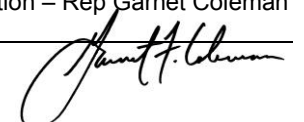
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<p><b>SB 880</b> By Sen. Nelson  SP: Rep. Geren</p>	<p>Relating to certain committees and programs to develop the wine industry in this state through the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>Relating to certain committees and programs to develop the wine industry in this state through the Department of Agriculture.</p>	<p>The Texas wine industry is gaining recognition and quickly becoming a globally recognized wine producing region. SB 880 will aid in the expansion of the wine industry by recreating the Wine Industry Development and Marketing Advisory Committee to the Wine Industry Development Advisory Committee. This committee will assist and advise the commissioner in determining the best and most productive and efficient expenditures of the wine industry development fund. The committee will now be comprised of members who are representatives of grape growers, wineries, researchers, and consumers. The bill charges the committee with producing recommendations, discussions, budget, spending plan, and proposed plans of action to further the objectives of the Texas Wine Industry Development Act and the Texas Wine Marketing Assistance Program.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1657</b> By Sen. Watson, et al.  SP: Rep. Miller, R.</p>	<p>Relating to approval of the issuance of tax and revenue anticipation notes.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p>	<p>Commercial paper is a short-term debt tool used in managing the state's cash flow. Although it has been continuously used, it was unintentionally removed from statute in 2011. SB 1657 corrects this by re-adding commercial paper to the list of short-term debt tools the comptroller may use, and allowing its rollover between biennia. The use of commercial paper must be authorized by the cash management committee, which includes the governor, lieutenant governor, comptroller, and speaker. The state has issued commercial paper only five times since 1986.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1574</b> By Rep. Uresti, et al.  SP: Rep. Martinez, "M."</p>	<p>Relating to emergency response employees or volunteers and others exposed or potentially exposed to certain diseases or parasites.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>Emergency personnel routinely become exposed to blood and bodily fluids as a part of their duty. While exposure to infectious diseases or parasites is commonplace, there is no system in place for EMS personnel to receive notification or confirmation of their exposure. Rapid notification is essential for rapid treatment and possible containment of any communicable disease.</p> <p>SB 1574 requires various emergency responders to designate a qualified infection control officer and an alternate officer, who will receive notification of a potential exposure to a reportable disease from a health care facility. They must then notify the appropriate healthcare providers of this potential exposure and act as a liaison between the provider and the entity's emergency response employees or volunteers who may have been exposed to the disease. The officer will also provide the emergency responder with information regarding the destination hospital of the infectious patient. They must also investigate and evaluate the exposure incident using current evidence-based information, and monitor follow up treatment provided to the emergency responder.</p> <p>Medical information regarding cases, or suspected cases, of diseases will be made available, along with the testing orders or requests to DSHS. Using this information, DSHS may then order testing of another person who may have exposed the employee or volunteer to a reportable disease. The bill requires that a patient be tested for certain conditions after an emergency response employee or volunteer is accidentally exposed to the patient's blood or bodily fluids. Should a patient die at the scene or during transport, testing for reportable diseases is mandatory. A justice of the peace or medical examiner will be required to take steps to ensure testing and report findings to the control officer. Should emergency responders be accidentally exposed during an arrest, the same requirements for testing will apply.</p> <p>This bill removes the stipulation that next of kin be notified of any testing results by the control officer, and instead requires DSHS or local health authority be the notifying agency. In addition, this bill authorizes the release of test results for AIDS and other related disorders to the control officer of an affected emergency responder.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cathryn Taub 512-763-0031 cathryn@texaslsg.org</p>

**LSG Floor Report For Resolutions Calendar – Tuesday, May 19, 2015**

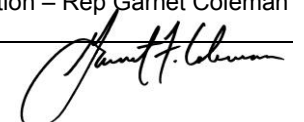
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<p><b>HCR 90</b> By Rep. Hunter, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the speaker and lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study seawater desalination on the Texas coast</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HCR 90 requests that the Lt. Governor 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<sup>th</sup> Legislature determines.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 96</b> By Rep. Hunter</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Government Transparency &amp; Operations</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Paige Reitz 512-763-0031 paige@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 57</b> By Rep. Anchia, et al.</p>	<p>Urging the U.S. Congress to end the ban on crude oil exports.</p>	<p>International Trade &amp; Intergovernmental Affairs</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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 and may further endanger our environment.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 63</b> By Rep. Wu, et al.</p>	<p>Urging the U.S. Congress to expedite natural gas exports.</p>	<p>International Trade &amp; Intergovernmental Affairs</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 26</b> By Rep. Flynn, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment and governance of certain regional transportation authorities.</p>	<p>State &amp; Federal Power &amp; Responsibility</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>

<p><b>HCR 74</b> By Rep. Davis, Y.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 107</b> By Rep. Hunter</p>	<p>Requesting the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the House of Representatives to create a joint interim committee to study human trafficking in Texas.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated By: Nakia Winfield 512-763-0031 nakia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HCR 109</b> 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 &amp; Federal Power &amp; 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><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HR 1508</b> 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</p>	<p>State &amp; Federal Power &amp; 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><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated by: Tara Blagg 512-763-0031 tara@texaslsg.org</p>

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