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LSG Floor Report for POSTPONED BUSINESS Calendar– Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 1715 By: Buckley Ashby Leman Anderson	Relating to provision of broadband infrastructure and connectivity by the Lower Colorado River Authority.	State Affairs 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is a political subdivision serving mostly rural Texans in over 70 counties, in part by providing electricity transmission and distribution utility services. This bill authorizes the LCRA to make its existing and planned fiber capacity and facilities, currently built on electric utility infrastructure for internal communication purposes, available to public or private internet service providers (ISPs) for the purpose of facilitating broadband service connectivity. It would not allow the LCRA to sell broadband services to retail customers but would allow it to enter into contracts with ISPs to provide those services. The bill additionally requires that, before entering into such a contract with a municipality, the LCRA must provide fair notice and opportunity to commercial retail providers already in the area. The LCRA's role as facilitator would not add any costs to taxpayers but would open up the opportunity for broadband expansion in rural and underserved areas, which has become essential for education, healthcare, and economic development in the state.	Favorable Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org

LSG Floor Report for MAJOR STATE Calendar– Wednesday, April 14, 2021

HB 4 By: Price Oliverson Coleman Ashby Guillen	Relating to telemedicine, telehealth, and technology-related health care services.	Public Health 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent	Telemedicine has proven to be an important innovation in medical care and the social welfare of Texans. Telemedicine grew popular amongst Texans during the COVID-19 pandemic making healthcare more accessible to thousands. In response, there have been mass requests to ensure that telemedicine remains accessible after the pandemic. HB 4 will require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand the availability of telemedicine, telehealth, or other telecommunications services to Medicaid recipients, CHIP enrollees, and other benefactors of HHSC programs. To develop a system to provide audio-only behavioral health services. To establish policies and procedures that would allow for effective assessment and service provision while maintaining compliance with state and federal law to provide medically necessary services. To determine categories for cases that must receive in-person visits and continued in-person visitations. The executive commissioner of the HHSC is responsible for:	Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether other services or programs can be expanded to audio-only. Ensure that rural health clinics are reimbursed for appropriate fees for covered telemedicine services if a specific appropriation is made for this purpose. Establish guidelines for communications involving text messaging as well as the provision of consent via text. <p>Under HB 4 Medicaid managed care organizations (MCO's) will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform assessments and provide treatment recommendations to home and community-based recipients via telecommunication or other information technology in certain circumstances aligned with HHSC expectations. Monitor for fraud, waste, and abuse as well as if further services are needed for recipients of the telecommunication services. <p>HB 4 is a significant step for Texas medical care and expanding access to care. This bill will expand access to rural communities, disabled individuals, those without a reliable form of transportation and the elderly.</p>	
HB 18 By: Oliverson Bonnen Collier Canales	Relating to establishment of the prescription drug savings program for certain uninsured individuals.	Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the Nation and access to prescription drugs for many uninsured individuals is limited and often unaffordable. HB 18 creates a prescription drug savings program that will allow uninsured Texans to buy prescription drugs at discounted prices.</p> <p>This bill will use one-time federal funding to be directly deposited to the program's fund to support its maintenance and cover rebates at the point of sale. HB 18 will allow HHSC to run the program and use a pharmacy benefit manager to implement the program and negotiate benefits. The money used from the fund is then paid at an amount equal to the value of prescription rebates at the point of sale. To maintain cost neutrality, the program returns the prescription rebates to the fund for self-sufficiency and integrates pharmaceutical assistance programs.</p> <p>HB 18 will increase access to prescription drugs for many Texans and will reduce health system and state costs on emergency care.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp 210-748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org
LSG Floor Report for CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Calendar– Wednesday, April 14, 2021				
HJR 25 By: Shaheen	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county of a portion of the value of the residence homestead of a physician who provides health care services for which the physician agrees not to seek payment from any source, including the Medicaid program or	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>HJR 25 proposes a constitutional amendment allowing counties to offer optional exemptions of up to 50% of the appraised value of a physician's licensed homestead if the physician meets requirements to provide healthcare services to the uninsured. HJR25 will allow its enabling legislation, HB457, to take effect.</p> <p>HJR25 clarifies that the new exemption is in addition to any other exemptions' physicians may already be receiving. It allows the legislature to impose eligibility requirements for the exemption and allows taxes pledged for the repayment of debt to be continued by the county until the debt is discharged if the exemption would impair the obligation. Counties could exercise discretion when providing a tax exemption to physicians already under repayment of debt obligations.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org

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	otherwise from this state or the federal government, to county residents who are indigent or who are Medicaid recipients.			
LSG Floor Report for GENERAL STATE Calendar– Wednesday, April 14, 2021				
HB 1616 By: Bonnen	Relating to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; authorizing fees.	Public Health 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic showed the ease and effectiveness of telemedicine for all Texans but especially Texans in rural communities and other areas where Texas is experiencing a physician shortage. HB 1616 will address this issue by allowing Texas to voluntarily enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, which will allow for physicians to practice medicine in this state as well as other states that have entered into the compact.</p> <p>HB 1616 creates parameters for physicians to qualify to participate in the compact. HB 1616 establishes the procedures, criteria, and requirements for the application, issuance, and renewal of licensure through the compact.</p> <p>HB 1616 will also create a governing body called the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission and outlines the powers, roles, structure, etc. of the commission. The commission must keep a central database of all physicians who hold or applied for expedited licensure. The commission will also establish the sharing and reporting requirements regarding physician investigatory or disciplinary matters. Oversight of the compact will involve the commission as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial state bodies. Lastly, it outlines the process of how the state is able to leave the compact and a notification timeline to report to other states.</p> <p>Many states are entering into the compact and are benefiting from the services. HB 1616 will allow expand access to healthcare for many Texans by addressing the physician shortage.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5485 Devan@TexasLSG.org
HB 290 By: Cortez Rose Oliverson Johnson, Ann Frank	Relating to the period of continuous eligibility and a periodic eligibility review for a child for Medicaid.	Human Services Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>In 2018, prior to the pandemic, the national average percentage of uninsured children was 5.1%. Texas had the worst insured rate for children with 11.2% of Texas children being uninsured. Currently in Texas, children with Medicaid coverage receive six months of continuous enrollment followed by a second six-month period consisting of month-to-month income checks to determine eligibility. These monthly income checks force low-income working families to deal with excessive, time-consuming monthly paperwork that can result in unnecessary loss of coverage.</p> <p>HB 290 would require the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to adopt rules to provide two consecutive six-month periods of continued Medicaid services for children younger than 19 years of age. Only a mid-year check would be required to authorize the second six-month period. The HHSC would use electronic income data available to them to determine if the family's household income exceeds the maximum eligible income. If it is determined that the child's household income exceeds the eligibility limit, HHSC would continue to provide coverage for the child and issue the parent/guardian of the child a period of no less than 30 days to provide additional documentation proving otherwise. If documentation is provided and it is proven that the income does not exceed the limit, then HHSC must provide the second consecutive six-month eligibility for the child. If documentation is failed to be provided or documentation does not show that the income is under the maximum income requirement, a written notice of termination must be sent by HHSC to inform the family and include information regarding the child's CHIP eligibility. The notice by HHSC must be developed in collaboration with health care providers, children's healthcare advocates, family members of children enrolled in Medicaid, and other stakeholders to determine the most user-friendly way to notify the child's parent/guardian.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org

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			This change in the month-by-month check-ins for the continuous enrollment model of children on Medicaid to a single, midway yearly check-in would relieve the burden for families to continually provide household income paperwork. A single yearly check-in provides the necessary system checks to maintain eligibility and security for families in knowing their children have access to affordable medical care.	
HB 457 By: Shaheen	Relating to a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county of a portion of the value of the residence homestead of a physician who provides health care services for which the physician agrees not to seek payment from any source, including the Medicaid program or otherwise from this state or the federal government, to county residents who are indigent or who are Medicaid recipients.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Texas has one of the highest rates of uninsured people in the country, and many doctors are leaving Medicaid due to low reimbursement rates: around 70% of doctors are not accepting new Medicaid patients, a huge increase from around 30% just 20 years ago. HB 457 provides an innovative solution to improving healthcare access in Texas by allowing counties to offer property tax exemptions of up to 50% of the appraised residence homestead value for doctors treating uninsured patients. County commissioner's courts can opt in to providing this exemption under the requirement that a physician must provide health care services to residents who are indigent or Medicare recipients and not seek payment from any source. The commissioner's court would specify requirements to qualify for the exemption, which can be expressed as number of uninsured patients seen or percentage of a physician's total practice. The commissioner's court retains the ability to require documentation from physicians for the exemption and the ability to revoke the exemption. Inspired by Project Access, a program in which a network of over 150 volunteer physicians provides services to the uninsured, HB 457 seeks to provide incentives for doctors to treat the uninsured while reducing the cost of uncompensated care and emergency room use. This bill is the enabling legislation for HJR 25 by Shaheen.	Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 133 By: Rose Thompson, Senfronia Walle Thierry	Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women after a pregnancy.	Human Services Vote: 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The 83rd Texas Legislature established the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (MMMRC) in response to the high number of deaths related to postpartum factors in Texas. According to the 2020 MMMRC and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, nearly 40% of maternal death cases reviewed from 2013 in Texas were pregnancy related and a majority could have been prevented. One factor identified to be contributing to these deaths is a lack of comprehensive health coverage for postpartum women. HB 133 would extend the period of time Medicaid coverage is provided to a woman who is eligible for medical assistance for pregnant women from the current 60 days to no less than 1 year from the date the woman gives birth or has an involuntary miscarriage. This extension of the coverage period would provide new mothers with the comprehensive medical coverage they often need after the birth of their child, a change that would benefit children as well as the mother.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 2090 By: Burrows Oliverson Frank	Relating to health care cost disclosures by health benefit plan issuers and third-party administrators.	Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	In 2020, the White House required hospitals to disclose negotiated rates, cost estimates, and publication of out-of-pocket costs with insurers. While hospitals are required to comply, many engage in tactics that prevent consumers from accessing the information. In 2009, the Legislature required similar transparency measures to be shared with providers, but not with enrollees. This comes as health care costs are rising due to significant increases in pricing and variation of service prices rather than overall utilization. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, 56% of people experienced insurance delays, while 1-in-3 of those who skip appointments do so because of cost uncertainties. Currently, there is no codification of federal transparency laws in Texas. Since 2007, Texas has required no more than 10-days to provide information to enrollees that are often done within 24-hours. Although the state has regulations that essentially prohibit comparing costs of quality for providers, HB 2090 aims to apply aspects of federal laws to	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>enrollees by creating a chapter dedicated to health care costs transparency in the Insurance Code that provides more information and lower-cost options with financial incentives for shopping. The bill requires real, provider-specific information through machine-readable files for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates in-network providers for all covered items and services • Period specific billed charges and allowed amounts for out-of-network providers • Network rates and historical net prices for all covered prescription drugs at the pharmacy level <p>In order to inform consumers of lower-cost options and shopping, cost-sharing information must be available through online tools and physical copies upon request. Employers who provide benefits can receive incentives by smart shopping behaviors to bring down overall costs.</p> <p>The bill lays out general provisions requiring health plan providers and third-party administrators to disclose certain information to enrollees generally, upon request, and to the public. HB 2090 authorizes the Texas Department of Insurance to make rules in the future on aspects that are needed and not addressed within this bill. Despite the costs associated with creating this system, the bill will help employers and insured Texans by allowing enrollees to see the negotiated rates between providers and plans and to make more price-informed healthcare decisions.</p> <p>HB 2090 further authorizes the Texas Department of Insurance to make rules in the future on aspects that are needed and not addressed within this bill. This bill will help employers and insured Texans by providing tools and information to help make informed medical care decisions.</p>	
<p>HB 3810</p> <p>By: Hunter Canales Morrison Lucio III Middleton</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association to raise premium rates on association policies.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The 86th Legislature required the examination and creation of funding structures to control rates for the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA). The TWIA board has 9-members - 3 inland, 3 coastal, and 3 insurers - that are required to vote on raising insurance rates. Currently, for TWIA to raise premium rates on policyholders, the board is required to have a majority vote. Before voting, the public has the right to express concerns, and reports indicate that TWIA has misinformed the public, failed to ask for recommendations from the actuary committee, and conducted motions without the majority of the board being present.</p> <p>HB 3810 removes provisions that allowed TWIA to use rates filed without prior approval if the filed rate does not exceed 105% of the rate in effect on the date which the filing is made or reflect changes for an individual rating class higher than 10% of the current rate. It adds that TWIA may not file or use filed rates without prior approval that exceed current rates unless two-thirds of the board votes to approve.</p> <p>HB 3810 creates mechanisms for rate control, making the process more deliberate and ensuring equitable representation, impacting all Texans. For those on the coast, the bill allows residents to maintain quality of life, home, or businesses ownership by repairing damage.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 695</p> <p>By: Martinez Canales Muñoz, Jr. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a public law school in the Rio Grande Valley</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Rio Grande Valley (RGV) is severely underserved for legal services, with over 800 Texans per 1 lawyer. Considering the population growth of the RGV as well its location on the border of Texas, there are considerably significant needs for legal advocacy and services. The establishment of a law school will allow for residents of that area or from other areas in the state to seek an education and then stay to serve the area.</p> <p>HB 695 will allow a governing board of a university system to establish and operate a law school in Cameron or Hidalgo counties. HB 695 will provide the framework and codify the necessary structural systems for the creation and operation of the law school as well as prepare a feasibility study. HB 695 will prohibit the appropriation of state funds</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>to the law school until or before August 31, 2027. HB 695 will serve a vital function of expanding available legal services for the residents of the RGV and educational access.</p>	
<p>HB 816 By: Krause Collier Murr Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a commission to review certain penal laws of this state and to make certain recommendations regarding those laws, to criminal offenses previously compiled in statutes outside the Penal Code, to repealing certain of those offenses, and to conforming punishments for certain of those offenses to the penalty structure provided in the Penal Code; increasing the punishment for the criminal offenses of sedition, sabotage, and capital sabotage; imposing a civil penalty</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 816 implements recommendations from a commission created to address laws outside of the Penal Code in which you could be held criminally liable. It establishes a new nine-member commission with the intention to study and review laws that are outside of the Penal Code that hold criminal liability and changes penalty structures for certain offenses outside of the Penal Code. The bill does not create any new offenses but repeals certain provisions no longer necessary in the Penal Code. While also transferring other provisions outside of the Penal Code into the Penal Code in order to align penalties with the severity of the crime committed. This bill also increases penalties for the crimes of sedition, sabotage, and capitol sabotage.</p> <p>HB 816 lays out the recommendations made by the commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfers from the Business & Commerce Code to the Penal Code provisions relating to a pyramid promotional scheme and to identity theft by an electronic device. • Transfers from the Government Code to the Penal Code provisions establishing the offenses of sedition and sabotage and amends them to be second degree felonies, removing the current specified punishments. • Amends the Government Code to remove the county jail confinement punishment for a thrashing pecans offense, which occurs when a person causes pecans to fall from a tree with authorization. • Amends the Local Government Code to change the penalty for violating a courthouse parking lot rule in certain counties from a misdemeanor punishable by a fine between \$1 and \$20 to a Class C misdemeanor. • Amends the Natural Resources Code to change the penalty for unauthorized herding and line-riding from a fine between \$100 and \$1,000 and county jail confinement to a Class C misdemeanor. The bill categorizes a violation of provisions relating to the control of oil property as a third-degree felony and decreases the penalty for criminal offenses relating to certain oil tanker vehicle cargo documents. • Amends the Occupations Code to remove the specification that a person commits a separate offense for each day they violate the prohibition against practicing or claiming to practice dentistry without a license. The bill decreases the penalty for a violation of current law requiring registration of a dental laboratory and relating to filling certain dental-related prescriptions but enhances the penalty for a repeated conviction of those offenses to a third-degree felony. The bill decreases the penalty for the unlawful appointment or employment of individuals with certain convictions as a peace officer or reserve law enforcement officer, public security officer, telecommunicator, or county jailer. • Changes the penalty for committing a frivolous claim offense relating to auctioneers from a Class B misdemeanor to a civil penalty. The bill removes jail confinement as a possible penalty for certain violations related to excessive hotel lodging rates but maintains their status as a misdemeanor punishable by a fine. The bill repeals several provisions creating offenses for individuals practicing certain activities without a required license, registration, or certificate, including acts related to acupuncture, brokerage, appraisal, auctioneering, operating a health spa, or engaging in business as a residential rental locator. It further repeals provisions that create offenses or establish penalties for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ violating provisions relating to chiropractors. ○ certain activities of land surveyors under the Professional Land Surveying Practices Act. ○ certain conduct relating to the sale of secondhand business machines. ○ creating an offense relating to theaters and their discrimination against reputable productions. ○ overcharging for parking a vehicle in a lot in connection with a special event; and ○ engaging in certain prohibited practices relating to personnel services. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Brittany Sharp 210-748-0646 Brittany@TexasLSG.org</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends the Penal Code to include capital sabotage as conduct constituting a capital murder offense. The bill includes interference with the operation of a foundation school program requirement as a felony tampering with a governmental record offense. Amends the Tax Code to decrease the penalty for certain offenses related to cigarette taxes and possession of tobacco products but enhances the penalty for a subsequent conviction of those applicable offenses. Amends the Utilities Code to decrease the penalty for a person who knowingly violates the Public Utility Regulatory Act or the Gas Utility Regulatory Act. Amends the Business & Commerce Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Government Code to make conforming changes. <p>HB 816 repeals the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcoholic Beverage Code provisions prohibiting the possession or display of certain indecent graphic material on premises licensed under that code Business & Commerce Code provisions establishing criminal penalties for certain deceptive trade practices, for the unlawful sale of returnable containers, and for the prohibited use of crime victim or motor vehicle accident information Labor Code provisions creating offenses relating to restrictions on the length of hoe handles Revised Statutes provisions relating to free pass transportation law, reduced transportation rates for officers, an offense for discrimination against a person seeking employment on account of participation in a strike, and an offense for peddling certain printed matter Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes provisions relating to penalties for conducting certain activities near a certain superconducting super collider facility 	
<p>HB 1105</p> <p>By: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to unenforceable restrictive covenants related to swimming pool enclosures.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Digital license plates were approved for use in commercial and governmental fleets in 2019. HB 1105 would allow digital license plates to be placed on the rear of passenger vehicles as well. These specialty plates are manufactured by Reviver Auto for a purchase price to the vehicle owner of \$499. Each digital license plate is equipped with a Radio Frequency ID chip and GPS capabilities. This technological advancement could assist law enforcement, enforce toll road compliance, and create a new revenue stream for the specialty license plates. Drivers would still be required to use a metal plate on the front of the vehicle and purchase a state registration sticker.</p> <p>The initial cost to the state to expand the usage of digital plates is estimated to be \$362,000 for fiscal year 2021. Around \$20,000 in revenue is estimated to be created each year following.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1057</p> <p>By: Oliverson Shaheen Parker Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to designating November 7 as Victims of Communism Day.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation was authorized by Congress and signed into law during the Clinton Administration to bring awareness about the atrocities committed against millions of people. A bill to designate a Memorial Day for those who died under communism and has been passed in many states.</p> <p>HB 1057 would designate November 7th as Victim of Communism Day to remember the victims of communist regimes. It would encourage further education and awareness of the history of communism.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen 832-302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p>HB 1172</p> <p>By: Howard Tinderholt Harless Neave White</p>	<p>Relating to the rights of victims of sexual assault or other prohibited sexual conduct.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Governor’s Sexual Assault Survivor Task Force submits biennial policy recommendations to the Legislature based on interim research studying the experiences of sexual assault survivors. Based on these recommendations, HB 1172 updates and clarifies certain rights of survivors of sexual assault and other sexual offenses to improve their interactions with the criminal justice system.</p> <p>First, it prohibits peace officers or state attorneys from ordering a polygraph exam of an individual alleging sexual assault or related offenses. Currently these tests are not required, but this provision further removes the option altogether. Second, HB 1172 repeals the authority for law enforcement agencies to decline to request a forensic medical exam for survivors of sexual assault, which current law allows for reasons related to unjustified presumptions of dishonesty or a determination that a forensic exam is not conducive to an investigation. These two provisions address practices that communicate to survivors that they are regarded with suspicion, which is known to be a significant deterrent to reporting sexual assault.</p> <p>Current law requires a peace officer to request a forensic medical exam of a survivor of sexual assault with their consent if they report within 96 hours of the assault, and this bill increases that period to 120 hours.</p> <p>Finally, the bill guarantees adult survivors reporting sexual assault, including those who are assaulted while incarcerated, the opportunity to have an advocate, crime victim liaison, or other representative present during an interview with law enforcement to provide counseling and support services, which already must be offered prior to a forensic medical exam. For cases outside of penal institutions, an advocate or counselor’s organization must cover the cost of their services.</p> <p>These provisions are an outgrowth of recommendations from the governor’s Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force, responding to concerns that many survivors do not report their assaults or feel retraumatized by interactions with law enforcement. Having access to support services and removing certain discouraging practices may motivate survivors to come forward and stay engaged in the process.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 404</p> <p>By: Hernandez Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to sexual assault and domestic violence awareness continuing education for cosmetology license holders.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedure</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>This past year has seen a marked increase in domestic violence and sexual assault cases despite many prevention efforts aimed at educating the public and identifying victims who may need support. The relationship cosmetologists maintain with their clients and the environment of salons could be an important point of impact to help domestic violence victims and create awareness of resources. As a result, many other states have adopted new requirements that cosmetology license applicants must provide a certificate of sexual assault and domestic violence awareness training.</p> <p>HB 404 requires domestic violence and sexual assault awareness training as continuing education for cosmetology license holders, directing the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules by March 1st, 2022. Creating more awareness of domestic violence empowers cosmetologists to support their clients who may be survivors.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 394</p> <p>By: Moody Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to Texas Lottery Commission rules on lottery game drawings.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedure</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Texas law currently allows lottery drawings Monday through Saturday but prohibits lottery game draws on Sundays. This seemingly arbitrary rule limits state lottery revenue and impacts small businesses by limiting their ability to sell lottery draws on a weekend day when they might see increased foot traffic in their establishments.</p> <p>HB 394 directs the Texas Lottery Commission to adopt rules permitting Sunday lottery game drawings no later than January 1st, 2022. Following established procedure for the rest of the days of the week, it is assumed that the agency would perform four draws on Sundays for the daily games Pick 3 with Fireball, Daily 4 with Fireball, Cash Five, and All or Nothing. Following launch, TLC projects that sales could reach \$18.7 million in the five remaining months of</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>

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		0 Absent	FY 2022 and then \$54.4 million per year from FY 2023 to 2026, of which an estimated \$6.1 million would be transferred to the Foundation School Fund in the first fiscal year and \$21.6 million each year after. Allowing additional draws on Sundays is beneficial for small business owners and would increase funding to the State and the Foundation School Fund (FSF).	
HB 2723 By: Meyer Shine Button	Relating to public notice of the availability on the Internet of property-tax-related information.	Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Property tax information is posted by appraisers on several different websites. The many names for the websites are reported to cause confusion for taxpayers, which is made worse by taxpayers only receiving one postcard a year with website information. Many people confuse this postcard with spam mail and throw it away or are unsure what it means. To remedy this confusion, HB 2723 creates one uniform website for taxpayers to access property tax information and requires the website address to be Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes. Databases will be created categorically for different types of property taxes, instructions must be provided assisting taxpayers in determining which database contains their property information, and chief appraisers will be required to input and maintain property tax information. Certain property tax-related public notices must include the link to the new website, including tax rate increase notices, tax estimate notices, meeting notices related to property taxes, and public hearing on property tax increase notices. HB 2723 creates uniformity in how taxpayers can access online information regarding their property taxes.	Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 2039 By: Talarico Ramos Turner, Chris Beckley	Relating to persons authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony.	Juvenile Justice and Family Issues 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	In current law, imams are not included as approved individuals able to perform marriage ceremonies. This restricts the ability for Muslims to have their religious leaders perform the ceremony and have it be recognized by state law. HB 2039 will rectify this by adding Muslim imams to the list of individuals able to perform a marriage ceremony. By adding this language, Texas would be recognizing the cultural significance and give dignity to the Muslim marriage ceremony.	Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
HB 2080 By: Leman Meyer Thierry Jetton Hefner	Relating to taxpayers' suits.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Under current law, taxpayers pursuing lawsuits over disputed taxes are required to pay the protested amount in full before filing. This pay-to-play system restricts the ability of many Texans to file tax lawsuits, particularly imposing a great financial burden on those who cannot afford the amount. HB 2080 establishes a new form of taxpayer protest lawsuit in which the disputed amount is not required to be paid prior to filing. It makes several clarifications to the law governing how taxpayers bring suit against the state when protesting deficiency or jeopardy terminations and suits after protest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under any law, attorney's fees cannot be awarded in a suit against the state relating to the protest for any reason of taxes, fees, or penalties imposed or collected. • Petitioners would no longer be authorized to include additional taxes paid under protest before a hearing in petitions • A person bringing suit would not be required to pay additional taxes under protest as they become due during the appeal of the trial court judgement involved in the suit. • In any redetermination lawsuit or suit under protest, the attorney general must represent the Comptroller. A suit after protest is a lawsuit filed against the state to recover taxes paid under protest, and HB 2080 makes the following changes to this process:	Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of the lawsuit is changed to include any tax, penalty, or interest assessed in a deficiency termination • The plaintiff is required to pay the amount assessed and submit a detailed written protest stating each reason for recovering the amount paid. • A uniform deadline is established for submitting protests, which is up to six months after a deficiency determination is finalized. • An exception is removed that allowed protests against franchise tax protests granted filing extensions to be brought after the 91-day deadline. • Officers receiving payments made under protest would no longer be required to send the Comptroller daily reports detailing payments received, lists of people making payments, and written statements that protest payments were made. <p>The bill creates suits of redetermination, which would allow the comptroller to be sued disputing an amount of tax, interest, or penalty assessed in a deficiency or jeopardy determination. The bill outlines provisions relating to the filing of the suit, prohibits intervention in the suit, sets requirements for the original petition and associated records, allows the state to bring a counterclaim, and limits the issues raised on grounds of error in a motion for rehearing. The lawsuit process is outlined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxpayers may file a suit after requesting a redetermination, obtaining one that includes findings by the comptroller of disputed and undisputed amounts, and filing a motion for rehearing of a redetermination that complies with law under the Administrative Procedures Act and states the specific errors and associated disputed amounts. • The person bringing suit must pay the undisputed amount in the motion for rehearing but failing to pay does not affect the court’s ability to consider suit. • The option to pay the disputed amount is provided and the unpaid amount ultimately due in final judgment accrues penalties and interest. • The Comptroller and Attorney General are prohibited from collecting disputed amounts for the duration of a suit but are not prohibited from collecting tax liens. For this reason, the bill also repeals a section allowing suit to prevent the collection of these fees. • Damages may be awarded under state law if the court determines that prohibited collection amounts were disputed solely to delay the tax process. • The suit only applies to a tax liability period considered in the comptroller's redetermination and the suit cannot be re-tried following a final judgement. • The judgment amount refunding disputed taxes, penalties, or interest must be credited against any state tax, penalty, or interest due from the plaintiff. The remainder of the amount not credited must be refunded to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff is entitled to interest on the amount of tax refunded in a judgment that would have been due if the judgement had been ruled in favor of the Comptroller. <p>Removing pay-to-play requirements and creating a new pathway for taxpayers to protest Comptroller decisions would help Texans be afforded the due process they are entitled to.</p>	
<p>HB 787 By: Allen Murr Rodriguez </p>	<p>Relating to conditions of community supervision prohibiting contact with certain persons.</p>	<p>Corrections Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays,</p>	<p>Currently, the judiciary can mandate conditions that prohibit those on parole or in community services - some 629,000 individuals in 2019 - from interacting with individuals that have been impacted by the justice-system or those involved in the system. Although TDCJ’s parole diversion can make exemptions, the law fails to acknowledge that mandated treatment programs are often organized, administered, and attended by the exact individuals they are prohibited from engaging with.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>

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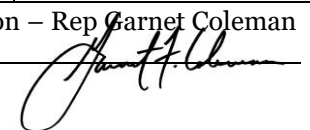


White Sherman, Sr.		0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>HB 787 updates this outdated and counterproductive prohibition in the Code of Criminal Procedure by mandating that the judiciary may not set conditions that prohibit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with organizations, community members, and state or local policy makers that assist justice-involved persons and justice issues Receiving training and participating in programs to assist oneself through advocacy and justice reform <p>The bill maintains current law pertaining to avoidance of those with disreputable character, while excluding those mentioned above that could be perceived as such and does not mention the ability to participate in lawful rallies, marches, or organized public activity.</p> <p>In Texas, intergenerational incarceration is rampant, and HB 787 allows for the reconnection with blood and chosen families. HB 787 mitigates potential consequences of returning to unsuccessful environments by re-emphasizing the value of those with lived experience to lead the way, provide mentorship, promote mutual and peer support.</p>	
HB 465 By: Shaheen	Relating to changing the eligibility for release on parole of certain inmates serving sentences for trafficking offenses involving one or more child victims.	Corrections Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Between 2017 and 2018, 87 arrests and 9 or less incarcerations for human trafficking (HT) offenses occurred, while less than 10 individuals were placed on direct community supervision. In Texas, there are almost 80,000 minor HT victims each year. Many of these minors are targeted and have had experience with sexual abuse as children.</p> <p>HB 465 addresses this by seeking to make inmates serving sentences for trafficking minors ineligible for release of parole for a minimum of 2 years. It requires that upon guilty plea, the defendant, state, and defense attorney must agree, in writing, on eligibility for parole for those with child labor and sex trafficking offenses in the Code of Criminal Procedure.</p> <p>HB 465 is an opportunity to address the revolving cycle of HT arrests and incarcerations by eliminating parole for certain child HT offenses and is another step to end human trafficking in Texas.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
HB 199 By: Ortega Moody González, Mary Fierro Ordaz Perez	Relating to the establishment of a public law school in El Paso County.	Higher Education 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>There is a significant shortage of legal representation in rural areas like El Paso County. For context, overall Texas has 1 lawyer for every 277 Texans, while El Paso County has 1 lawyer for every 656 due to the closest law school being 260 miles away.</p> <p>HB 199 will allow a governing board of a university system to establish and operate a law school in El Paso County. HB 199 will provide the framework and codify the necessary structural systems for the creation and operation of the law school as well as prepare a feasibility study HB 199 is a significant step forward in expanding legal services in El Paso and supporting our border communities.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
HB 1407 By: Schaefer	Relating to the carrying of a handgun by a license holder in a motor vehicle.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>License to Carry (LTC) permits allow gun owners certified through specialized training to lawfully carry firearms in many places that the average citizen cannot. An LTC holder is still obligated to abide by many of the same rules as non-licensed gun owners, thus licensees can still be charged for unlawfully carrying a handgun by intentionally displaying a firearm if their weapons are not holstered correctly in a vehicle.</p> <p>HB 1407 creates an exception to the unlawful carrying of a handgun offense as applied to LTC holders intentionally displaying a handgun by adding that handguns in vehicles are not required to be on an LTC holder's person in a vehicle if the weapon is in a holster.</p> <p>This bill raises serious concerns related to gun safety guidelines that do not recommend unsecured holstered weapons in vehicles due to a potential safety risk for other passengers, particularly children. Though the bill makes an</p>	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org



			exception for LTC holders as it relates to the unlawful carrying of a firearm by intentionally displaying a handgun in a vehicle, LTC holders could still be charged with other violations related to not appropriately holstering a weapon in a vehicle. If the intent of HB 1407 is to protect law-abiding LTC holders from arrest for minor offenses, this bill in isolation does not accomplish that.	
HB 773 By: VanDeaver	Relating to indicators of achievement under the public-school accountability system.	Public Education Votes: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Perkins V (Strengthening CTE for the 21st Century Act) is a federal program intended to strengthen Career and Technology Education (CTE) by offering programs of study. Programs of study include coherent sequences of courses, industry-based certifications, and work-based learning. The Local Education Agency (LEA) must provide at least one CTE program of study to receive Perkins's funding. Texas currently meets federal requirements (Perkins V) by offering programs of study, however, schools do not receive credit for providing them in the statewide A-F accountability system for delivering the same program of study. HB 773 would add an indicator for evaluating the performance of a high school campus aligning the state and federal indicators to add an indicator for evaluating high school performance of high school campus and districts which would align to the statewide accountability system for high school students who complete a career program in career for technical education. HB 773 would incentivize other districts to provide qualifying programs strengthening CTE, increasing students' options. This bill will increase student access to good jobs.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen 832-302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
HB 1856 By: Hefner White Metcalf Raymond Slawson	Relating to carrying and storing a firearm for firearm ammunition by a hotel guest.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	In Texas, hotels are permitted to create policies restricting guns on their property and are required to post notice regarding these policies. Gun owners wishing to transport their weapons in and out of hotel rooms must check to ensure they book a hotel allowing the presence of firearms. HB 1856 prohibits Texas hotels from adopting policies restricting guns in rooms. Hotel is defined to include a hotel, motel, inn, or lodging with 10 or more rooms. The bill creates several defenses to prosecution so that people cannot be charged for trespass, criminal trespass, or criminal trespass by an LTC or Concealed Carry holder for transporting weapons into hotel rooms. Since the 2017 Las Vegas shooting in which the perpetrator transported over 22 firearms to his hotel room before open firing on a music festival, many hotels are very apprehensive to allow weapons in rooms. Private sector businesses should have the authority to determine whether or not weapons are permitted on their premises. Many hotels already permit weapons to be stored in hotel rooms, meaning gun owners are not limited in their choice of lodging, thus the law should remain unchanged.	Unfavorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 1796 By: Harris	Relating to the division of and assumption of road district authority by fresh water supply districts.	Natural Resources Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent	Fresh water supply districts (FWSDs) are political subdivisions typically created by petitioning and gaining approval from a county commissioners court and are responsible for conserving and distributing water within a community. Their elected boards may, with voter approval, issue taxes or bonds to pay for operation and maintenance expenses. Certain FWSDs in or near large counties and cities can, following an election ordered by its board, assume the authority and functions of a road district. These functions, mainly building and maintaining roads, may otherwise be overseen by municipal utility districts (MUDs). However, MUDs must seek road district authority from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or the legislature, either of which might create these districts, while FWSDs have a greater degree of local control. HB 1796 opens up the ability for all fresh water supply districts to assume road district authority following an election. The bill allows a district to begin more quickly and efficiently managing its public roads potentially at a higher standard than provided by the county, only issuing bonds, or extending its credit for road projects with permission from voters (though, currently and in this bill, the district's governing body may without additional approval agree to a contract to reimburse the construction of a private road to be transferred to public use). The bill	Favorable Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org

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			also maintains FWSDs’ authorization to, by election, be divided into 2 districts so long as they have no outstanding bonded debt and are not levying ad valorem taxes, which can be beneficial for rapidly growing communities.	
HB 1472 By: Bucy	Relating to the eligibility of the Concacaf Gold Cup for funding under the Major Events Reimbursement Program.	Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The Major Events Reimbursement Program (MERP) allows local governments and local organized committees to be reimbursed for certain eligible costs associated with significant events. Under MERP, the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Gold Cup is not eligible for reimbursement. Every two years, the CONCACAF holds the “CONCACAF Gold Cup,” the federation’s flagship soccer competition featuring the best national teams from the region. Austin Football Club has a bid to host the “CONCACAF Gold Cup” in July and has a strong chance of winning the bid. According to Travis County, hosting this event would positively impact the local economy and the state. HB 1472 seeks to add CONCACAF Gold Cup to the list of events eligible for funding under MERP. Adding the CONCACAF to MERP will assist Travis County in preparing for and conducting the event and bring Texas into the national stage in professional competitive soccer.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen 832-302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
HB 2607 By: Talarico Button	Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards regarding the provision of childcare and the subsidized childcare program.	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	The Texas Rising Star program is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system for childcare providers participating in the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) subsidized childcare program. Currently, the rating system consists of three levels of quality certification (2, 3, and 4-star) to encourage childcare and early learning programs to progressively reach higher levels of quality. The higher level of star rating, the more money providers receive for children in the subsidy program. Childcare providers who participate in the subsidized program are not required to participate in the Texas Rising Star rating program. Concerns have been raised that the voluntary approach to participating in the program has created a subsidized childcare system that does not provide quality childcare or use taxpayer funds adequately. HB 2607 would require childcare providers participating in the subsidized childcare program to participate in Texas Rising Star. A phase-in approach with an entry-level rating would be used to bring in subsidy providers currently not participating. Providers must meet minimum quality standards to qualify to receive technical assistance and support. As an incentive for providers to raise their quality rating, the entry-level rating would have a maximum length of time a provider may participate at the entry-level rating. Using data collected and provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), during an annual evaluation process TWC would assess the number of 3 & 4-star rated childcare providers that partners with public school districts and public charter schools. TWC would also assess the number of reserved spots for certain participants authorized under child-care provider contracts as reserved by each local contracting board. HB 2607 also requires each local development board to inform local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to partner with local child-care providers to expand facilities providing Pre-K. Childcare providers contracting with local development boards would be allowed to identify and refer children who could be eligible for subsidized child-care services and determine if they are a member of a priority group. These changes to the Texas Rising Star rating program would provide a clear timeline and professional support that is necessary to the quality of subsidized child-care provided in Texas. By requiring TEA to collect and share data regarding Pre-K Partnership agreements with TWC, better informed efforts to identify barriers and enhance partnerships for more successful Pre-K outcomes. Allowing providers to identify children in their own communities in need of subsidized child-care not only strengthens the relationships within the local community but allows providers flexibility for greater stability within their service.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 2941	Relating to the appointment of	Ways & Means	An Appraisal Review Board (ARB) is a group of appointed officials authorized to resolve disputes between taxpayers and the appraisal district. In counties with populations less than 120,000, the appraisal district Board of Directors	Favorable Evaluated by:

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By: Burns	appraisal review board members.	Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>appoints ARB members. Some taxpayers have expressed concerns regarding the potential for bias and conflicts of interest when ARB members are appointed by an appraisal district's Board of Directors. Tax appraisers have expressed their support for maintaining a greater separation between appraisal districts and ARBs.</p> <p>HB 2941 removes the population requirement so that all ARB members are appointed or removed by county administrative district judges state-wide, regardless of population size. In instances where multiple counties consolidate an ARB, the administrative district judges are to jointly appoint or remove ARB members. This bill only applies to board members elected to terms beginning after January 1st, 2022.</p> <p>Changing the method for appointing ARB members has the potential to foster more public trust in the tax appraisal system.</p>	Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 54 By: Talarico White Israel Bucy Patterson	Relating to accompanying and filming peace officers of state and local law enforcement agencies for producing reality television programs.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>During filming for the reality show <i>Live PD</i> in March of 2019, Javier Ambler was stopped by officers in a non-violent confrontation. He was repeatedly tased despite informing officers of a heart condition, and ultimately died as a result. This case creates concern that filming police for a reality show blurs the discernment between entertainment and reality.</p> <p>Also known as Javier Ambler's Law, HB 54 seeks to address this by prohibiting law enforcement agencies from allowing a reality television program to accompany and film a peace officer while in the line of duty. The bill specifies that the definition of a reality television program does not include reporting on a matter of public concern, such as a news program, documentary, or journalistic project.</p> <p>HB 54 would further emphasize that policing is not entertainment and help restore trust between peace officers and the communities they serve.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 379 By: Smith	Relating to changing the eligibility for parole of certain inmates serving a sentence for the offense of online solicitation of a minor.	Corrections Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Online solicitation occurs when an actor knowingly contacts a minor with the intention of securing sexual contact, intercourse, or deviate sexual intercourse for a buyer or themselves, even if "an actual meeting" with the minor does not occur. The offense is a second-degree felony, subject to an optional fine and 2- to 20-years sentence. Currently, judicial discretion sometimes allows those who are convicted for such acts to remain eligible for felony direct community supervision (FDCS) or for release through parole supervision without serving their 2-year sentence</p> <p>HB 379 ensures that those convicted of online solicitation are not released on parole before a minimum of 2 years. HB 379 ensures the protection of victims for at least 2-years so that these dangerous and often violent individuals do not return to their communities to continue exploitation or human trafficking enterprises.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
HB 918 By: Leman White Slawson Hefner Schaefer	Relating to a license to carry a handgun for certain young adults who are protected under certain court orders related to family violence.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>In cases of domestic violence or predatory behavior such as stalking, victims are often granted protective orders for their safety. In some tragic cases, protective orders are not treated seriously by police officers and predatory behavior escalates with little consequence or perpetrators ignore protective orders to claim the lives of people meant to be protected.</p> <p>HB 918 allows people over 18 but under 21 to obtain a License to Carry (LTC) after receiving a protective order under the code of criminal procedure chapter for victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence, stalking, or trafficking. When applying for an LTC, eligible applicants would need to provide a copy of the court order and meet all existing requirements including a background check, fingerprinting, passing approved training courses, and demonstrating handgun proficiency to an authorized LTC instructor. People under 21 who meet current LTC requirements would receive a protective order designation on their physical license. The designation would only be valid for the duration of the court order, and LTC holders with this designation would be required to carry a copy of their protective order to</p>	Favorable with Concerns Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>present to peace officers in the event of a stop. The bill clarifies that LTC holders with a protective order designation would renew their license through the standard renewal process upon turning 21 regardless of when the permit is set to expire.</p> <p>Allowing the LTC age requirement to be lowered for people at immediate risk of further victimization could empower victims to protect themselves and feel safer while abusers still pose a threat. Concerns are related to potential safety risks for adding a gun into situations with a higher propensity for violence. There are also concerns related to the ability of DPS to process LTC applications in a timely manner. Maintaining all LTC requirements for protective order designations is a good step to ensure this new group of people permitted to handle firearms are adequately trained in gun safety. It is important that proper safeguards are kept in place upon passage of this bill.</p>	
<p>HB 1262 By: Bowers</p>	<p>Relating to training for certain peace officers regarding trauma-informed techniques to facilitate interactions with homeless individuals.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Research indicates over 27,000 individuals in Texas experience homelessness, including families, veterans, and at least 4,000 children under 18. Housing insecurity often precedes or causes trauma and mental illness. Law enforcement agencies can help reduce incarceration and recidivism rates among unhoused Texans through intervening with social and mental health services before contact with the criminal justice system. However, there is not currently a statewide training curriculum empowering peace officers with the necessary knowledge and tools for approaching unhoused individuals.</p> <p>HB 1262 would create a continuing education course to train peace officers on trauma-informed techniques and resources. Peace officers employed by an agency that has over 25 residents who experience a chronic lack of housing would be required to attend this training within the first two years of employment at the agency. The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) will inform and require agencies to participate in the training every 48-month cycle.</p> <p>This training would not have a significant impact on the state budget. Facilitating resources and services in a trauma-informed way will actively reduce the number of jailed Texans by addressing root causes of housing insecurity. In addition to providing peace officers with much-needed resources, this training would help to build trust between law enforcement and unhoused communities.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 80 By: Johnson, Jarvis</p>	<p>Relating to the discharge by certain defendants of fines and costs through community services.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, the number of children in the foster care system is increasing. In the past decade, 11,000 children entered the foster care system. It is not uncommon for children within the foster care system to also be involved in the juvenile court system and accrue court costs and fees. These debts are for these children and make them more likely to reoffend than their debt-free peers.</p> <p>HB 80 will prohibit a justice of the peace or a municipal judge from issuing fees to foster youth under conservatorship with DFPS or young adults in extended foster care. Instead, judges will be able to replace the issuance of fees for the completion of community service hours when deemed appropriate. This will eliminate accrued debt as well as provide a positive alternative in place of penalization.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>

