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LSG Floor Report for MAJOR STATE Calendar– Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 636 By: Thompson, Senfronia Paddie Lambert Hernandez Geren	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners; authorizing a fee.	Licensing and Administrative Procedure Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) underwent the Sunset Review process in the 86th legislature. The legislature could not reach consensus regarding recommendations that the board be moved under the supervision of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, which resulted in Governor Abbott temporarily extending TSBPE for two years.</p> <p>HB 636 continues the TSBPE as a stand-alone agency, enacts statutory changes to streamline plumbing regulation and increase licensed plumbers in Texas, and sets the next Sunset Review expiration date on September 1st, 2027. The bill authorizes TSBPE to implement the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An examination required for issuance of license must be developed with a written component that can be administered online or in person, and a practical component that one or more plumbing examiners must be hired or contracted to administer. • An agreement must be entered with DPS for purposes of implementing fingerprint-based criminal history record checks for license applicants. TSBPE and DPS are authorized to obtain information and collect associated costs from applicants. This information must be obtained from current and future licensees no later than September 1, 2023, and fingerprint information is expected from all license holders by September 1, 2025. TSBPE may suspend a license for failure to provide necessary information • Non-renewable temporary licenses valid for 30 days may be issued and temporary licensees are held to all applicable laws and regulations. • Provides annual renewal of various plumbing endorsements at the same time as license renewal, with certain endorsement exceptions. • Minimum curriculum standards for courses and instructors must be developed with credit for courses being contingent on executive director approval. • Rules must be adopted ensuring licensees complete at least six hours of continuing education annually within a twelve-month period. 	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760) 429-8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are repealed for the attorney general to represent TSBPE in any action to enforce the law. Grounds for disciplinary action are authorized to include attempting to obtain a license, endorsement, or registration through fraud, performing plumbing without proper licensure, and performing plumbing in violation of certain adopted plumbing codes. • Priorities and procedures must be assigned for conducting onsite license checks to determine compliance based on criteria related to degree of potential harm and history of previous violations. • Information regarding disciplinary action against licensees must be made publicly available. • Criteria for plumbing investigations are amended to include history of previous violations and any other indication of increased risk to public health, safety, or property. • Procedures for conducting an informal settlement conference must identify types of complaints in which such a process might be used, and appropriate documentation is required of each informational settlement conference including outcomes. <p>These changes are a result of interim work with TSBPE and other key stakeholders to ensure Sunset Review concerns are addressed in a manner that also allows the TSBPE to remain a standalone agency. Giving TSBPE more regulatory oversight and streamlining the efficiency of the agency preserves the integrity of the plumbing industry to keep Texas safe and sanitary.</p>	
<p>HB 1575 By: Cyrier</p>	<p>Relating to certain provisions applicable to state agencies subject to review by the Sunset Advisory Commission.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Every biennium, the Sunset Commission makes recommendations to improve state agencies under review, which can be specific to one agency or may apply “across the board” (ATB). HB 1575 codifies several ATB recommendations concerning agencies’ policymaking bodies, conflicts of interest, and complaint procedures to apply uniformly to all agencies subject to sunset review. These policies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barring those with financial or professional conflicts of interest from public membership on an agency’s policy making body • Barring lobbyists for an industry regulated by the agency or those with ties to related trade associations from membership on a policymaking body or particular positions in the agency • Authorizing the governor to designate each policy making body’s presiding officer • Establishing uniform grounds for removal of a member of a policymaking body and a process for notifying the appropriate authority of such grounds • Requiring that members of policymaking bodies undergo training prior to serving and that each executive agency head create a training manual • Having policymaking bodies establish a clear separation of their duties from those of agency staff • Providing the public reasonable opportunity to speak before the policymaking body on issues related to the agency • Requiring the policymaking body to maintain an efficient system to promptly address complaints filed with the agency <p>By establishing across the board good governance standards, this bill would provide Texans with more transparency, accountability, and efficiency from state agencies.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p>HB 1600</p> <p>By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the review date for certain governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>State agencies are subject to the sunset review process or an audit to determine whether or not the agency is fulfilling its purpose efficiently and effectively. If an agency's existence is not renewed in statute, it is abolished at the end of the biennium. HB 1600, known as the "sunset safety net bill," pushes back the date of abolishment from 2021 to 2023 for the 18 agencies reviewed this biennium and pushes back the date of review for the 2 agencies that are subject to review but <i>not</i> abolishment - the Teacher Retirement System's board of trustees and the Brazos River Authority - to maintain the same review schedule as the 18 other agencies. This is standard practice to avoid accidental abolishment or other unintended issues caused by the legislature being unable to pass legislation to prolong the agency's life or to ensure that, if abolished, its duties are properly distributed elsewhere.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1585</p> <p>By: Lambert Canales Paddie Goldman Cyrier</p>	<p>Relating to the operations and functions of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Pension, Investments, & Financial Services</p> <p>Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Teacher Retirement System (TRS) is a constitutionally created trust fund that provides retirement and health benefits to more than 1.6 million members, including active and retired teachers, school support staff, certain higher education professionals, and their dependents. The Sunset Advisory Commission's latest review determined that TRS manages its \$165 billion trust fund well but needs improvement in member services, including improving communication and ensuring that members have the support and information necessary to secure their retirement.</p> <p>HB 1585 seeks to enact Sunset Advisory Commission recommendations aimed at improving administrative services. HB 1585 amends the code to update TRS's Sunset Review date to 2033.</p> <p>HB 1585 requires TRS to develop a communication and outreach plan to help members and employers plan for retirement. This plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survey members and employers in plan development • offer additional options for receiving benefit counseling by phone or in-person at different locations outside of Austin. • update TRS benefit materials to be user-friendly and easy to understand (materials such as handbooks, brochures, and presentations) • improve training for employers on reporting and benefits information needed to plan for retirement. • provide member information about healthcare appeals, including existing external review process for appeals denied by third-party administrators, and ensure that members are aware they may work directly with TRS for assistance navigating the appeals process. <p>HB 1585 adjusts penalties for employment after retirement to reduce the impact on certain TRS retirees who return to work and exceed existing limitations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members who retire after January 1, 2011 and exceed employment limitations after retirement forfeit the lesser of their entire monthly annuity or a dollar-for-dollar reduction equivalent to the amount earned working that month. • Members who retire before January 1, 2011, are exempted from employment after retirement limitations. 	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen 832-302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability benefits are not subjected to any reduction or loss of benefits during the first 90 days of employment but are not eligible for disability benefits for employment beyond 90 days. <p>HB 1585 also requires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TRS to respond to appeals at all levels of staff review within the same amount of time that members have to appeal agency decisions. The TRS Board of Trustees to appoint an ombudsman to monitor the agency’s interactions with the member; investigate complaints; report to the board on member issues and recommend changes to agency operations or better assist members. Ombudsman assists both members and retirees to ensure both active and retired members receive assistance. TRS to make improved efforts to return contributions to inactive members before funds are forfeited. <p>HB 1585 ensures members of the board of trustees of TRS comply with the training program required and complete additional training on the subjects added by HB1585.</p> <p>HB 1585 would enact provisions recommended by the Sunset Advisory Review Board, improving member services to ensure the member receives and understands the information needed to secure their retirement, honoring teachers and education support staff for the years of services they have provided the children of the state.</p>	
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LSG Floor Report for GENERAL STATE Calendar– Tuesday, April 13, 2021

<p>HB 1540</p> <p>By: Thompson, Senfronia Parker Burrows Bell, Keith Morales, Christina</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of certain facilities and establishments with respect to, civil remedies for certain criminal activities affecting, and certain criminal offenses involving health, safety, and welfare; creating a criminal offense; increasing criminal penalties.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1540 is a multifaceted approach with provisions that expand liability protections, improve civil cause of action (CCA) for human trafficking (HT), increase investigatory tools, maintain strict levels of proof for force, fraud, coercion, expand coercion from adult labor and sex trafficking to children, clarifying conduct.</p> <p>The bill adds “drink solicitation” to the Alcohol and Beverage Code, allowing for mandatory temporary denial of renewal for permits and licensure where the state has a reasonable belief that an applicant has engaged in HT activity.</p> <p>Civil Practice and Remedies Code will remove the need for "an arrest" in massage parlor establishments to "reasonable belief." Also, it adds the conduct of "a person" to include those who enter into a contract and tolerate HT. Changes in the bill hold individuals, management, and property owners liable for HT, requiring certain written notices. Within this code, the bill addresses internet and computer network engagement in civil racketeering of HT victims.</p> <p>Code of Criminal Procedure removes the current CCA that requires an element of offense to occur in more than one county, because many incidents occur within a single county. The bill upholds offenses and punishment, ensuring those alleged are barred from operating in general residential areas while</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>
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			<p>maintaining protective precautions where minors are present. These issues are upheld in the Health and Safety Code and include specific properties.</p> <p>Penal Code explicitly forbids the recruitment, enticement, or obtainment of child HT victims from state agencies, residential treatment centers, childcare facilities, and registered foster homes. Furthering proper implementation, the bill increases offenses for remaining on the property, from a Class A to C misdemeanor. Also, requiring “no trespassing” notices to reinforce child safety, gang, and drug-free zones, with applicable penalty enhancements.</p> <p>With nearly 2,000 runaway youths from the Department of Family Protective Services custody in 2019, HB 1540 provides clear legal opportunities to continue protecting children's health, safety, and welfare from further trauma, abuse, and potential exploitation or violence from HT predators.</p>	
<p>HB 789</p> <p>By: Geren Murr Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, tampering with or fabricating any form of physical evidence before or during an investigation is a third-degree felony.</p> <p>In HB 789, tampering or fabricating evidence in a misdemeanor case will classify punishment as a misdemeanor, while such acts in felony cases will remain a felony offense. Prosecutorial and judicial discretion is currently permitted, for those with mental health or substance use concerns.</p> <p>The bill caps penalties at a Class A misdemeanor within the Penal Code, aligning punishment with the original crime. HB 789 would result in a positive financial impact and reduction in resources for carceral, prosecutorial, and judicial systems alike.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1522</p> <p>By: Frank Burrows Frullo Parker Spiller</p>	<p>Relating to the transfer of Midwestern State University to the Texas Tech System, to certain fees charged by the system's governing board, and to mandatory venue for actions brought against that system or its institutions, officers, or employees.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Midwestern State University (MSU) is a public liberal arts university that serves approximately 6,000 students, most of whom are first-generation college students. With increasing administrative demands from the federal level, MSU sought assistance from larger university systems in order to meet these federal expectations while retaining the quality of academics. In 2020, the MSU board of regents and the Texas Tech University (TTU) System approved a memorandum of understanding allowing MSU to join the system. HB 1522 will add MSU to the TTU System, transferring governance, property, legislative appropriations, bond obligations, students, staff, and adopted tuition and fees to the TTU System board of regents.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1325</p> <p>By: Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to the participation of the medical school at</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>In 2001, the Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) was created for the purpose of increasing medical school accessibility for economically disadvantaged students. The program offers scholarships, summer medical internships, MCAT preparation, and travel assistance for admission interviews. HB 1325 will add</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Devan Daniel</p>



	the University of Houston and the college of osteopathic medicine at Sam Houston State University in the Joint Admission Medical Program.	6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 5 Absent	the University of Houston College of Medicine and the Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine to the JAMP. Adding these two colleges will expand the program's ability to provide services and opportunities to more low-income students.	(419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
HB 2225 By: King, T. Guillen	Relating to the powers and duties of the Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the Texas Water Trust.	Natural Resources Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	The Texas Water Trust was established to hold water rights voluntarily dedicated to environmental protection needs for a set period of time or in perpetuity, allowing water rights permit-holders to contribute to conservation efforts - which have important implications for wildlife, outdoor recreation, and water quality - and maintain their usage rights during periods of non-use. However, this program currently only has three permanent participants, in large part related to the fact that no agency is statutorily charged with its promotion. HB 2225 directs the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to encourage and facilitate the voluntary transfer of water rights to the Water Trust for environmental and water quality-related purposes. This would not take authority away from the Texas Water Development Board to govern the Trust or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to manage permits, which typically must be amended to reflect environmental use. Because the TPWD has strong relationships with water rights holders and expertise in water conservation, granting it authority to promote the Trust would encourage program growth and preserve state-owned natural resources to the benefit of water rights holders and the public.	Favorable Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org
HB 1792 By: Button Talarico Raney Thompson, Senfronia Frank	Relating to the evaluation of child-care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program.	International Relation & 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 programs participating in the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) subsidized childcare program. In 2017 TWC conducted a study with the focus to improve the quality rating and improvement system for childcare providers within the Texas Rising Star Program. One of the recommendations that came out of this study was to consolidate assessors to ensure assessment protocols are aligned across the state. HB 1792 would require the TWC to use a competitive procurement process that complies with all federal and state laws, to select a single entity to oversee a statewide roster of qualified assessors to evaluate Texas Rising Star. This evaluation would occur during the initial certification process and at any other time during the provider's participation in the program. HB 1792 would also remove the requirement for each local workforce development board to provide a child development specialist that would serve as an evaluator for the provider during the certification process. This consolidation of assessors would provide a fair, uniform rating system and provide accurate representation of childcare quality.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 2415	Relating to the collection,	Ways & Means	Car-sharing is an emerging trend allowing car owners to rent out their personal vehicles utilizing phone-based platforms such as Turo or Getaround. This practice is not currently defined or delineated by the tax	Favorable Evaluated by:

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<p>By: Meyer Burrows</p>	<p>remittance, and administration of certain taxes on motor vehicles rented through a marketplace rental provider; imposing a penalty.</p>	<p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>code, but the Comptroller has determined that car-sharing platforms are responsible for collecting and remitting certain taxes in the same manner as the traditional vehicle rental industry such as Enterprise. Motor vehicle rental agencies are currently responsible for collecting and remitting a gross rental receipts tax, which is calculated using a percentage based on the length of the rental period.</p> <p>HB 2415 closes a tax loophole in marketplace car rental transactions so that parties utilizing car-sharing platforms are aware of their obligation to collect and remit taxes on gross rental receipts. In the bill marketplace rental provider is anyone who advertises their motor vehicle for rent on any type of marketplace or creates contractual terms through direct communication with a renter, collects receipts or rental charges.</p> <p>This bill creates the same tax for marketplace rental providers as traditional motor vehicle rental providers. Marketplace providers must certify to vehicle owners that they collected and remitted the gross rental receipts tax, or vehicle owners have the option to personally collect and remit the tax after registering as a retailer with the Comptroller and providing the marketplace provider with a notice in writing. Marketplace providers are required to send a monthly report documenting paid gross rental receipt taxes to vehicle owners. Marketplace providers and vehicle owners are also required to pay any short-term vehicle rental taxes imposed by counties or municipalities. Providers must pay a \$50 penalty for failing to remit taxes in a timely manner, and motor vehicle owners must maintain a copy of collected, reported, and remitted taxes for at least four years.</p> <p>HB 2415 delineates the responsibilities of all parties utilizing motor vehicle rental marketplaces, so vehicle owners and marketplace providers better understand their obligation to collect, report, and remit gross rental receipt and local short-term vehicle rental taxes.</p>	<p>Cassidy Kenyon (760) 429-8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1410 By: Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the issuance of bonds by certain conservation and reclamation districts.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Community members in water districts have expressed the importance of maintaining parks, green spaces, and other recreational facilities and the value that they have. Included in water districts are municipal utility districts (MUD). However, the Texas Water Code limits the amount of water district bonds that can be financed for parks and recreational facilities at 1% of the taxable property value of the district. This limit does not apply to other water district improvements such as water, sewage, drainage, and roads.</p> <p>HB 1410 seeks to amend the Texas Water Code by allowing water districts to exceed 1% of the taxable property value to finance recreational facilities if the water district has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A ratio of debt to certified assessed valuation of 10% or less. • A credit rating that conforms to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rules. • A credit enhanced rating on the districts proposed bond issue that conforms to TCEQ rules; or • A contract with a political subdivision under which the political subdivision or the entity agrees to provide to the district taxes or other revenues, as consideration for the district’s development of acquisition of the facility. <p>Upon passage of HB 1410, the proposed tax rate would have to be approved through a local election.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>



			By increasing the percentage that recreation facilities are allocated, this would allow for older MUD's to compete with newer communities that have recreational amenities, which ultimately create a higher home value. This would also expand the ability of a water district to develop more green spaces and parks. Having more of these spaces' accounts for improved erosion control, as well as air and water quality.	
HB 1728 By: Smithee	Relating to partnerships between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and nonprofit entities to promote hunting and fishing by certain veterans.	Culture, Recreation, & Tourism Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	According to the most recent Veteran Affairs report, 17 veterans die by suicide a day nationally. Veterans are 1.5 times more likely to die by suicide than Americans who have never served. Many non-profit organizations help veterans transition to civilian life by supporting their physical and mental health and helping them cope with daily challenges. Non-profit organizations, such as Brother-Sister of our Military, seek to do this by providing hunting and fishing day trips. Currently, you must acquire a hunting or fishing license to hunt or fish in the state of Texas. This statute has been a challenge for organizations that provide hunting and fishing day trips for veterans that do not have a hunting or fishing license. Currently, these nonprofit organizations cover the cost of a hunting or fishing license for any participants who do not already have a fishing or hunting license resulting in a fiscal impact on the organization. HB 1728 would amend the code to authorize the Texas Park and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to partner with one or more nonprofits that exclusively serve veterans who are residents of the state. HB 1728 would require the commission to establish criteria under which the TPWD may select nonprofits partners and guidelines under which participants may engage in hunting or fishing activities. Under HB 1728, TPWD will allow the veteran to hunt or fish for one day without holding a hunting or fishing license if accompanied by a representative of the nonprofit partner who has the appropriate license.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen 832-302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
HB 1049 By: Harless	Relating to the requirement for a deputy sheriff, reserve deputy sheriff, deputy constable, or reserve deputy constable to take an official oath.	County Affairs Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Under current law, deputies commissioned under both sheriffs and constables have an oath of office that expires at the end of the office holder's current term on December 31 at midnight. In many cases, these deputies are not able to take their oath immediately at that time. HB 1049 authorizes a person reappointed as a deputy sheriff, reserve deputy sheriff, or reserve deputy constable to continue to perform the duties of office before retaking the official oath. This bill still requires the person to retake the oath as soon as possible after being reappointed. This change will alleviate stress on overburdened or understaffed agencies and prevent service disruptions.	Favorable Evaluated by: Jenny Catchings (925) 628-0628 Jenny.Catchings_HC@house.texas.gov
HB 569 By: Sanford Rose Thierry White Crockett	Relating to credit toward payment of a fine and costs for certain misdemeanants confined in jail or prison before sentencing.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Currently, when someone has a fine-only offense and becomes incarcerated shortly after for an unrelated Class A or B misdemeanor, they accrue fines that eventually lead to warrants and possible reincarceration. Laws related to the county's recuperation of fines and surcharges upon release are unclear and inconsistent across the state. HB 569 creates consistency for those who served time for unrelated Class A or B misdemeanor offenses to resolve outstanding fines or costs for fine-only offenses by receiving a \$200 credit for each day of	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>confinement, if serving a sentence for another offense. A justice or judge must provide statement that an individual may be entitled to a credit before an arrest warrant may be issued for failure to appear.</p> <p>HB 569 provides an opportunity to standardize the practice for outstanding fine-only offenses and decrease the financial burden upon release.</p>	
<p>HB 1322</p> <p>By: Shaheen Ellzey Jetton Crockett Ordaz Perez</p>	<p>Relating to a summary of a rule proposed by a state agency.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>A state agency is required to give notice of its intention to adopt a new rule by filing with the secretary of state for notice publication in the Texas Register, which is available to the public online or in print. However, there have been concerns that proposed rule changes are difficult for the public to understand because of their high degree of technicality. HB 1322 directs state agencies, when filing notice of a proposed rule change, to include in the filing and to publish on their website or another generally accessible website a brief explanation of the proposed rule, including a short, plain-language summary.</p> <p>Many agencies have rapidly issued rule changes in response to the pandemic that impacted parties had to decipher in real-time. This bill would allow regulated entities and all Texans to better access, understand, and act on agency rule changes as quickly as possible.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 604</p> <p>By: Noble Stucky Buckley Thierry Anderson</p>	<p>Relating to a microchip scan of animals in the custody of an animal shelter or releasing agency, including an animal rescue organization.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 604 amends the Health and Safety Code to require a microchip scan to be performed as soon as possible after an animal is received in a shelter or releasing agency, including animal rescue organizations.</p> <p>This bill will ensure that stolen or lost animals are easily recognizable and can be reunited with their families. It will prevent improper rehoming and, in the worst cases, euthanasia of an animal.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Jenny Catchings (925) 628-0628 Jenny.Catchings_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 544</p> <p>By: Minjarez Murr</p>	<p>Relating to creating a voluntary certification for recovery housing.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Recovery housing has become more prevalent in Texas in response to the continued need for substance use recovery services. However, with the growth of recovery housing, there has been an increase of facilities fraudulently advertising as recovering housing. Illegitimate facilities exacerbate the relapse, injury, or deaths of individuals in recovery.</p> <p>HB 544 aims to address this by creating a voluntary certification process for recovery housing. This will require that the Health and Human Services Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopt a set of standards for certification of recovery housing that aligns with the National Alliance for Recovery Residence. • authorize a credentialing organization(s) to process and review certifications as well as compile data to be released in the HHSC's annual report of certified recovery houses. <p>HB 544 will prohibit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • counties or municipalities from adopting or enforcing regulations that prevent recovery housing operations in a residential community. • a recovery house from advertising false, misleading, or deceptive information 	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a recovery house from soliciting a patient or patronage for or from a person that is licensed, certified, or registered by a state health care regulatory agency. <p>Additionally, HB 544 will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> restrict certain entities from becoming certified recovery housing as well as restrict recovery housing from providing personal care services as outlined in the Assisted Living Facility Licensing Act. establish revocation and enforcement procedures for recovery housing not adhering to standards or not following restriction parameters. <p>Substance use continues to significantly harm Texans. HB 544 creates a structure for recovery housing that will ensure the safety and recovery of Texans, mitigate fraudulent entities, and save Texas money.</p>	
HB 67 By: Toth	Relating to unenforceable restrictive covenants related to swimming pool enclosures.	Business & Industry Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Concerns have been raised regarding property owners' associations and their ability to adopt or enforce prohibitions or restrictions on the installation of swimming pool enclosures. The accidental drowning of a 3-year-old in Houston have led to calls for greater pool safety measures, including removing restrictions on homeowners who want to install pool safety fences to protect their children. Currently, many homeowners are prohibited by their property owner's association from installing swimming pool enclosures.</p> <p>HB 67 seeks to address these concerns by prohibiting a property owners' association from adopting or enforcing measures that prohibit or restrict a property owner from installing a swimming pool enclosure that conform to applicable state or local safety requirements. It does allow property owners' associations to adopt and enforce limitations relating to the appearance of a swimming pool enclosure.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
HB 376 By: Smith	Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of improper sexual activity with a person in custody; increasing a criminal penalty.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Sexual victimization (SV) refers to various behaviors like sexual misconduct, harassment, and abusive sexual contact. When correctional staff and service providers engage in sexual contact with individuals in custody, it is considered non-consensual due to confinement or mandatory participation. Currently, the maximum punishment for this crime is 2 years in state jail, a penalty associated with low-level property and substance use crimes. Even so, the full penalty is rarely enforced, contributing to Texas's high rates of SV in correctional facilities.</p> <p>HB 376 raises the punishment to a second-degree felony, aligning these acts and relationships with other instances where effective consent cannot be given. By removing current language, the bill could address high SV rates in Texas amongst women, those with mental health and substance use concerns, and LGBTQIA+ populations. This change will reflect the seriousness of the crime, align the standards set for sexual offenders, and deter future misconduct perpetrated by these public employees.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org