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### LSG Floor Report for MAJOR STATE Calendar– Thursday, April 15, 2021

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>HB 1927</b>  By: Schaefer   White   Hefner   Guillen   Canales	Relating to provisions governing the carrying of a firearm by a person who is 21 years of age or older and not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law from possessing the firearm and to other provisions related to the carrying, possessing, transporting, or storing of a firearm or other weapon; creating criminal offenses.	Homeland Security and Public Safety  6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The Texas firearm permit system, developed to promote responsible gun ownership and preserve core public safety standards, allows citizens to legally carry weapons in public after meeting certain statutory licensing requirements. Permitless carry describes a code of gun laws in which anyone who is legally capable of purchasing a firearm can carry a weapon with many of the same rights and privileges only accorded to License to Carry (LTC) holders.</p> <p>HB 1927 is a permitless carry bill that would allow citizens 21 and older who can legally possess a firearm to openly carry handguns in non-prohibitive zones. Legally possessing a firearm means meeting the qualifications to purchase a firearm under current law, which will not be changed by this bill, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing a federal background check using the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) system</li> <li>• No felony convictions</li> <li>• No findings of mental incompetence to any degree</li> </ul> <p>Specifications are removed requiring shoulder or belt holsters for carrying weapons in public. A peace officer lawfully discharging official duties may disarm people if they reasonably believe it is necessary for public safety. Peace officers must return weapons before people are discharged from the scene if there is no violation resulting in an arrest or no determination of a threat to the officer, person, or another individual. A peace officer may temporarily disarm people entering a nonpublic, secure portion of a law enforcement facility if the agency provides a locker to securely store the weapon.</p> <p>The bill allows members of criminal street gangs to carry a handgun in public areas if they legally meet requirements to own a firearm, but they cannot carry in a motor vehicle or watercraft. Some people designated as gang members with prior felonies would not meet qualifications to purchase a firearm, thus would not be considered legal handgun carriers under this bill.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org

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		<p>HB 1927 requires that people legally carrying weapons on premises that prohibit firearms or other weapons must be provided an oral verbal notice asking them to depart the property. If they fail to comply, they can then be considered liable for charges related to unlawfully carrying a weapon, but only if the oral verbal notice can be verified. This shifts the burden from law enforcement to private and public establishments. Various aspects of the penal code, including criminal penalties and defenses to prosecution, are revised, and repealed related to unlawfully carrying a handgun: these changes are organized by charge below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECKLESSLY CARRYING A HANDGUN</b></p> <p>Provisions in which handgun license holders intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carrying a handgun are revised to include any person eligible to carry a handgun under the bill. In combination with other repeals made to the Penal Code, this change removes 3rd degree felony enhancements so that intentionally or recklessly carrying a handgun in certain areas would become a Class A misdemeanor. The scope is expanded to include carrying any firearm, club, or prohibited weapon on the following premises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Businesses with alcoholic beverage permits or licenses reporting 51% or more of their onsite consumption sales from alcoholic beverages</li> <li>• Sporting events or interscholastic events at schools, higher education facilities, and professional facilities, unless participants are authorized to use a firearm, club, or prohibited weapon for the purpose of the event</li> <li>• State-licensed hospital or nursing facilities, unless the person has written authorization from those respective administrations</li> <li>• Correctional facilities</li> <li>• Civil commitment facilities</li> <li>• Amusement parks</li> </ul> <p>Absent are churches and other established places of worship, which this bill excludes from prohibited premises as it relates to intentionally or recklessly possessing a weapon.</p> <p>An exemption is created for the application of intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly possessing a weapon in a place where weapons are prohibited if the property owner or someone acting for the owner fails to provide oral notice that carrying a weapon on the property is prohibited. This exemption is not applicable if a handgun carrier receives oral notice and fails to depart.</p> <p>Handgun license holders can no longer be charged with intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly carrying a handgun where governmental entity open meetings are held unless the entity provides the required notice that carrying the handgun is prohibited and the license holder fails to leave.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTENTIONALLY DISPLAYING A HANDGUN</b></p> <p>Provisions in which a handgun license holder intentionally displays a handgun in plain view of another person in a public place are revised to include any person eligible to carry a handgun under the bill, while still including the exception for holstered firearms. The following provisions are repealed:</p>	
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- The defense to prosecution in which certain prohibited conduct involving the unlawful carrying of a handgun on the premises of an institution of higher education or certain areas belonging to such an institution in which an actor displayed the handgun in circumstances justifying the use of force or deadly force
- An exemption making it an offense for a handgun license holder to carry a handgun on certain premises for license holders participating in a historical reenactment in compliance with TABC rules

**CRIMINAL TRESPASS**

HB 1927 establishes a Class C misdemeanor for a criminal trespass offense, which would be punishable by a fine capped at \$200 for a person who carries a weapon onto property, land, or a building that prohibits firearms or other weapons. The penalty is enhanced to a Class A misdemeanor if evidence is revealed in the duration of a trial that the actor failed to depart the property after receiving oral notice from the property owner or those acting with the authority of a property owner that firearms or weapons were prohibited.

The bill establishes a defense to prosecution for criminal trespass should the sole basis on which entry was forbidden relates to the prohibition of weapons on the property and the actor promptly departed.

**UNLAWFULLY CARRYING A HANDGUN**

Any person under 21 commits the crime of unlawfully carrying a handgun if they are carrying a weapon on their person in public. HB 1927 repeals the increased penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a third-degree felony for the unlawful carrying of a weapon if the offense is committed on any premise licensed to sell alcoholic beverages.

To be exempt from charges related to unlawfully carrying a handgun, carrying at emergency shelter locations during a declared state of disaster must be authorized and comply with rules and regulations imposed by those operating with authority over the following premises:

- Higher education institutions and their properties
- Businesses licensed or permitted for on-premises alcoholic beverage consumption
- Amusement parks
- Civil commitment facilities

Third degree felony penalties are maintained for unlawfully possessing a weapon in establishments licensed by TABC, correctional facilities, and mental health facilities.

**CHANGES TO LTC LAW**

This legislation maintains the License to Carry program in the state of Texas, but certain privileges or penalties are altered or removed as discussed in other sections.

Under current LTC statute, permit holders charged with intoxication-related offenses cannot be charged with illegally carrying a firearm if they have a properly secured weapon in their vehicle or on their person during a law enforcement encounter, such as a driving while intoxicated stop. Provisions are repealed making it an offense for a handgun license holder to carry a handgun while intoxicated so that offense is equally applied to



			<p>LTC holders and those considered eligible to legally carry a weapon under this bill. In other words, the others allowed to carry in this bill would have all the protections provided LTC holders, despite the lack of training required.</p> <p>It is a defense to prosecution for a handgun license holder who possesses a concealed handgun at an airport screening checkpoint but exits the checkpoint immediately upon notification applicable to all handguns, whether concealed or openly carried. Handgun licenses can no longer be revoked based on offenses involving the unlawful display of a handgun in a public place and the unlawful carrying of a handgun in prohibited areas or on the premises of higher education institutions and their property, as these offenses would be reduced from felonies to misdemeanors.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONCERNS</b></p> <p>The bill fails to provide clear direction about how law enforcement would determine if people carrying without a permit meet legal eligibility requirements to purchase a handgun. DPS reports many officers currently assume people openly carrying weapons in holsters are LTC holders and are able to quickly confirm the ability to legally carry a weapon by asking for a physical LTC card. Federal law stipulates that eligibility requires a NICS background check, and law enforcement officers only have access to state criminal background checks in roadside stops or encounters. Rulemaking by law enforcement entities would need to occur as to how officers would confirm permitless carry eligibility in the event of a stop to ensure compliance with both state and federal law.</p> <p>HB 1927 also adds a requirement that people legally carrying weapons on a prohibitive premise must be given oral notice asking them to leave. In the event of a lawsuit, gun carriers not receiving a verbal notice will maintain a defense to prosecution on the grounds they were not asked to leave. This policy will make property owners, or their employees first approach a suspicious armed person before calling law enforcement.</p> <p>HB 1927 requires a background check to determine eligibility for permitless carry, however many loopholes remain in our background check system. Thus, background check system flaws should be addressed before passing legislation allowing permitless carry for all gun owners based on their eligibility to purchase a handgun.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report for GENERAL STATE Calendar– Thursday, April 15, 2021**

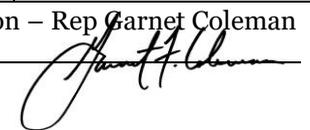
<p><b>HB 1500</b></p> <p>By: Hefner   White   Guillen   Burrows   Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to authority of the governor and certain political subdivisions to regulate firearms, ammunition, knives, air guns, explosives, and combustibles and certain associated businesses</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1500 bars the governor and local officials, in the event of a disaster or state of emergency, from restricting the sale and use of firearms, ammunition, and certain other weapons or from limiting the operations of firearm/ammunition-related businesses and shooting ranges.</p> <p>This bill would remove the governor’s current, narrowly tailored authority to limit the sale and use of firearms and other weapons during an emergency if doing so would help “terminate the emergency and protect life and property.” Its language is broad enough to ban not only the temporary closure of firearm-related businesses during a disaster, but also reasonable limitations such as occupancy limits that would protect public health during a pandemic. Additionally, city governments are not currently authorized to regulate firearm-related business, but they may regulate the use of firearms, air guns, and knives during a natural disaster, insurrection,</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832)425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
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	during certain disasters and emergencies.		<p>or riot if doing so is needed to maintain public health and safety. This bill removes that authority altogether, preventing officials from making reasonable restrictions to protect the public, including bystanders and public safety officers, during tense, chaotic, and sometimes violent events.</p> <p>There are serious concerns involving purchases made during the temporary periods when disaster declarations are in effect when fears and tensions are heightened. In such times, this bill would not likely prevent crime, but would instead put weapons in the hands of less experienced individuals who may or may not know how to use and store them safely. This bill curtails officials' emergency powers to protect public health and safety.</p>	
<b>HB 1931</b> By: Walle   Campos   Morales Shaw	Relating to requirements for beneficial tax treatment related to a leasehold or other possessory interest in a public facility used to provide multifamily housing.	Urban Affairs  Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Public facility corporations (PFCs) are nonprofit corporations created by a sponsoring governmental entity, usually a housing authority, city, or county. Under the Texas Local Government Code, there is a specific structure of PFCs that provides a 100% property tax exemption for apartment developers. Concerns have been raised that certain public benefit requirements are not required by PFC developments, such as renting to individuals in housing-choice voucher programs.</p> <p>HB 1931 would prohibit public facility users (PFUs) from refusing to rent a residential unit in housing developments to participants with vouchers. The bill also prohibits PFUs from setting minimum income standards that require participants in a voucher program to have a monthly income greater than 250% of the participant's share of the total monthly rent.</p> <p>This change would not restrict the authority of a corporation to lease a public facility to a private entity.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512)739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3907</b> By: Goldman   Meyer   Rodriguez   Thierry   Button	Relating to a franchise or insurance tax credit for certain housing developments.	Ways & Means  Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Lack of affordable housing is a crisis affecting many Texans, and the most vulnerable people in our communities are acutely impacted. Private sector developers can be encouraged to build more affordable and low-income housing through subsidies like tax credits.</p> <p>HB 3907 creates a state match for federal tax credits to boost affordable housing incentives in Texas. Under the bill, if a taxable entity owns or has invested in a development deemed eligible for a federal tax credit for affordable housing, that business can get a state franchise tax credit as long as the development is legally compelled to continue qualifying for the federal tax credit and complies with accessibility and adaptability requirements under the Civil Rights Act.</p> <p>Properties are certified by state authorities to receive property tax credits through what is called an allocation certificate. A taxable entity can apply for an allocation certificate from TDHCA for a development they invested in for a year-long credit period. TDHCA is required to determine the total amount of credits awarded for the credit period and issue allocation certificates for qualified developments.</p> <p>Multiple owners of a qualified development seeking credits must determine the portion of the total amount of credits awarded to each owner through agreement. TDHCA will be required to determine the portions based on ownership interests in the qualified development in the event agreement cannot be reached.</p> <p>Entities subject to state insurance tax liability may also apply to receive state tax credits. An entity owning a direct or indirect interest in a qualified development is eligible for a credit against their state insurance tax</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>liability. The bill requires the entity to procedurally claim the credit and authorizes carrying a surplus credit forward or backward. The bill caps the total credit claimed for a tax report, including any carry forward or backward, at the amount of the entity's state insurance tax liability due for the report after any other applicable credit. The bill requires the entity to apply for a credit on or with the tax report for the same tax year and submit a copy of the allocation certificate and any other required information. The comptroller must adopt a form for the application for the credit.</p> <p>The bill establishes credit length, limits the credit total to the amount of franchise tax due after any other applicable credit, and clarifies that unused credit cannot be refunded. The TDHCA and the Comptroller are required to adopt rules for administering and enforcing the tax credit system outlined by this bill, including compliance monitoring and an annual publicly available report to the legislature by the TDHCA documenting the issuance of allocation certificates. Upon passage, TDHCA may begin issuing allocation certificates after January 1st, 2022. The bill will only apply to tax reports due on or after January 1, 2023.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2673</b> By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of excess costs incurred by a recipient of certain grants awarded by the Texas Department of Transportation.</p>	<p>Transportation Votes: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) awards grants to assist with transportation projects to municipalities across Texas. Many of these projects issued grant funding are also managed by TxDOT. It has been reported that TxDOT sends invoices for project overages, which can be hundreds of thousands of dollars to municipalities on the completion of a project to pay for TxDOT staff time.</p> <p>HB 2763 would require TxDOT to reimburse transportation construction grant funded project overages to municipalities with under 15,000 residents or counties with under 25,000 residents when TxDOT is managing the project. This bill would safeguard small municipalities from incurring unexpected overage costs from TxDOT.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2211</b> By: Metcalf   Bonnen   Moody   Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to in-person visitation with hospital patients during certain periods of disaster.</p>	<p>Public Health 10 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals had varying policies regarding the visitation of patients, with some denying any visitation during the crisis due to risk to patients, visitors, and staff. This aligned with recommendations from federal agencies as well as from medical professionals. However, not being able to visit family, friends, and other loved ones while they are hospitalized can have negative impacts on mental health for both parties.</p> <p>HB 2211 establishes that hospitals cannot deny all in-person visits during certain periods of an infectious disease disaster unless directed by federal law or by a federal agency. The bill allows hospitals to control the number of visitors, health screenings, the requirements for in-person visits, as well as being able to deny or remove visitors not complying with the hospital's requirements. HB 2211 provides protections for hospitals and physicians from civil or criminal liability for certain situations related to visitation, specifically if visitors contract or spread infectious disease to another person while on the premises, unless intentional misconduct or gross negligence of the hospital or physician is proven. HB 2211 also allows for hospitals or physicians to deny in-person visits, up to five days, if it is believed that the particular visit would lead to transmission of infectious disease. If this occurs, then the hospital must provide the visitor, if authorized to receive relevant health information, daily updates about the patient's status as well as the projected date and time of discharge from services.</p> <p>There is an overarching concern about the risk associated with the visitation of medically vulnerable people during times of disaster, especially in times of widespread infectious diseases. Exposure could prolong the crisis</p>	<p><b>Favorable with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419)566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>



			as well as lead to severe repercussions for exposed sites. While there are built-in protections and thoughtful guidelines in this bill, the risk still warrants consideration.	
<b>HB 326</b> By: Howard   Klick   Darby   Price	Relating to workplace violence prevention in certain health care facilities.	Public Health  10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Health care workers face the risk of violence in the workplace significantly more often than those in other professions. In a 2016 state study, over 50% of Texas nurses identified incidents of workplace violence taking place over the course of their careers. Currently, there is a lack of state guidelines for reporting and receiving protections from workplace violence. HB 326 would create these needed guidelines.  HB 326 would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require certain licensed health care facilities to form a workplace violence prevention committee, with at least one direct care registered nurse and one facility security employee as members. This committee would be responsible for creating a site-specific workplace violence prevention plan which is to be reviewed annually.</li> <li>• Require the facility to create and enforce a workplace violence prevention policy if one does not already exist.</li> <li>• Allow health care systems to establish only one committee if a prevention plan is created for each system facility and data related to each facility is distinct.</li> <li>• Require that following an incident post-incident services are given to health care workers involved.</li> <li>• Prohibit retaliation or intimidation against a person that wants to submit, submits, or advises another person to submit a report of workplace violence against another person in good faith.</li> </ul> Health care workers serve the essential role of keeping Texans alive. Thus, there should be protections put in place to help them feel safe and secure in their work environment. Being the victim of violence should not be an expectation of a job.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419)566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 574</b> By: Bonnen   Goldman	Relating to the elements of the criminal offense of election fraud; increasing criminal penalties.	Elections  Votes: 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	This bill would amend the fraud section of the Texas election code to create two new charges of fraud for a person who tries to knowingly or intentionally not count “valid” votes or alter a report to exclude “valid” votes or knowingly or intentionally counting “invalid” votes or including “invalid” votes on election reports.  There have been no confirmed cases of election officials engaging in this type of fraud. Further, “valid” and “invalid” votes are not currently defined in election code. Currently, offenses in this section are Class A misdemeanors, which carry a maximum sentence of one year and a \$4,000 fine. HB 574 increases offenses in this section to a second-degree felony which carries a sentence of 2-20 years and a fine of up to \$10,000. Other offenses that hold a second-degree felony in Texas include illegal voting, aggravated assault, and theft between \$150,000 and \$300,000. This bill would further entangle the Texas election process with the carceral system that disproportionately affects Black, Latinx, and low-income citizens of Texas.  The process by which votes are counted involves a team of trained election workers with checks and balances and a secure chain of custody to ensure election fidelity. Additionally, this bill creates aggressive penalties that would have a chilling effect on recruiting election workers.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1593</b>	Relating to civil liability of a nursing	Judiciary & Civil	Many nursing home residents are not able to manage their own funds, due to a lack of cognitive ability. As a result, many resident’s funds are managed by a responsible third party which can leave residents vulnerable to	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by:



By: Leach	facility resident's responsible payor for misappropriation of the resident's funds.	Jurisprudence Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>exploitation. Currently, federal law bans nursing homes from requiring that the third party use their own money to pay for a resident's stay at a nursing facility but may request that the third party agrees to provide payment for the resident's stay from the resident's income or other resources. However, Texas has laws making these agreements unenforceable. When a resident is unable to produce funds, the nursing home is then responsible to care for the resident for free, displace the resident from the facility or sue the resident for non-payment.</p> <p>HB 1593 would amend the Health and Safety Code by seeking to allow a nursing facility to file an action against a resident's responsible third party for an amount owed by the resident if the following both apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before admission to the facility, the facility obtains financial information from the resident or responsible third party demonstrating the number of financial resources that the resident has available to pay for nursing facility care</li> <li>• After the resident begins to reside at the facility, the responsible third party mismanages the resident's resources to a degree that the resident is unable to afford to pay for the resident's care.</li> </ul> <p>HB 1593 would allow a court to grant any appropriate injunctive relief to prevent or abate the conduct. HB 1593 would only apply to residents who have the financial means to pay for care, if the responsible third party contractually committed to those funds, and when the responsible third party misappropriated the resident's funds and breaches the contract with the nursing facility.</p> <p>HB 1593 would put provisions in place to prevent financial abuse and exploitation of nursing home residents by responsible third parties and to help ensure that their money will be used appropriately.</p>	Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 533</b> By: Shine   Lambert	Relating to ad valorem tax sales of personal property seized under a tax warrant.	Ways & Means Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Currently, the Tax Code authorizes the commissioner of a county with a population of 3 million or more to collect sales taxes from online auction sales of personal property seized under a tax warrant. Harris County is currently the only county in Texas benefitting from this sales tax revenue because of the population requirement. The current statute requires a peace officer to distribute a notice to parties interested in the property and list items for sale.</p> <p>HB 533 removes the 3 million population bracket from the Tax Code so that all counties in Texas can benefit from imposing a sales tax on personal property sold in online auctions. It also gives county commissioners the ability to distribute notice and collect sales tax for items sold in online auctions instead of solely appointing the duty to a peace officer.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 3282</b> By: Canales	Relating to the authority of a district engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation to temporarily lower the speed limit at a highway maintenance activity site.	Transportation Votes: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Texas has the most roadway deaths in the nation. Since 2010 Texas has annually had over 3,500 deaths. Currently, TxDOT does not have the authority to adjust speed limits for highway maintenance projects. The only authority that can lower speed limits is the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) that only meets once a month, which does not allow flexibility for maintenance time frames. The only speed related tool available to keep maintenance and drivers safe in this situation is temporary advisory signs which are not enforceable. Lowering the maintenance areas' speed limit is critical for protecting maintenance and construction workers and drivers traveling through maintenance zones.</p> <p>HB 3282 will grant authority to a district engineer with TxDOT to lower speed limits during highway maintenance projects if determined through their expertise that the posted speed limit creates an unsafe</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>environment for workers or drivers. This bill requires TxDOT to post temporary speed limit signs that meet regulations and conceal all other speed limit signs until the project is completed. The determined speed reduction would be removed after the project is completed and equipment has been removed but no more than 45 days without approval from TTC.</p> <p>This bill gives TxDOT authority to implement a critical mechanism for reducing Texas highway fatalities.</p>	
<b>HB 2057</b> By: Klick	Relating to the timing of changes to county election precincts.	Elections  Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Currently, commissioner courts evaluate county precinct districts every odd year in April or May and adjust precinct boundaries to ensure compliance with state and federal law. New precinct maps then go into effect the following January of even numbered years. The technical aspect of assigning precincts to districts in a database can take several months. Given that primary elections are in March of even numbered years, this process does not allow access to the updated precinct map with adequate time for election administrators or campaigns to plan in accordance with changes. This time concern could be especially important in the first election after redistricting.</p> <p>HB 2057 changes the Texas election code to create new precinct maps in odd years. This new timeline would allow for election administrators to ensure greater accuracy in their voter rolls. It would also improve campaigns and the precinct chair's ability to provide accurate voter education on candidates and polling locations.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1906</b> By: Herrero   Guillen	Relating to grants awarded to reimburse counties for the cost of monitoring defendants and victims in criminal cases involving family violence.	County Affairs  Votes: 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>HB 1906 requires the criminal justice division in the governor's office to establish and administer a grant program to reimburse counties for all or part of the costs incurred as a result of monitoring in cases involving family violence who participate in GPS monitoring. Currently, the cost of the GPS monitor is paid for by the defendant, if they cannot afford to pay the county is required to pay the costs. Grant recipients may use funds only for monitoring conducted for the purpose of restoring a measure of security and safety for the survivor.</p> <p>Survivors of domestic violence are put at increased risk once they are separated or leave their abuser. GPS monitoring can help keep survivors safe if their abusers are released.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Spencer Carruth (512)465-0760 Spencer.Carruth_HC@ House.Texas.gov
<b>HB 2262</b> By: Schofield	Relating to the extended registration of certain fleet vehicles.	Transportation  Votes: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Many government vehicles are currently exempt from paying annual county registration fees; however, departments are required to renew registration stickers on each vehicle annually. This can be burdensome to large counties, school districts, and law enforcement agencies that have fleets with hundreds of vehicles.</p> <p>HB 2262 will allow county, municipality, or school districts to register a fleet of vehicles for an extended period from one to eight years while maintaining a yearly inspection. HB 2262 allows local government fleets the same flexibility as commercial fleet vehicles, which the Texas Transportation Code allows to register with the county for multiple years. This bill also mandates that the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles create rules and standards for enforcing yearly inspections for applicable exempt vehicles, semi-trailers, and trailers.</p> <p>This bill will increase local governments' efficiency and save valuable staff time and funds by reducing tedious annual paperwork.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1259</b> By:	Relating to the rural veterinarian incentive program.	Higher Education	Rural Texas is facing a disheartening reality of veterinarians leaving to work in higher populated areas to seek higher paying positions. This leaves rural Texans without access to the needed services for both personal pets and livestock. HB 1259 will address this issue by expanding the rural veterinarian incentive program, currently	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel

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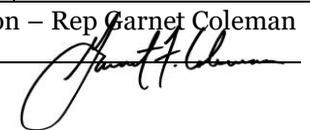


Darby  Anderson   Stucky   Buckley  Rogers		9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>available to students at Texas A&amp;M University College of Veterinary Medicine, to students and alumni of any accredited school of veterinary medicine in Texas. This program will provide loan assistance to students and alumni in exchange for their commitment to serving rural communities.</p> <p>HB 1259 will transfer administration of the program to the Texas Animal Health Commission and include all eligible colleges of veterinary medicine. The bill also expands eligibility for the program by raising the population threshold for a county to be considered rural from 50,000 to 100,000, extending the deadline to apply to four years after graduating instead of 1, removing a strict grade point average criterion, and allowing out-of-state students to participate if they graduated from a Texas high school or general teaching institution.</p> <p>Expanding financial assistance to these veterinarians will keep them in rural communities without the worry of financial wellbeing.</p>	(419)566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1622</b>  By: Guillen	Relating to reporting of early voting rosters.	Elections  Votes: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Current Texas law requires county election clerks to post early vote by mail rosters by 11 am each following day of receiving an early voting ballot by mail. Some local political subdivisions in 2020 failed to post early voting rosters by that deadline. These failures to quickly report received mail-in ballots could hide issues in early voting where errors may happen.</p> <p>HB 1622 creates a formal complaint process for a county's registered voters to alert the Secretary of State (SOS) of county clerks failing to post early voting rosters on time. It would require the SOS to create and maintain a registry of clerks and counties who have not met that deadline to be monitored. This bill would ensure election clerks comply with state guidelines and help Texas voters feel empowered that state officials will hear their concerns.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>HB 1394</b>  By: White	Relating to automatic orders of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain misdemeanor defendants.	Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>HB 1394 will make nondisclosure of justice involvement history for certain misdemeanors automatic. The current expungement process is a time-consuming and costly process that often requires hiring an attorney to order nondisclosure.</p> <p>Currently, if a misdemeanor arrest did not result in a guilty plea, the history could be expunged through an order. Those with Class C misdemeanors must wait for 180-days, while Class C and B must wait 1-year after the date of arrest to file an order. The bill only allows automatic nondisclosure in misdemeanor cases for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• those convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision</li> <li>• those who have paid all fines and fees, and received discharge or dismissal for imprisonment or community supervision</li> <li>• those who have not previously received an order of nondisclosure</li> </ul> <p>If eligibility and requirements are met on the 7th anniversary, HB 1394 requires the court to issue the nondisclosure order as soon as practicable upon the date of discharge, dismissal or deferment for offenses that resulted in imprisonment, confinement, probated, or in part or whole suspension.</p> <p>HB 1394 excludes misdemeanor fine-only traffic violations and instances of intoxication for driving, flying, or boating, driving or operating watercrafts by a minor, or assemblance and operation of amusement rides. Existing requirements state that misdemeanor offenses will remain public if they pertain to family violence,</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson (512)661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org

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			<p>require sex offender registration, or are violations of court orders for bond in family violence, sexual assault or abuse, indecent assault, stalking, or trafficking offenses they will remain public.</p> <p>HB 1394 only applies to cases after September of 2014 and will support thousands of Texans with misdemeanors on their record obtain full-time and higher-paying jobs.</p>	
<p><b>HB 29</b></p> <p>By: Swanson   White   Patterson   Hefner</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing the provision of temporary secure storage for weapons at certain public buildings; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Certain government agencies do not authorize the carrying of weapons on their premises, regardless of any handgun license. HB 29 permissively allows certain state agencies or political subdivisions to provide temporary secure weapon storage in self-service lockers or other storage operated by a designated employee at all times. The bill applies to an agency or subdivision’s publicly open buildings or portion of buildings if an agency prohibits firearms or carrying on part of a premise violates the law. Correctional facilities, public schools, and higher education buildings are excluded due to protection under federal law. The weapon locker must be self-service with a secure locking mechanism that is required to provide a key or electronically reopen, and only employees are permitted access.</p> <p>HB 29 sets out requirements for the employee concerning weapon intake and provides for how a person may reclaim a stored weapon. The bill requires the agency or subdivision to ensure weapon storage is available, monitored by a designated employee at all times, and an individual choosing to utilize weapon storage is not required to wait more than five minutes. The agency or subdivision is permitted to collect a usage fee for any temporary secure weapon storage. The bill establishes procedures for handling unclaimed weapons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The weapon must be transferred to other secure storage at the end of a business day.</li> <li>• The weapon's owner must be contacted to have the weapon claimed.</li> <li>• A weapon is forfeited if not reclaimed within 30 days.</li> <li>• A forfeited weapon is disposed through public sale to a federally licensed firearms dealer or surrendered to law enforcement if the weapon is considered illegal.</li> </ul> <p>Giving local governments the option to provide secure weapon storage could encourage public safety by reducing the number of firearms people must leave in their vehicles that could potentially be stolen and illicitly sold. However, gun owners holding a license to carry, or concealed carry license are educated on areas with weapons prohibitions through the licensing process and bear any responsibility related to maintaining weapons on these premises.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (706) 429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 460</b></p> <p>By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the solicitation of pen pals by certain inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) has rules to restrict social media use while incarcerated but does not have protocols for pen-pal services. HB 460 directs TDCJ to adopt rules that prohibit individuals in custody for sexual offenses from participating in pen-pal services. Although most do not place advertisements for pen-pals themselves, the bill still prohibits these services.</p> <p>There are concerns that targeting a specific group and keeping them from pen-pal services could result in litigation. With hundreds of pen-pal services, many of which are faith-based, this could deter those seeking spiritual insight or mentorship guidance from individuals with whom they should be in communication and engagement. Regardless of TDCJ going through the mail before delivery, there is uncertainty in how TDCJ could determine if an individual sent the mail through pen-pal services.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson (512)661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>However, HB 460 could assure that over 22,000 individuals in state-jails or prisons for this offense would not have the opportunity to exploit or victimize the individuals they have built relationships with through pen-pal services while in custody. Since TDCJ released 2,321 individuals for this offense in 2019, this bill could provide relief to victims by knowing that these crimes will not be easily repeated upon release.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3379</b>  By: Leman</p>	<p>Relating to the duty to report child abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently in Texas, the standard for mandatory reporting for suspected child abuse or neglect requires any person who has “cause to believe” that a child is being abused or neglected to report it. This standard requires individuals to contact Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement. If an individual fails to report a suspected cause to believe abuse or neglect, then that individual can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor.</p> <p>HB 3379 would change the standard for mandatory reporting child abuse or neglect to “reasonable cause to believe”. The bill also provides a defense for individuals who fail to report abuse or neglect if they determined in a timely manner and deemed a report was not necessary due to a lack of reasonable cause.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the bill language allowing untrained individuals to investigate an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect before alerting the proper authorities. The average citizen is not trained in how to thoroughly investigate or identify signs of abuse. If an individual determines through their own means that a report is not necessary, but it is later discovered that a report was, this defense protects that individual from facing consequences for failing to report.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512)739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>HB 372</b>  By: González, Jessica   Collier   White</p>	<p>Relating to the representation of certain indigent applicants for a writ of habeas corpus.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Defendants have one opportunity to file a writ of habeas corpus for meritorious claims, and given that many attempt on their own, it is crucial for defendants to have effective representation to ensure it is done properly.</p> <p>Under HB 372 a court will extend an attorney’s authority to investigate potentially meritorious claims of indigent defendants that are improperly imprisoned because of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• actual innocence,</li> <li>• only guilty of a lesser offense,</li> <li>• convicted under a now unconstitutional law; or</li> <li>• was convicted in an unconstitutional manner under the Texas constitution or the US Constitution (new to HB 372)</li> </ul> <p>This new ability to investigate in HB 372 would add to the appointed attorney's ability to already be council to the defendant during these legal challenges as approved by the state. This bill will apply to those in or that were in custody before as well as after this bill passes. These changes will give innocent defendants a better chance at receiving justice.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b> Evaluated by: Nicolas Kalla (512)463-0524 Nicolas.Kalla@House.Texas.gov</p>

