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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE CALENDAR – Thursday May 13, 2021

<p>HB 4420 By: Krause</p>	<p>Relating to a study and analysis by the comptroller on delivery methods used for certain projects of the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Water Development Board.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4420 directs the comptroller, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), to conduct a study on the economic benefits and feasibility of public-private partnerships (P3s) for certain transportation and water projects.</p> <p>By December 31, 2021, TxDOT must submit to the comptroller a comprehensive review of all proposed road projects valued over \$1 billion, and the TWDB must submit a similar review of all proposed projects in the state water plan valued over \$1 billion dollars, to be analyzed in the study.</p> <p>P3s can provide the benefits of reducing public debt, encouraging innovation, and speeding up public or civil works projects. However, they can also result in higher costs to taxpayers, less transparency, and other issues related to private interests' primary focus being on profits rather than public service. Diverting resources to study the potential impacts of P3s may or may not be worth the investment.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 2290 By: Thompson, Senfronia Collier Hinojosa Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the affirmative defense to prosecution for a criminal offense for persons acting under duress.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>In the Penal Code, 'duress' is an affirmative defense to the prosecution when the defendant engaged in the prescribed conduct because they were compelled to do so by threat of imminent death or serious bodily injury to themselves or another. <i>Compulsion</i> in these cases uses the term "reasonable fairness" to justify that an individual was incapable of resisting force or threat of force from the perpetrator.</p> <p>HB 2290 strikes the term 'reasonable fairness' to change the circumstances under which compulsion exists to: 'only if the force or threat would render a "reasonable" person "in the situation" of "the defendant" incapable of resisting the pressure.' By striking this term, HB 2290 will refute the Court of Criminal Appeals ruling that the standard does not include a defendant more susceptible to coercion because of traumatic events. HB 2290 will ensure that a victimized defendant can introduce evidence to a jury or judge proving they were compelled to act unlawfully because they were under duress to avoid threat of immediate or impending harm, which would legally excuse them from the crime.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>

OK for Distribution - Rep Garnet Coleman

<p>HB 3908</p> <p>By: Pacheco Campos</p>	<p>Relating to the deputy clerks appointed to certain statutory probate courts.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Bexar County statutory probate courts are currently subject to many unnecessary procedures in their administrative process. HB 3908 serves as a simple solution by removing the requirement for a judge to confirm in writing the court assignment of a deputy clerk. HB 3908 also eliminates provisions that entitle a deputy clerk to an annual salary set by the judge, paid monthly, and does not exceed the salary of a deputy clerk. These provisions eliminate unnecessary boundaries that Bexar County statutory probate courts are currently subject to.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 4361</p> <p>By: Raney</p>	<p>Relating to off-campus workforce education or lower-division programs offered by a public institution of higher education at the request of an employer.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Work programs at higher education institutions provide valuable opportunity to gain employment experience while obtaining a degree or certification. Employers often create relationships with these institutions to offer such programs, but the programs are restricted to offering the program within the service area of the university, which limits participation. While a higher education regional council (HERC) can override this restriction, they only meet annually, which does not allow them to address such matters in a timely fashion. HB 4361 provides a more timely way to create more work programs.</p> <p>HB 4361 authorizes public institutions of higher education to enter into an agreement with an employer to provide credit or noncredit off campus workforce education or lower-division programs to the institution's students. The programs may be at an employer requested site without HERC approval even if the site is not within the institution's uniform state service district or, for junior colleges, within the junior college district's service area. This can only be done under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the employer already offers same or substantially similar coursework with another higher education institution for the same site. • the proposed program site is within the other institution's uniform state service district or junior college district service area. • the institution waits for 6 weeks after the employer submits written solicitation for the program to be offered. 	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1586</p> <p>By: Lucio III Oliverson Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to health benefit plan coverage of clinician-administered drugs.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Clinician-Administered Drugs (C-ADs) are prescribed to patients with diagnosed chronic, complex, rare, or life-threatening medical conditions. C-ADs are generally mixed, infused, or injection-administered - as a medical benefit - at the physician's office or hospital outpatient infusion center (HOICs) based on patient-specific medication requirements. Unlike providers, pharmacies who solely administer the C-ADs are not required to meet the National standards as are necessary for the mixing rooms of physician's offices or HOICs. Patients spend a significant portion of their day waiting to meet with their physician, time in the infusion chair, going through testing - any medication delays are likely to induce unnecessary anxiety. Given the patient is already receiving care at these locations and proper care at the right time is vital, when unforeseen circumstances occur, the need for ample drugs on hand becomes increasingly necessary to alleviate waste.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>HB 1586 prohibits certain health benefit plan (HBP) issuers from requiring a C-AD to be dispensed by a pharmacy or administered as a covered pharmacy benefit. HB 1586 protects these Texas patients from unreliable pharmacies ensuring efficacy up until administration by physicians. HB 1586 resolves HBPs who are essentially putting a price on the value of curing complex medical conditions.</p>	
<p>HB 4110 By: Leach Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of metal recycling; increasing a criminal penalty.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: <input type="radio"/> Ayes, <input type="radio"/> Nay, <input type="radio"/> PNV, <input type="radio"/> Absent</p>	<p>There has been a recent uptick in thefts where catalytic converters are stolen from people’s cars and then sold to metal recycling centers, identifying a need to better regulate the sale of materials to metal recycling entities to prevent further crime. HB 4110 provides additional documentation, creates a 5 day holding period for catalytic converters, and enhances charges for crimes related to illegally selling recycled materials.</p> <p>In addition to verification and documentation applicable to any person selling regulated materials to a metal recycling entity, HB 4110 provides additional requirements for selling catalytic converters. These sellers must provide the year, make, model, vehicle identification number, and a copy of the certificate of title or other proof of ownership. Metal recycling entities are prohibited from purchasing a catalytic converter from a seller not providing that information or determining it is consistent with manufacturer's specifications provided by the seller. information. Each catalytic converter purchased will be assigned a unique number as prescribed by the Public Safety Commission.</p> <p>Metal recycling plants must keep accurate documentation of purchases made by each entity. Purchase records for regulated materials must include a clear and legible thumbprint for each seller, a digital photograph or video recording of the seller’s entire face and additional documentation of each catalytic converter side. Recycling entities are prohibited from paying sellers more than \$25 in cash for purchasing regulated metal. The bill prohibits metal recycling entities from disposing of, processing, selling, or removing a catalytic converter before the 6th day after acquisition, which allows the entity a five day time period to verify the catalytic converter.</p> <p>Garage or repair shop owners selling removed catalytic converters must provide the name and address of the vehicle’s owner and copies of related invoices, which they must keep for two years after the date of the repair.</p> <p>Penalties are enhanced from Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony for the following conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing false or invalid information, statements, or representations with the intent to deceive in an attempted sale of regulated material to a metal recycling entity. 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging in certain prohibited acts when paying for regulated materials. knowingly buying stolen regulated material; and knowingly buying insulated communications wire that has been illegally burned to remove insulation without acceptable documentation it was salvaged from a fire as is legally permissible. <p>The bill increases the respective penalty enhancements for such conduct to a third degree felony to reflect the increase in base penalty. Additional regulation for selling catalytic converters is positive but enhancing misdemeanor charges to felonies for non-violent crimes may be overly punitive.</p>	
<p>HB 41 By: Talarico</p>	<p>Relating to class size limits for pre-kindergarten classes provided by or on behalf of public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Votes: 9 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Texas education data shows that a combination of full-day Pre-K and low student-teacher ratios contribute to significant Kindergarten readiness. Classroom management with more than 22 very young students is difficult and takes away from instructional time. With the 2019 passage of HB 3, , a full-day Pre-K program was authorized, if not fully funded by the state. . To honor the legislature’s intent and commitment to early childhood education, HB 41 seeks to ensure the teacher to student ratio in Pre-K classrooms is most conducive to learning.</p> <p>HB 41 prohibits a public school, open-enrollment charter, or any institution providing district prekindergarten programs to enroll more than 22 students in a class. The bill maintains a teacher-student ratio of at least one certified teacher or teacher’s aide for every 11 students, and its provisions will apply at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.</p> <p>By fulfilling the 86th legislature’s promise, HB 41 would provide manageable class sizes for teachers to better manage student needs while ensuring quality instruction and programming. Early childhood education is a key measurement of student success throughout their educational journey, and these changes give students a positive start to learning.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 1914 By: Schofield</p>	<p>Relating to the civil liability of a children's isolation unit in a hospital.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic showed Texans the devastating impact of ineffective infections disease response. A “children’s isolation unit” in a licensed hospital is designed to provide health care services to children with highly contagious infectious diseases.</p> <p>HB 1914 grants hospitals with children’s isolation units an exemption to civil liability for any claim, damage, or loss resulting from services provided under isolation protocols. The bill does not establish standards, requirements, or a definition for isolation protocols. This exemption does not apply to acts or omissions due to gross negligence or willful misconduct.</p> <p>Providing civil immunity to hospitals could amount to a public health hazard, especially infectious disease control in a pandemic. It is unclear whether civil liability enforcement cases against children’s isolation units are disproportionate, but the civil justice system is designed to protect the public and incentivize best, safe practices. Completely removing this tool may impact the pressure to</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>invest in the best training and equipment, and the standards of care in these units may start to decline. Denying due process by granting the civil immunity provided by this bill could ultimately deny parents relief for wrongful damage.</p>	
<p>HB 3658 By: Capriglione Shaheen King, P.</p>	<p>Relating to state agency contracting and state employees, officers, contractors, and other persons involved with the contracting.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3658 makes several changes to state agency contracting procedures related to contract management, determining best value, and conflicts of interest. These measures will update the procurement process to ensure that state agency contracts are competently managed, tax dollars are used efficiently yet wisely, and contractors are not granted undue and unfair influence in regulatory proceedings.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contract Management</p> <p>State employees with significant contract management duties are required to undergo the comptroller’s contract management training program and any supplemental training offered by the employing agency, including instruction on how to comply with the comptroller’s contract management guide. This bill would include business and industry representatives in revising this guide, whereas participation is currently limited to certain state agencies. It would also require the guide to include procedures for appointing state employees as procurement evaluators responsible for investigating and making contract recommendations Any employee involved in procurement implementation should also be involved in vendor evaluation. The bill also directs state agencies to establish procedures to raise the salary of an agency employee charged with additional procurement evaluation duties.</p> <p>To further ensure those entrusted with managing taxpayer dollars have necessary skills, HB 3658 specifies that state agency contract managers procuring a contract valued over \$20 million must undergo additional training and include their qualifications and understanding of submitted vendor proposals in documentation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Determining Best Value</p> <p>State agencies are required to make procurement decisions based on whichever vendor offers the best value for the state, but upfront costs often play too heavy a role in determining best value, with less attention paid to long term costs and other factors relevant to sound investment. This bill specifies that price and purchase specifications must be balanced with contract outcomes, the best quality for economic value, timely performance, and other proven business metrics. These additional non-price factors are optional when considering contracts less than \$20 million and required for contracts over \$20 million. In all processes to determine best value, the total cost of ownership must be assessed, including the costs of acquisition, personnel, and long-term operations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conflicts of Interest</p> <p>To prevent conflicts of interest in procurement or related policy decisions, this bill would bar former state officers, regulatory employees, or contractors and subcontractors who did work for a regulatory agency from representing any person in regulatory cases or procurement proceedings for matters in which they participated or regarding procurement that began at the regulatory agency when the individual was</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			employed or performing work there. This does not apply to rulemaking proceedings that were concluded more than six months before the individual’s employment or contract ended.	
HB 105 By: Ortega	Relating to the use of promotoras and community health workers in Medicaid managed care.	Human Services Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Promotoras, or community health workers, are frontline public health advocates with a unique understanding of their communities. They help ensure quality health care access in Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). Currently, costs associated with these workers are considered a capped administrative expense, which is a barrier for MCOs hiring additional promotoras. HB 105 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to allow MCOs providing health care services under the STAR Medicaid program to categorize services provided by a promotora as a quality improvement cost, instead of an administrative expense, to facilitate hiring more of these important workers.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 3889 By: Morales Shaw Hinojosa Bernal Talarico Hernandez	Relating to the cost for certain public school students of a broadband Internet access program offered by the Texas Education Agency.	Public Education Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	In Texas, more than 9 million people do not have broadband internet connection due to poor infrastructure or inability to subscribe to a service. Texas is one of six states without a broadband plan, and increased need for internet connection during the pandemic revealed that broadband access is a roadmap for addressing the digital divide. Broadband development is a governor’s office legislative priority and commissioner Mike Morath indicated the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has taken steps toward building a new system by negotiating with internet service providers. Among those affected by the digital divide are the financially disadvantaged students. HB 3889 seeks to ensure that cost is not a barrier to broadband access by requiring TEA to create a free broadband service program for public school students who are educationally disadvantaged. The pandemic highlighted the need for broadband access throughout the state and identified Texas students most challenged by lack of service. This bill would ensure students have equitable broadband access mitigating the already widening learning loss prevalent in all students.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
HB 2134 By: Bernal	Relating to coverage for childhood cranial remolding orthosis under certain health benefit plans	Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	When insurers deny coverage, parents often need help paying out-of-pocket expenses for their child’s artificial devices, or orthotics. Given that orthotics for children are generally time-sensitive, it is imperative when the orthotics are required to reshape a baby’s head - which is only malleable up to 18-months. There are 3 medical conditions for which a pediatrician may prescribe a cranial remolding orthosis (remolding helmet). Two of the conditions are considered purely cosmetic, such as flat or misshapen heads. However, craniosynostosis is potentially life-threatening and requires surgery followed by two separate remolding helmet to correct. Even in this challenging situation, the second molding helmet is often deemed cosmetic. HB 2134 requires a health benefit plan (HBP) to cover the full cost of a remolding helmet for a child between ages 3-18 months diagnosed with any of the 3 medical conditions. To qualify, medical records must document at least a 2-month failure of conservative therapy and either one of the measurements or indications: asymmetrical appearance or disproportion in the comparison of head length to head width as	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org



			confirmed by measurement. HB 2134 removes the debate between parents and insurers for necessary and time-sensitive medical devices for Texas children.	
HB 4653 By: Sherman, Sr.	Relating to the creation of the Lancaster Logistics District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.	Urban Affairs Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	The Texas Constitution allows special districts to be established with taxing and local government powers dedicated toward a unique purpose. HB 4653 creates a municipal management district throughout the City of Lancaster to promote economic development and support warehousing, logistics and distribution jobs. HB 4653 creates the Lancaster Logistics District for public benefit of certain improvements, projects, and services encouraging economic activity. The bill authorizes the district's powers governing conservation and reclamation, roads, public improvement, contracts, municipal development, definable area improvement projects or services, and dissolution of the district. The district's powers and duties include issuing obligations, imposing assessment and impact fees, and imposing taxes for property, maintenance and operation, contract, and sales and use. The district may establish and collect certain rates, fees, and charges for use of public services. The bill prohibits the district from exercising power of eminent domain or issuing a bond until the City of Lancaster agrees by ordinance or resolution.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 2795 By: Thompson, Senfronia Collier	Relating to the offense of solicitation of prostitution and certain other consequences of that offense; increasing a criminal penalty; making conforming changes.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Although buying sex differs as a matter of law from selling sex, both are considered prostitution. HB 2795 adds "solicitation of prostitution" to the offense of prostitution. HB 2795 renames the prevention program in the Health and Safety Code to "first offender solicitation of prostitution prevention program" and several other Codes to confirm the updated language. HB 2795 increases the penalty for solicitation of prostitution from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony and increases the enhancement penalty for subsequent offense convictions from a state jail felony to a third-degree felony while maintaining the second-degree felony penalty enhancement if someone under the age of 18 is involved in the offense. The bill stipulates that enhancement may be used for provisions relating to the offense or to authorize exceptional sentences - but not under both sets of provisions. Regardless of whether a sentence was imposed, enhancements are allowed based on a previous conviction. By increasing penalties and distinguishing the offense of purchasing sex from the act of selling sex, HB 2795 could likely disrupt the illicit human trafficking economy and reduce demand for human trafficking in Texas without unjustly impacting those who sell sex.	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
HB 1032 By: Thierry Button Ordaz Perez Hefner Johnson, Jarvis	Relating to authorizing school districts to provide funding using money received under the Foundation School Program to community-based organizations for	International Relations & Economic Development Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	High school career and technical education (CTE) courses offer students relevant technical skills needed for further education and careers in high demand professions. CTE often connects students with postsecondary programs or additional training for industry-based certifications, work-based learning, and internships. HB 1032 provides public school districts with flexibility to form partnerships with local non-profits to allow high school students hands-on training through paid internships. HB 1032 authorizes a public school district board to contract with a community-based organization to match grade 11 or 12 students in CTE programs with paid internships with a private employer, who will be fully or partially reimbursed for internship-associated costs using funds provided by the district. Program funding will come from the minimum 55% of the allotment for grades 7-12 CTE programs. Each student	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org



	purposes of reimbursing private employers for paid internships provided to certain students in career and technology education programs in the district.		employed under an internship must be paid at least minimum wage. Internship completion could satisfy practicum requirements as part of a district's CTE program.	
HB 3767 By: Murphy Oliverson	Relating to measures to support the alignment of education and workforce development in the state with state workforce needs, including the establishment of the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative.	International Relation & Economic Development Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	The Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative is a collaborative effort between the Texas Education Agency (TEA), Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to build a strong Texas workforce through high quality education and workforce training. These three entities came together of their own accord to implement the state's 60x30TX plan for increasing higher education completion and workforce readiness. HB 3767 seeks to codify the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative to coordinate and optimize information and other resources to align career education and training programs with workforce demands. The initiative will provide important information to plan educational and workforce pathways and help policy-makers to evaluate the effectiveness of career education and training programs progress toward workforce development goals. The bill establishes the procedures, goals, coordinated data collection mechanisms, and funding mechanisms to allow the Initiative to operate as the bill's provisions intend.	Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
HB 1907 By: Walle	Relating to the establishment of a statewide all payor claims database to increase public transparency of health care data and improve quality of health care in this state.	Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	All payors claim databases are large state databases where specific health-related data is reported directly by insurers to states in order to produce health care price, resource use, and quality information for policy makers, purchasers, and policyholders. These databases increase public transparency of health care data to improve the quality of healthcare statewide. HB 1907 authorizes the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to establish the Texas All Payor Claims Database (TAPCD) for existing insurance-related data collection and reports. The bill specifies that the TDI shall collaborate and leverage federal Consolidated Appropriations Act funding and any other available source to accomplish implementation as soon as practicable. HB 1907 requires the Center for Health Data at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to act as TAPCD's administrator to design and build the database infrastructure and manage data submitted for inclusion in the database. The bill instructs that TAPCD shall be built to	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org



			<p>collect, process, analyze, and store data relating to medical, dental, pharmaceutical, and other relevant health care claims and encounters, enrollment, and benefits information. HB 1907 authorizes any sponsor or administrator of a health benefit plan subject to ERISA to elect or decline participation in or submission of data to the Center.</p> <p>Payors are required to submit information that is useful to researchers, employers, and policymakers for improving health care quality and outcomes, lowering health care costs, and price transparency. The bill states that TDI or the Center may use the data: to produce price, resource use, and quality information for consumers and for research and other analysis conducted by TDI, the Center, or third-party.</p> <p>The TAPCD must create an open-access portal accessible via an internet website that easily allows the public and qualified research entities to search and retrieve data. As applicable to federal and state laws, the portal must collect, compile, and analyze data submitted to or stored in TAPCD and disseminate the information. HB 1907 specifies that all data contained in TAPCD and any reports or information created by the Center using the data is confidential. Specifically for a consumer’s personal health information, the bill provides data security measures. HB 1907 requires TDI to biannually submit a written report to the Legislature including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an analysis of the data submitted to the Center for use in the database. • information on the submission of data and the maintenance, analysis, and use of the data; and • recommendations on how to improve transparency, cost-effectiveness, and quality of health care in Texas. <p>To adopt rules that govern methods for submitting data, the Commissioner must use reasonable and cost-effective methods for payors and, before January of 2022, TDI must adopt rules necessary for implementation. These rules must specify the required data, submission standards, and oversight and enforcement mechanisms. Overall, HB 1907 will create a valuable resource for the general public, consumers, and policymakers to make informed health-related decisions.</p>	
<p>HB 195 By: Bernal</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of migrant labor housing facilities; changing the amount of a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Reports reveal that many migrant labor housing facilities are unlivable and often lacking proper bathrooms and ventilation, but workers are often reluctant to report housing violations for fear of retaliation. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) oversees facility regulation but does not have adequate accountability measures and enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance.</p> <p>HB 195 seeks to strengthen accountability and enforcement for these facilities by increasing the civil penalty for housing standard violations to at least \$50 for each person occupying the facility for each day in violation. The bill requires TDHCA to adopt a penalty schedule increasing the amount for repeat</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>



			violations. TDHCA, the county attorney from where the violation occurred, and a migrant agricultural worker living at the facility may all bring an action to collect a penalty. HB 195 prohibits retaliation from any person who provides a migrant labor housing facility, employs a migrant agricultural worker who lives in a facility, or a farm labor contractor in order to better protect workers reporting violations.	
HB 205 By: Ortega	Relating to safety requirements for amusement ride operators.	Insurance Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	In Texas, an amusement ride owner must have liability insurance, submit to inspections, and pay filing fees to receive annual compliance stickers. HB 205 amends the Occupation Code to require amusement ride operators be at least 16-years old and trained in the proper use and operation of the ride. HB 205 prohibits operators from operating more than 1-amusement lift at a time and from consuming or using substances while operating. This bill has the opportunity to bring Texas up to current national standards (rather than those from American Society for Testing and Materials 1999 standards) to add another layer of safety for those who attend events with these rides.	Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
HB 2681 By: Wilson Noble Bell, Cecil	Relating to public school elective courses providing academic study of the Bible offered to certain students.	Public Education Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Currently, a school district may offer an elective course on the old and new testament of the Bible as part of the language arts, social studies, or history curriculum to high school students. Interested parties are requesting the course be offered to younger students. HB 2681 would extend this course as a social studies elective to students in the sixth grade and older and requires a qualified teacher to maintain a certificate in language arts, social studies, or history for each respective grade level. The bill provides middle school and high school students the option to take an elective course in the study of the Bible.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
HB 244 By: González, Mary Allison Lozano Huberty Capriglione	Relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development in coding, technology applications, cybersecurity, and computer science for public school teachers.	Public Education Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	The Computer Science industry is projected to grow much faster than other industries over the next several years, with many job opportunities and high median wages making for an attractive field of study. Even as the industry continues to grow, few high school students are enrolled in computer science courses. It has been suggested that a barrier to students accessing these skills is the lack of knowledgeable qualified teachers in the computer science area. HB 244 seeks to rectify that issue by incentivizing teachers to acquire training and seeking certification in computer science. HB 244 authorizes the commissioner of education to establish a competitive professional development grant program to encourage public school teachers to obtain computer science certification and continue their professional development in coding, computational thinking, cybersecurity, and computer science education. The bill authorizes the commissioner to award grants from any federal funds available for eligible providers that offer professional development for classroom teachers to maintain a working knowledge of current computer industry-standard tools and resources, and training for computer science certification. Eligible providers can include a public institution of higher education, a regional education service center, a public school district or partnership of multiple districts, and a nonprofit entity approved by the commissioner.	Favorable Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org



			<p>HB 244 requires a grant recipient to provide training or professional development and establish professional development hubs in each region, serve high-need campuses, and establish partnerships with faculty in higher education and with industry professionals. HB 244 authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules as necessary to implement the bill's provisions.</p> <p>To offer courses that prepare students for a bright future in the growing computer science industry, qualified teachers are required. HB 244 stewards this demanding field by training teachers to educate students in the industry courses.</p>	
<p>HB 162 By: Thierry Leach Moody Shaheen Sanford</p>	<p>Relating to a prohibition on prosecuting or referring to juvenile court certain persons for certain conduct constituting the offense of prostitution, to the provision of services to those persons, and to the prosecution of related criminal offenses.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues</p> <p>Vote: 5 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Preventing the trauma caused by child sex trafficking is a major priority this session . The Governor’s Program for Victims of Child Sex Trafficking seeks to connect victims with services to begin the healing process. Sex trafficking is acomplex crime that affects mant individuals in different ways and involves many areas of criminal law. In many cases, young people have been arrested for solicitation crimes when they are really victims of sex crimes. .</p> <p>HB 162 seeks to prevent minors under 17 years old from being charged for crimes incurred while being victimized by child sex trafficking. The bill seeks to provide law enforcement the authority to immediately remove children in cases where trafficking is suspected. This bill prohibits prosecuting a child under 17-years-old for prostitution, and it establishes that a child suspected of engaging in prostitution is not grounds for supervision. The bill clarifies that a child being under 17-years-old is not a defense for a defendant being prosecuted for a trafficking of persons, promotion, or aggravated promotion of prostitution, online or aggravated online promotion of prostitution, and compelling prostitution offense.</p> <p>A child may not be referred to juvenile court for suspected engagement in prostitution. Instead, an officer that suspects the child of engaging in prostitution or is a trafficking victim must take emergency possession of the child and transfer possession over to the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS) as soon as possible. DFPS is then required to connect the child with a local service provider or care coordinator who will assign a caseworker that will refer the child to receive services. The referred services will aim to address immediate and long-term needs including medical, psychiatric, psychological, safety, and housing needs.</p> <p>Requiring DFPS to perform an emergency removal without allowing officers discretion and compelling a person with complex trauma to receive services is concerning. The original language of the bill focused on reunification of the child and a parent or guardian first or to connect the child with community based social services before DFPS involvement, which is the current protocol first</p>	<p><u>Favorable, with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>utilized before performing an emergency removal for non-trafficking situations. As written, HB 162 will replace one form of harm for another. While it addresses a vital need to deter children from the juvenile justice system and provide them with services, it instead directs one of the most vulnerable populations into another cycle of trauma and entrapment. While immediacy is necessary for these matters, there are too many potential ramifications that can result from the bill as written.</p> <p>Requiring law enforcement to take emergency possession of a child without a hearing and then transfer this possession immediately to DFPS will further traumatize the child by continuing the cycle of stripping their autonomy and placing them in an unknown, inconsistent environment. While DFPS is allocated authority to oversee such cases, the organization has demonstrated significant failures in executing its intended purpose. Most relevant to this situation is the exhausted list of children placed into homes which resulted in physical or sexual abuse. Survivors of compelled prostitution and trafficking would be further victimized if placed in such homes. Even if they are placed into safe homes, these children need trauma informed caretakers or at minimum a familiar, safe environment. If these children are traumatized in a system they are meant to trust, it could disrupt meaningful healing or recovery from their experiences.</p>	
<p>HB 873</p> <p>By: Collier Pacheco Shaheen Stucky Ordaz Perez</p>	<p>Relating to the unlawful restraint of a dog; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, law enforcement officers must wait for 24-hours to enforce animal cruelty allegations in the public's plane view, which is a felony offense. HB 873 would allow legal and judicial authorities to protect pets from inhumane treatment effectively. HB 873 adds unlawful restraint of a dog to the Health and Safety Code to immediately provide avenues for state enforcement to respond to unlawful and unattended restraint of pets. The bill defines 4-prerequisite criteria to avoid the offense of unattended and restrained dogs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequate shelter • an area that allows the dog to avoid standing water and any other substance that could cause harm to the health of a dog that is subjected to prolonged exposure to the substance, including feces or urine • shade from direct sunlight • potable water <p>The bill specifies that regardless of the criteria above, an owner may not restrain a dog outside and unattended by use of restraint that: is a chain with or without weights attached, is shorter in length than 10-feet or 5-times the dog's length, is not attached to a properly fitted collar or harness or causes unreasonable pain or injury to the dog - with a list of exceptional instances.</p> <p>The threat of a Class C or Class B misdemeanor will likely reduce municipal-level citations around animal cruelty. Additionally, HB 873 specifies that the restraint of each dog that is in violation is a separate offense. HB 873 could help enforcement personnel educate Texans on continuing to</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>



			provide a safe home for their animals and prevent harm, pain, or even death. Also, identifying pet owners in need of education law enforcement could lead pet owners to resources being provided on the local level for those with financial insecurities.	
HB 558 By: White Meza	Relating to the taking of a blood specimen on arrest for certain intoxication offenses.	Homeland Security & Public Safety Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Peace officers are not required to obtain a breathalyzer or blood sample for intoxication at the crime scene unless there is reasonable belief the person was intoxicated, and even then, people can refuse. HB 558 requires a peace officer to obtain a blood specimen for certain intoxication offenses, including: arrests for intoxication or alcoholic beverage offenses while operating a motor vehicle, refusing provide a voluntary sample, the person was involved in an accident and the officer has reasonable belief alcohol was involved, and the officer reasonably believes the victim will die or suffer serious injury as a result of an accident. Peace officers would still be prohibited from taking a blood sample without a warrant or probable cause that the situation is an exigent circumstance. This bill would make it easier for blood to be drawn without a warrant putting important constitutional protections into jeopardy. If the provision allowing peace officers to obtain blood samples if there is probable cause to believe that exigent circumstances exist(e)(2)) is removed the rating of the bill will change to Favorable.	<u>Will of the House with concerns</u> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
HB 285 By: Murr	Relating to increasing the punishment for certain conduct constituting the criminal offense of obstruction or retaliation.	Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The act of a person intentionally or knowingly harming or threatening to harm another is referred to as obstruction or retaliation. Currently, obstruction or retaliation of a ‘juror’ is a second-degree felony. Due to the high incidence of physical threats directed towards public servants, HB 285 increases the penalty for obstruction or retaliation to a second-degree felony and replaces ‘juror’ with “public servant.” Although HB 285 expands a set of behaviors and increases punishment - the bill allows a parallel penalty to protect every public servant in Texas.	<u>Unfavorable</u> Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
HB 443 By: Israel	Relating to requiring the operator of a vehicle to stop and yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian.	Transportation Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Texas is currently facing crisis levels of pedestrian deaths, comprising 1 in 5 traffic fatalities in 2020. In the past 10 years pedestrian fatalities have risen over 50% and reached 717 in 2020 alone. Currently, drivers are required to yield approaching crosswalks, but not stop, even in the presence of pedestrians. Pedestrian victims of vehicle injuries face arduous trials because of the flexibility “yielding” provides as a defense. HB 443 amends Texas transportation code to require drivers to stop and yield for pedestrians at a crosswalk. This applies to instances such as a vehicle approaching a crosswalk while a walking signal is displayed or, of critical importance, when a pedestrian is currently walking on a street's crosswalk. This bill addresses the Texas Transportation Commission's goal of eliminating deaths on Texas roads by 2050.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org



<p>HB 4107 By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to the notice of entry for the purpose of exercising the power of eminent domain by a common carrier pipeline.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Property owners have continually expressed that private entities that possess eminent domain authority do not always act appropriately .</p> <p>HB 4107 states that before an entity domain authority enters a property for the purposes of making a preliminary survey of the land to exercise the power of eminent domain, the common carrier or its employees, contractors, or agent shall provide the property owner with a written notice of the carrier’s intent to enter the property and an indemnification provision in favor of the property owner with respect to any damages resulting from the survey. This notice of indemnification must be provided to the property owner no later than the two days before the entry to the property and include contact information for an individual the landowner may refer questions.</p> <p>HB 4107 includes that entry to the property is limited to only the portion of the property that is anticipated to be affected by the route of the proposed pipeline. Unless the property owner consented, the entry to the property does not authorize the cutting, removal, or relocation of a fence for purposes of conducting the survey. HB 4107 requires that all equipment and tools be removed and requires the restoration of property. Additionally, the bill requires that if the property owner provides a written request for all non-privileged information gathered from the entry, it must be provided.</p> <p>This bill does not delay any of the processes that occur during condemnation, it simply helps restore good faith negotiations, address landowner concerns, and would reduce litigation.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 573 By: Oliverson Sanford Jetton</p>	<p>Relating to the operation of health care sharing ministries; authorizing a fee; providing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Insurance Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Health Care Sharing Ministries (HCSMs) organize themselves around a common faith to share members' medical expenses. Although HCSMs cover members' medical expenses, they are not insurers because they do not guarantee payment.</p> <p>HB 573 clarifies HCSMs authority and provides regulation, through the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), over these ministries. The bill transfers current provisions from the Insurance Code into the Business & Commerce Code to address concerns that HCSMs may misrepresent themselves as insurance to laypeople, creating confusion and frustration in the marketplace. HB 573 regulates HCSMs by prohibiting them from directly or indirectly representing that they provide insurance or that health costs are free or included with membership or have similar language that insurers use with the general public. HCSMs must provide a quarterly and annual statement to all members that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of members participating, monetary amount of all submitted and paid sharing requests; 	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the amount of money contributed by members, member contributions remaining, administrative fees; the percentage of money paid by members that was paid toward sharing requests, administrative fees, and any amount remaining that is designated for the payment of future sharing requests; and the total amount of membership contributions waived for participants. <p>HB 573 authorizes the attorney general to issue a cease and desist order if they believe that a person is operating an HCSM in a fraudulent or hazardous way that violates provisions and creates an immediate danger to the public or could cause certain public injury. Also, the person who violates is liable to the State for a civil penalty that may not exceed \$25,000 per violation.</p> <p>Furthermore, HB 573 clarifies the definition of HCSMs by re-establishing that HCSMs must be faith-based and a nonprofit organization. Specifically, the HCSM must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limit membership to individuals of a similar faith; facilitates members medical bills, through matching, and presents the ability to assist-with no assumption of payment, risk, or promise; relays contributions from one participant to another; not attempt to operate as a discount health care program. <p>Before HB 573's effective date, if an HCSM fails to submit filing before March of 2022, they may not operate as an HCSM until 2024 - forcing accountability, transparency, and regulatory oversight of HCSMs in Texas.</p>	
<p>HB 639</p> <p>By: White Cortez Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of an emergency services district to provide preventive health care services; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote:</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 639 amends the Health and Safety Code to allow emergency service districts the option of providing services necessary to implement a Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) program. Public health services are limited to preventive public health services, such as immunizations, screenings, checkups, and patient counseling.</p> <p>The overall effect of this bill is to save taxpayer money across the state while improving community healthcare.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Jenny Catchings (925) 628-0628 Jenny.Catchings_HC@house.texas.gov</p>
<p>HB 572</p> <p>By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to authorizing a dropout recovery competency-based educational program provided through a campus</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Votes:</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Under current law, schools cannot receive full funding unless students are in the classroom five days a week. Because of Texas' seat-time requirement, education leaders are challenged with how to design flexible programs for students who drop out but would like to come back to acquire a high school diploma, oftentimes needing a more flexible schedule than traditional high school students. HB 572 seeks to address the growing number of students, such as those who need to work to provide for their family or a teen parents, who drop out of school because the traditional public school model is not a viable option for them.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>



	<p>or campus program charter or open-enrollment charter school.</p>	<p>2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 572 authorizes a public school district or open-enrollment charter school to operate a dropout recovery competency-based educational program through a campus or campus program charter or open-enrollment charter school. Such a program must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • serve students in grades 9 through 12. • have a specified percentage of enrolled students, as reported for the fall semester, who are 16 years of age or older as of September 1 of the applicable school year. • meet the eligibility requirements for and be registered under alternative education accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner of education. <p>A program may be offered at a new or existing district or charter school campus as a new campus program or as part of an existing campus program. The bill provides for a student's eligibility for program enrollment, a student's eligibility for earning course credits and receiving a high school diploma, and the procedures and requirements for a student's demonstration of satisfactory completion of the program. HB 572 provides that a student is eligible to enroll in such a program if the student is between 26 years and 50 years of age and has failed to complete the curriculum requirements or perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument required for high school graduation.</p> <p>HB 572 entitles a district or charter school that offers a program to receive funding for students enrolled under the foundation school program or statutory provisions for charter schools, as applicable. The method used to calculate average daily attendance must provide for a proportionate funding reduction if a student fails to successfully complete the requisite number of courses. The bill authorizes the use of any available state or local funds to provide for the program.</p> <p>HB 572 sets up requirements with respect to the operation of a program and authorizes a nonprofit entity that provides an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school program to transfer the adult education program to a district or charter school to be offered as a dropout recovery competency-based educational program, subject to the commissioner's approval. The bill also provides for the evaluation of the performance of students in a program provided by the commissioner's rule for the purposes of accountability. The bill prohibits evaluation results from being considered in determining the accreditation status or performance ratings of a district or charter school that offers an adult high school diploma and industry certification program. The program applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.</p> <p>HB 572 gives adult students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma with a program that better fits their flexible needs. HB 572 gives students a second chance at advancement. x</p>	
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<p>HB 662 By: Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of the homeless housing and services program by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Concerns have been raised that certain funds could potentially not apply for programs addressing displacement caused by economic activity such as gentrification. Increases in people experiencing housing instability is a nationwide problem, and 27,000 people in Texas do not have a roof over their head each night.</p> <p>HB 662 allows municipalities with populations over 285,500 that administer homeless and housing services programs under the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to implement programs focusing on displacement caused by economic development activity. The bill also ensures any applicable municipality is entitled to receive an allocation of any available TDHCA funding for these purposes.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429-8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 48 By: Zwiener Thompson, Senfronia Morrison Neave Button</p>	<p>Relating to the prohibition against sexual harassment in the workplace.</p>	<p>International Relation & Economic Development Vote: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, sexual harassment is only defined as an unlawful employment practice in regard to unpaid interns, and protections only apply to a company with 15 or more employees and it. 72% of workplace sexual harassment victims do not report, often out of fear employers will not take appropriate action. HB 48 intends to incentivize employers to immediately address workplace harassment they know is taking place.</p> <p>HB 48 establishes that an employer commits an unlawful employment practice if an employee experiences sexual harassment and the employer should have known the conduct was occurring but failed to take immediate corrective action.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 442 By: Israel Oliverson Lopez Morales Shaw</p>	<p>Relating to the prima facie speed limit in residence districts.</p>	<p>Transportation Votes: 9 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has an urgent need to address rapidly increasing levels of pedestrian fatalities and injuries. Many of these injuries happen in residential neighborhoods and in low visibility conditions. Studies show that a person walking, rolling, or biking is twice as likely to be killed if they are hit by a person driving 30 mph than someone going 25 mph. 90% of people hit by cars going 20 MPH survive. Additionally, young children whose cognitive and motor skills are not fully developed are at a unique risk of injury or death.</p> <p>HB 442 amends Texas transportation code to allow municipalities to lower the default speed limits in residential areas from 35 mph to 25 mph without a traffic or engineering impact study for bracketed metros and municipalities who opt in. Cities would not be required to conduct costly large scale impact studies or install new speed limit signs. This bill will allow local governments to protect pedestrians and will contribute to the Texas Transportation Commission's goal of eliminating deaths on Texas roads by 2050</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p>HB 675 By: Ramos Cook Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to the participation of armed forces members in a marriage ceremony through video conference technology.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice & Family Issues Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the law allows for marriage by proxy, or someone may stand-in for another when applying for a marriage license. However, during the pandemic, it was discovered that there was no mechanism for individuals to marry via video conferencing technology. This was especially pertinent to maintain compliance with CDC recommendations to reduce close contact to control the spread of the virus. HB 675 would provide an alternative method for service members to get married while on deployment.</p> <p>HB 675 would address similar situations in the future as well as ease the general burden for members of the U.S. armed forces who are deployed overseas for long periods. This bill would allow for absent applicants for a marriage license if the person were a member of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in another country and unable to attend the ceremony.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 701 By: Walle Meza Morales, Eddie Ortega</p>	<p>Relating to simplified certification and recertification requirements for certain persons under the supplemental nutrition assistance program.</p>	<p>Human Services Vote: 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) acts a buffer against hunger for low-income seniors and allows them to focus scarce cash resources on other necessities, such as medication. However, a lengthy and computerized certification and recertification process creates barriers for seniors in need of food assistance. Lack of technological access and proficiency, as well as cumbersome 6 month eligibility periods that require regular recertification make it hard for seniors to access and remain in the program. A single lapse during the recertification can lead to a senior being without assistance for months. HB 701 seeks to address these concerns by implementing a simplified certification and recertification process for seniors.</p> <p>HB 701 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to develop and implement simplified certification and recertification requirements for SNAP recipients who are 60 years or older and reside in a household in which every resident is 60 years or older. The simplified requirements allow these individuals to waive recertification interview requirements, reduce the number of verification requirements, and extend the eligibility period for a recipient to 36 months.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p>HB 862 By: Romero, Jr.</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of migrant labor housing facilities; authorizing an increase in the amount of a fee; changing the amount of a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs Vote: 5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) is required to inspect and license migrant labor housing facilities to ensure they meet a minimum standard of cleanliness and safety. However, many reports have indicated that many of these facilities are unlivable and in deplorable condition, often lacking proper bathrooms and ventilation. HB 862 seeks to address this issue by requiring TDHCA to take a more proactive role in inspections to enforce basic living conditions and improve reporting of dangerous housing conditions under anonymous complaints.</p> <p>HB 862 prohibits a person from operating a migrant labor housing facility for migrant agricultural workers without obtaining a license from TDHCA. An applicant may apply for a preoccupation inspection through TDHCA as a substitute to inspections conducted by the US Department of Labor or the Texas Workforce Commission. A reasonable license fee shall be established and collected.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>



		<p>In regard to the inspection of a facility, HB 862 establishes specific actions to be conducted by the inspector, such as interviewing no less than 10% of the current occupants and taking photo documentation of the facility. The inspector shall submit a report about the facility to TDHCA with a determination if any violations exist and evidence to support the determination.</p> <p>HB 862 requires TDHCA to establish procedures for the submission, investigation, and resolution of complaints of alleged violations. A standardized complaint form must be adopted, and procedures must be established to ensure complaints can be anonymous and be made in-person and remotely.</p> <p>In regard to suspension or revocation of a license, HB 862 requires TDHCA to adopt rules that provide for the immediate suspension or revocation of a license for certain violations. On suspension or revocation of a license facility owners are required to provide for the relocation of occupants to another licensed facility in the same area. Civil penalties for violations may be no less than \$50 per occupant for each day that the violation occurs. An action to collect the penalty may be brought by TDHCA, the county attorney from where the violation occurred, and a migrant agricultural worker living at the facility at the time of the violation. TDHCA would be required to adopt a penalty schedule which increases the amount for repeat violations. To protect workers who report violations, HB 862 prohibits retaliation from any person who provides a migrant labor housing facility, employs a migrant agricultural worker who lives in a facility, or a farm labor contractor.</p>	
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