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### LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS - Monday, May 24, 2021

<p><b>SB 766</b>  By: Huffman  Sponsor: Leach   Thompson, Senfronia   Hunter</p>	<p>Relating to sexually oriented businesses, including a requirement to participate in the federal electronic verification of employment authorization program, or E-verify, and restricting the age of persons employed by or allowed on the premises, creating criminal offenses</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedure  Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Research shows the environment of sexually-oriented businesses (SOBs) negatively impacts the lives of young people by causing detrimental trauma and allowing human trafficking to flourish. Alcohol sales are a major source of revenue for these clubs and minors under 21 are often encouraged to drink with customers so they will spend more money, which has resulted in many fatal drinking and driving accidents impacting the lives of young women and their families. Human trafficking is promoted by the business model: sex buyers prefer the controlled environments of these clubs, specifically targeting young people under the premise they do not have sexually transmitted diseases. Many start as dancers needing short-term financial solutions but are then groomed and trafficked by club regulars. Research also shows nearly all dancers experienced physical and sexual abuse at SOBs. All these issues can result in serious legal ramifications, carceral recidivism, and trauma that impacts people for the rest of their lives.</p> <p>There is a dire need to better protect young people from damage caused by negligent SOBs. SB 766 promotes better public safety by requiring people employed by SOBs to be at least 21 years old, prohibiting people under 18 years old to be on the premises of an SOB, and requiring these businesses to participate in the E-Verify program to quickly identify fake documents or identification cards often used in human trafficking. These changes will potentially reduce the harm and trauma caused by sexually-oriented businesses currently impacting the lives of many young people in Texas.</p> <p>The bill prohibits any permit or license holder under the Alcoholic Beverage Code from knowingly or recklessly allowing individuals younger than 18 on premises where an SOB is operating, which would be punishable by Class A misdemeanor. The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is required to completely cancel licensure or suspend a license for 30 or 60 days depending on the number of violations or the nature of findings. A person would be categorized as maintaining a common nuisance under civil law if they perpetuate an environment where people knowingly tolerate or do not make reasonable attempts to stop activities related to hiring employees under 21 years of age or permits people younger than 18 years old on the premises of an SOB.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>        Evaluated by:        Cassidy Kenyon        (760)429 8388        Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
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OK for Distribution - Rep Garnet Coleman

			<p>SB 766 changes the prohibited age for individuals an SOB may hire from younger than 18 to younger than 21 years of age punishable by Class A misdemeanor, except for independent contractors solely performing repairs, maintenance, or construction services. For purposes of employment considered harmful to children, the Penal Code definition of “child” is conformingly changed to a person younger than 21 years of age. The bill establishes an offense if SOBs fail to register and participate in the E-Verify program to confirm the identity documents of their employees. Authority is expanded for the Attorney General, Texas Workforce Commission, or law enforcement agencies to inspect employment records and use E-Verify to establish whether the SOB hired an individual under 21 years of age.</p>	
<p><b>SB 23</b> By: Huffman  Sponsor: Oliverson   Harless</p>	<p>Relating to an election to approve a reduction or reallocation of funding or resources for certain county law enforcement agencies.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 8 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 23 directs certain counties that make certain decisions regarding their law enforcement budgets to hold an election before implementing proposed budget changes. Changes that would require voter approval include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reductions in the law enforcement agency’s budget or its percentage of the county’s overall budget, depending on whether or not the overall budget decrease</li> <li>• reductions in total officers employed or in officers per 1,000 residents employed, depending on whether the county’s population has decreased</li> <li>• reductions in funds for recruitment or training per new or vacant officer position</li> <li>• reallocations of funding or resources from the agency primarily charged with policing, criminal investigation, and answering calls for service to another law enforcement agency</li> </ul> <p>This applies only to counties with populations over one million, with exceptions for disaster-related budget reductions - not including drought or pandemic disasters. The election would not be required to take place on uniform election dates. As is typical of ballot measures, the county may not use public money on promotional campaigns or advocacy related to the proposed reduction or reallocation, though an official may communicate factual information and the reasoning behind the change.</p> <p>A resident is permitted to file a complaint with the governor’s criminal justice division if the county does not comply with the voter approval requirement. The division must provide the county time to correct its noncompliance, if applicable, and the comptroller shall investigate a complaint if the division requests. The penalty for noncompliance is a prohibition on the county adopting a property tax rate that exceeds its no-new-revenue tax rate until the unauthorized reduction or reallocation is addressed.</p> <p>While this bill is a significant improvement from other proposed legislation addressing local reductions or reallocations of law enforcement budgets, it still presents concerns. These large counties would have to go through the expensive process of holding a standalone election, costing hundreds of thousands or even over a million dollars, on a single budget issue, forever separating this component out from the rest of the budget. Additionally, restricting a county’s tax revenue could harm the very residents it is purporting to protect by making it more challenging to comply with this bill’s requirements and fund other priorities.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			This bill fails to consider the improvements to public safety that could be gained from reallocating specific responsibilities like mental health crisis response to more suitable agencies and investing in alternative methods of crime reduction such as community development and support services. Further, it adds an unnecessary expense to counties - and ultimately to taxpayers - who may have found more efficient ways to operate their police departments. County officials are elected to manage county budgets - if the community is unhappy with that management, they can remove the individual from office using the methods that are already available.	
<b>SB 2185</b> By: Hinojosa  Sponsor: Canales	Relating to procedures for the dissolution of the Hidalgo County Water Improvement District No. 3.	Urban Affairs  Vote: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	Water control and improvement districts (WCID) are political subdivisions of the state that purchase, construct, operate, and maintain everything necessary to provide water, wastewater, and drainage services. The Hidalgo Water Improvement District No. 3 was formed in 1921 to provide water to serve the agricultural land in the area. Since its creation, a majority of the district has been urbanized, but a portion of the district still serves as agricultural land. There are concerns that because a majority of the district services an urbanized area it should be dissolved. SB 2185 seeks to dissolve the Hidalgo County Water Improvement District No. 3. While it is normal for a district to be dissolved through legislative action, there are concerns about what impact dissolving the district will have on farmers and residents who rely on the district outside of McAllen.  SB 2185 dissolves the Hidalgo County Water Improvement District No. 3 and transfers the assets, debts, and contractual rights and obligations of the district to the city of McAllen. The bill requires the city of McAllen to inform the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) of when the district is dissolved and of when the transfer of any certificate of adjudication occurs.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
<b>LSG Floor Report For MAJOR STATE CALENDAR- Monday, May 24, 2021</b>				
<b>SB 4</b> By: Buckingham  Bettencourt  Campbell  Creighton  Hinojosa  Kolkhorst  Paxton  Perry  Schwertner T aylor	Relating to provisions in agreements between governmental entities and professional sports teams requiring the United States national anthem to be played at team events.	State Affairs  Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	SB 4 would require a professional sports team to agree to play the national anthem at the beginning of each sporting event held at the team's home venue before entering a financial agreement with a government entity, such as a tax subsidy for a sporting arena. Failure to comply with this requirement would constitute a default of the agreement and subject the team to an agreed-upon penalty, such as the repayment of any public funds paid to the team or restrictions on future funding and state contracts. In addition, a government entity would be required to adhere to these provisions or risk intervention by the attorney general.  This bill is simply retaliation against one private team's decision not to play the national anthem during a pandemic when for most of the time there were no fans in the stadium. This legislation sets a troubling precedent regarding government-compelled action. Other private entities and individuals that benefit from tax subsidies, state funding, and public services are not required to display patriotic sentiment or play the national anthem, but in fact benefit from the first amendment right to freely express or not express one's views.	<b>Will of the House with Concerns</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org



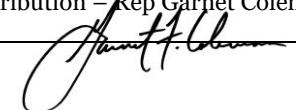
<p>Sponsor: Burrows</p>				
<p><b>SB 12</b></p> <p>By: Hughes   Bettencourt   Campbell   Kolkhorst   Nelson   Perry   Schwertner   Springer</p> <p>Sponsor: Sanford   Metcalf   Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to complaint procedures and disclosure requirements for social media platforms and to the censorship of users' expressions by an interactive computer service.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 5 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>There have long been calls for greater regulation of social media platforms for reasons related to the need for data protection, concerns over the harmful impacts of algorithmic content curation, and perceptions of bias against various types of users. Some find these platforms too restrictive; others have concerns over their lack of moderation. While there is controversy about whether private platforms should benefit from free speech protections, it is clear that some form of regulation is needed. Unfortunately, SB 12 addresses the issue in a way that would do more harm than good.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Transparency &amp; Complaint Procedures</b></p> <p>SB 12 requires major social media platforms to publicly disclose content and data management practices relating to content curation, promotion, and moderation and the utilization of user data. A platform must publish an acceptable use policy describing permissible content and enforcement procedures and offer various methods by which a user can report content violations. Platforms must publish a quarterly report on reported content, enforcement actions taken, and related information and must establish complaint procedures that allow for user notification and the prompt evaluation of reported content and appeals. The Attorney General can enjoin a violation and, if an injunction is granted, recover fees and investigative costs from the platform. <b>These provisions are favorable.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Censorship</b></p> <p>SB 12 prohibits a computer service from censoring users for their online expressions or another person's expressions that they share on major social media platforms. Censorship includes banning, removing, demonetizing, or otherwise discriminating against expression, despite these being the types of tools that social media platforms use to deter or penalize violations of an acceptable use policy. A computer service may only take enforcement actions against content authorized under federal law or unlawful content, such as direct incitements of criminal activity or threats against persons based on their protected status. Hate speech, intentional disinformation, harassment, and other objectionable content could not be removed. A user or the Attorney General may bring action against a computer service for violating these provisions and receive injunctive or compensatory relief that complies with federal protections.</p> <p>There are examples of smaller social media platforms that operate under this limited moderation policy. They tend to be rife with the hate speech, conspiracies, and other objectionable content that major platforms currently attempt to limit, despite their content curation algorithms functioning to promote extreme and divisive rhetoric. This bill's provisions will facilitate greater extremism on the most highly trafficked platforms, leading to negative individual and social impacts. Recognizing the Constitutional grey area of social media regulation and that similar proposals have not been upheld, SB 12 stipulates that all of its provisions are severable, making it incredibly difficult to remove all objectionable sections. <b>Therefore, without substantial amendment, this bill must be rated unfavorably.</b></p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p><b>SB 10</b></p> <p>By: Bettencourt   Birdwell   Campbell   Creighton   Hall   Hancock   Hughes   Paxton   Perry   Springer</p> <p>Sponsor: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to certain requirements applicable to political subdivisions and other entities that engage in lobbying and to the applicability of lobbyist registration requirements to a person who provides legal services to a political subdivision.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 5 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>SB 10 would prohibit local governments, districts, and other public entities from spending public money or providing other compensation for lobbying services, which may include membership dues to associations such as the Texas Municipal League or the Association of Counties that participate in lobbying services directed towards state legislation unless the entity’s governing body authorizes the expenditure in an open meeting. All public entities are prohibited from having a lobbyist advocate for changes to the property tax revenue cap established in last session’s school finance bill. However, an entity’s employees are still authorized to communicate with legislators on any legislative issue. Additionally, the bill clarifies existing transparency requirements by directing an entity to post on its website detailed information on any lobbying contract or relevant association dues and any current legislative agenda or resolution adopted by the entity. A resident of the public entity may file a complaint with the Texas Ethics Commission if these provisions are not followed.</p> <p>This bill is less restrictive than similar bills proposed this session, and its transparency provisions are favorable. However, SB 10 still places unnecessary limitations on the ability of a political subdivision or other public entity to represent their communities before the legislature, specifically regarding tax issues. This provision puts Texans at a disadvantage to private interests who face no similar restrictions. If constituents disagree with an entity’s legislative agenda or the decision to employ a lobbyist, they can and will take appropriate action at the ballot box, rendering this state intervention unnecessary.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 15</b></p> <p>By: Nichols</p> <p>Sponsor: King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Consumer Privacy Act Phase I; creating criminal offenses; increasing the punishment for an existing criminal offense.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Votes: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Under current Texas law, there are protections for vehicle owners' privacy, but it allows for the resale of Texas motor vehicle records to certain entities for market research purposes. Since this practice was authorized in 1997, , concerns have been raised regarding government agencies capitalizing on private data. SB 15 revises protections for Texans' personal information in motor vehicle records by creating a regulatory framework that will ensure Texas motor vehicle and driver data is more secure and utilized only for legitimate purposes.</p> <p>SB 15 updates the definition for personal information to include email address and date of birth. It also prohibits Park and Wildlife and Texas Highways magazine subscribers or licensees from having their personal, consumer data or compilation of such data sold to third parties. The bill clarifies who is an authorized recipient of personal information related to holders of specific Texas dealer licenses, certain Texas state and federal agencies, and to employers and other entities for verification of driver license or a license holder's driving history. It also mandates that agencies who provide bulk data have a dedicated employee to monitor compliance and refer potential violations. SB 15 makes an authorized person who sells personal information obtained by an agency to an unauthorized person liable to the person who is the subject of the information for damages and court costs.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill creates contractual requirements for bulk purchasers of vehicle records that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include a performance bond (maximum amount of \$1 million) and general and cyber-threat insurance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prohibits sale or redisclosure for marketing extended vehicle warranties by telephone</li> <li>• include a 48-hour breach notification requirement after the initial discovery of a breach, compared to the current 60-day law</li> <li>• requires that third-party agreements for sale of personal information contain compliance with state and federal law and protect personal information with appropriate industry standard security measures</li> <li>• include an annual reporting to DMV of all third parties that receive personal information and related permissible purpose of data</li> <li>• requires for agencies who disclose personal information in bulk to provide "salt" data or release two records that are solely for the purpose of monitoring compliance and detecting responsible violators</li> </ul> <p>SB 15 authorizes agencies to cease disclosing personal information to those who violated a term of the disclosure contract and allows government agencies to continue to share data such as an up-to-date driving record, for legitimate purposes such as safety related recall notification for vehicles, vehicle history reporting, and automobile insurance verification among other important uses for law enforcement.</p> <p>The bill enhances penalties for violating permitted uses, resulting in a misdemeanor punishment and a fine of up to \$100,000. Additionally, it creates a timeline to purge all records of personal information if a user is found in violation of rules, which would result in a higher fine if a user does not comply.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1580</b> By: Hancock Sponsor: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to the use of securitization by electric cooperatives to address certain weather-related extraordinary costs and expenses.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>During February’s winter storm, the price of wholesale electricity rose from \$30 per megawatt hour to over \$9,000 per megawatt hour because of severely curtailed generation. Additionally, the price of natural gas, often used as fuel for generation facilities, rose by as much as 1000% due to incredibly high demand and diminished supply. This resulted in billions of dollars in unpaid bills to ERCOT and other regional entities who are responsible for facilitating payments between generators and electric service providers and contributed to the default of some market participants - costs that under normal circumstances would be uplifted and repaid by all market participants. The vast majority of unpaid bills that resulted from the storm were incurred by a few customer-owned electric cooperatives or co-ops.</p> <p>This bill will provide for the securitization of extraordinary costs incurred by co-ops during Winter Storm Uri, including those related to high wholesale prices, increased generation costs, and uplift charges. Using conventional financing tools to address extraordinary costs would likely result in significant and immediate costs to customers, who bear all the co-ops’ costs of operation. Similar to other securitization bills passed this session, SB 1580 will minimize and spread out these extraordinary costs by authorizing a participating co-op’s board of directors to adopt a financing order approving the issuance of securitized bonds to be recovered through non by passable charges on current and future customers’ electricity bills.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>These fees must be assessed within the service area, regardless of whether the co-op stays in business, and all bond costs must be recovered in at most 30 years.</p> <p>This bill offers a mechanism to ensure that current debts are paid, further payment defaults are mitigated, and customers are protected from dramatically higher electricity bills and the potential fallout of cooperatives' financial instability.</p>	
<p><b>SB 30</b> By: West Alvarado Bettencourt Birdwell Blanco Buckingham Campbell Creighton Eckhardt Gutiérrez Hall Hancock Hinojosa Huffman Hughes Johnson Kolkhorst Lucio Menéndez Miles Nelson Nichols Paxton Perry Powell Schwertner Seliger Springer Taylor Whitmire Zaffirini Sponsor: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to the removal of certain discriminatory provisions from a record conveyance instrument or document.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Current statute still contains many discriminatory provisions as it relates to deeds that convey real property or an interest in real property. These provisions restrict the sale, use, lease, or transfer to a person because of race, color, religion, or national origin. While these discriminatory provisions still exist, they are not enforceable. SB 30 puts provisions in place for these discriminatory provisions to be removed.</p> <p>SB 30 states that a person who owns real property or has an interest in real property and if that title contains a discriminatory provision, they may request a motion to remove the discriminatory provisions from an instrument or documents by filing a motion with the district county clerk. The bill includes a form the individual must fill out when filing the motion and allows for the court to indicate if the instruments or documents contain discriminatory provisions that are to be removed. The court's finding may be made solely on the review of the form without hearing any testimonial evidence. If the court does not rule on the motion on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day after the date the motion is filed, the motion is deemed granted. SB 30 also states that a county clerk may not collect a filing fee of the motion or a filing fee of the court's finding of fact.</p> <p>The process SB 30 puts in place is simple, clear, attainable, and creates efficient opportunities for individuals to remove discriminatory provisions from their deeds and will save them time and money.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>LSG Floor Report For CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CALENDAR- Monday, May 24, 2021</b></p>				
<p><b>SJR 19</b> By: Kolkhorst Sponsor: Frank  </p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 1 Nay,</p>	<p>For residents of long-term care facilities, visits from family and friends outside of the facilities provide necessary social and emotional support, as well as hands-on care that may supplement the care provided by staff. During the COVID-19 pandemic, long-term care facilities closed their doors and prohibited visitations for residents as a preventative measure to keep the virus out of facilities. Due to these policies, residents and their loved ones went months without in-person contact, often resulting in residents' physical and mental decline. SJR 19 constitutionally establishes a resident the right of an essential</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>



Sanford   Hernandez   Metcalf	to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation.	0 PNV, 1 Absent	caregiver, who provides that necessary social and emotional support, and may not be prohibited from in-person visitation. The legislature by general law may provide guidelines for a facility, residence, or center to follow when establishing essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures.	
<b>LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE CALENDAR- Monday, May 24, 2021</b>				
<b>SB 1047</b> By: Seliger Sponsor: Smithee	Relating to the execution of a search warrant for taking a blood specimen from certain persons in certain intoxication offenses.	Criminal Jurisprudence  Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Several Texas municipalities are located in more than one counties. These municipalities create unique challenges for the issuance of search warrants if these warrants are not issued in the same county where the offense took place. One specific example is the issuance of a search warrant for a blood specimen while investigating alcohol-related driving offenses. SB 1047 authorizes search warrants issued to collect a blood specimen from a person suspected of committing certain intoxication related offenses to be executed in adjacent counties of the issuing county and by any law enforcement officer authorized to make arrests in the executing county.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 64</b> By: Nelson Sponsor: White	Relating to a peer support network for certain law enforcement personnel.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Law enforcement officers (LEOs) in the U.S. die by suicide at an alarming rate, and 34 LEOs have passed away from suicide in Texas since 2019. Officers are repeatedly exposed to severely traumatizing events, and often continue working without any support or behavioral health services to process their experiences.  SB 64 requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) to develop a peer-to-peer support network for LEOs, which would include peer service coordinators and peer training, technical assistance for program development and peer support network personnel and retaining mental health professionals. TCOLE is required to solicit and ensure all peers receive specialized training prior to providing peer-to-peer support or services under the network.  The bill authorizes TCOLE to contract with higher education institutions that have mental health or law enforcement expertise to develop the network and they must ensure both urban and rural LEOs have peer-to-peer support program capabilities. Information related to a LEO's participation in any peer-to-peer services would be confidential and any disclosure is prohibited by TCOLE and any employing state agency or political subdivision. When considering license suspension or revocation, an officer's participation in the program cannot be considered during any proceedings or used as justification to act on a license. TCOLE is required to submit an annual reporting regarding participation, outcomes, and improvement recommendations that result from the program.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 398</b> By: Menéndez	Relating to distributed renewable	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes,	SB 398 provides protections to residential and small commercial consumers who install distributed renewable generation equipment, primarily rooftop solar panels, on their property. These devices can support the state's electric grid reliability by allowing customers to generate their own electricity and potentially distribute it to others, decreasing demand on other sources.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224





<p>Sponsor: Deshotel</p>	<p>generation resources.</p>	<p>0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>In 2015, legislation passed that barred homeowners' associations from unduly restricting the installation of solar panels. This bill clarifies that municipalities may not adopt more restrictive policies than are allowed HOAs. Specifically, a city may not restrict or prohibit property owners from installing solar energy devices without reason authorized in statute, such as safety and aesthetic concerns or a lack of prior authorization. The bill also permits cities to restrict these devices, particularly their interconnection to the electric grid, to the extent that municipally-owned utilities, the Public Utility Commission, or ERCOT limit their installation due to reliability, power quality, or safety concerns for the electricity distribution system that may arise from intermittent or excess generation.</p> <p>SB 398 also requires that individuals who sell or lease a distributed renewable generation resource to a residential or small commercial customer disclose detailed contact, equipment, pricing information, and terms of the lease, if applicable.</p>	<p>Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 331</b>  By: Johnson  Sponsor: Button</p>	<p>Relating to eligibility to serve as an interpreter in an election.</p>	<p>Elections  Votes: 5 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently voters who require interpreters' assistance to communicate with election workers and read the ballot are only permitted to select an assistant who is a registered voter in the same county. A court found in 2018 that this statute impermissibly narrows the right to vote according to the Voting Rights Act. SB 331 will address this by expanding access to translators for those who need assistance.</p> <p>SB 331 allows a voter to select an interpreter who is registered to vote in adjacent counties in addition to their own. An interpreter must also take the assistance oath stating that they are not frauding the voter or Texas. The bill also allows an election officer to appoint a translator if the individual does not have one or the translator does not meet the qualifications.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 790</b>  By: Zaffirini  Sponsor: Howard</p>	<p>Relating to county authority to balance bill for county air ambulance services</p>	<p>County Affairs  7 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Travis County operates STAR Flight, a public emergency helicopter service that conducts air ambulance, technical rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement support missions in a number of Central Texas counties. As emergency services providers, air ambulances, including STAR Flight, often are out-of-network for their patients, which can lead to balance billing. While Travis County may prefer as a public entity simply to not balance bill for STAR Flight services, it has been reported that the county's interpretation of state law is that it must attempt to recoup any and all money owed to the county.</p> <p>SB 790 authorizes a county to consider a health benefit plan payment towards a claim for air ambulance services provided by the county as payment in full for those services regardless of the amount the county charged for those services. The bill prohibits a county from practicing balance billing for a claim for which the county makes this election and defines "balance billing" as the practice of charging an enrollee in a health benefit plan to recover from the enrollee the balance of a health care provider's fee for a service received by the enrollee from the provider that is not fully reimbursed by the enrollee's health benefit plan.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Spencer Carruth (512)463-0760 Spencer.Carruth_HC@House.Texas.gov</p>



<p><b>SB 1427</b> By: Bettencourt Sponsor: Shine</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of the temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means Vote: 8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Legislation passed last session provided for a temporary property tax exemption for a portion of appraised value on certain property damaged by a disaster. Applicable properties include tangible personal property used to produce income <i>which is specific to small businesses</i>, improvements on real property, or manufactured homes. Property owners must provide evidence their property sustained at least 15% damage from the prior tax year before the disaster. The amount of the exemption is determined through four different tiers that are assigned to qualifying property based on percentage of damage, and while the second, third, and fourth tiers explicitly identify certain physical property damage, the first tier does not.</p> <p>Small businesses would have greatly benefited from receiving this exemption during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, many of the over 2,000 businesses that applied for the temporary property tax exemption based on economic damages they suffered were denied the exemption and subject to taxpayer protests, which greatly impacted appraisal districts in both time and money. The Attorney General issued an opinion on the matter stating that the temporary property tax exemption could only be applied to physically damaged property. SB 1427 codifies that ruling by clarifying that applicable property tax exemptions in disaster areas may only be applied to physically damaged property.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented action forcing the closure of businesses across the state. Businesses forced to close for circumstances outside their control lost food supplies, which is tangible personal property, that caused damage to their revenue due to these closures. Similarly, many people added improvements to their property under the assumption they would be financially secure to pay more taxes with no ability to foresee the closure of food service and other businesses they rely on for their income. While the legislative intent of these tax code provisions may have been to cover losses from natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic identified a need to ensure businesses are supported by the state in any way possible to prevent further economic damage in the event of forced closures. The first tier is the lowest level of property tax exemptions and allowing businesses to receive a 15% to 30% discount on their taxes could help thousands of Texans financially recover.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 335</b> By: Johnson Sponsor: Wu</p>	<p>Relating to the taking of a specimen to test for intoxication and retention and preservation of toxicological evidence of certain intoxication offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>SB 335 would reform the procedures for providing notice of intent to dispose of toxicology evidence and the disposal procedures. The current law is not clear as to whether the court can issue notice of intent to dispose of toxicology evidence after the mandated retention period ends and has led entities to either retain evidence indefinitely or dispose of it under legally ambiguous circumstances.</p> <p>SB 335 requires the assigned court or the entities (law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, or crime laboratory) responsible for collecting, storing, preserving, analyzing, or retrieving toxicology evidence to notify the person evidence was collected from, or their guardian if a minor, how long evidence may be retained. Notice must be given as soon as possible in writing and delivered by hand, email, or first class mail or both orally and in writing by law enforcement prior to requesting the specimen during a DUI arrest. SB 335 codifies that entities may destroy toxicology evidence at the end of the retention period if</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Audrey Erwin (928) 210-4303 Audrey@TexasLSG.org</p>



			notice was given as outlined above and with written approval from the prosecutor's office when necessary. SB 335 adds that law enforcement officers are required to have an individual sign documentation showing informed consent when having blood specimens taken.	
<b>SB 477</b> By: Nelson Sponsor: Meyer	Relating to the administration and collection of sales and use taxes and certain fees applicable to sales involving marketplace providers.	Ways & Means  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>The 86th Legislature amended the tax code to require marketplace providers, such as Amazon or Walmart, to collect and remit state and local sales tax on all applicable items sold in Texas. SB 477 provides online marketplace participants with needed clarity regarding exemptions and industry-specific fees so that each party understands their responsibility to collect and remit sales and use taxes.</p> <p>SB 477 clarifies that taxable items sold using a marketplace are considered consummated where the sale is made for the purpose of collecting municipal and county sales and use taxes, in the same manner as items not sold through a marketplace. The bill further establishes that the state sales and use tax exemption for occasional sales, originally designed for garage sales and other similar events, does not apply to sellers offering taxable items through a marketplace.</p> <p>Industry-specific sales and use tax provisions are clarified in regard to marketplace providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sellers must certify collecting state sales and use tax for tickets or other admission documents sold through a marketplace, and marketplace providers accepting a seller's certification shall deduct the adjusted value of the resold ticket or admission document.</li> <li>• Marketplace providers processing payments or sales of lead-acid batteries are required to collect fees for nonexempt battery sales in the same manner as wholesale or retail battery dealers.</li> <li>• Marketplace providers must collect the wireless 9-1-1 emergency services fee on phone sales made through a marketplace on the seller's behalf - the provider must remit the fee but can still deduct and retain two percent of the fee as already in place under current law.</li> </ul>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 794</b> By: Campbell Sponsor: Meyer	Relating to eligibility for the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of a totally disabled veteran.	Ways & Means  Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>In Texas, veterans who are designated by the VA as 100% disabled, receiving 100% disability compensation, or unable to work due to a service-related disability, are entitled to a property tax exemption for their residence homestead. Current law is written so that appraisal districts provide the exemption to a veteran with disabilities who "receives" 100% disability compensation from the VA. However, veterans sometimes have money taken out of their disability check for retirement benefits or debt payments, and this has led to denials for property tax exemptions because the person is technically not receiving the full amount.</p> <p>To ensure all veterans with service-related disabilities receive the property tax exemption they are entitled to, SB 794 clarifies the exemption applies to anyone who has been awarded a 100% disability rating and compensation from the VA, rather than anyone who receives the full amount of 100% disability compensation.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 797</b>	Relating to the display of the	Public Education	SB 797 will require the display of the motto "In God We Trust" in public schools and public institutions of higher education in each building on a durable poster or framed copy of the motto in a visible place. The	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by:



<p>By: Hughes Sponsor: Oliverson   Huberty   Hefner</p>	<p>national motto in public schools and institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Votes: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 4 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>bill establishes that such a poster or a framed copy must contain both a representation of the United States flag centered under the motto and a representation of the Texas flag and may not depict any words, images, or other information other than those representations. The bill allows the school to accept private donations for this purpose.</p> <p>Schools are already allowed to display the motto if they choose to, this bill makes it mandatory and along with other bills seek to micromanage every aspect of our schools, instead of letting our schools do what is best for their students. This a dangerous precedent set by this legislature. Additionally, there are concerns over what qualifies as a building. This bill may require each school portable, equipment shed, or other small ancillary buildings to have the motto displayed.</p>	<p>Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1281</b> By: Hancock Sponsor: King, Phil</p>	<p>Relating to a reliability assessment of the ERCOT power grid and certificates of public convenience and necessity for certain transmission projects</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>It is estimated that Texans have paid over \$1 billion a year in grid congestion costs, which are incurred by retail electricity providers when electricity demand exceeds what transmission lines can physically handle without malfunctioning. These costs may be directly or indirectly passed on to customers. During February’s winter storm, transmission congestion prevented some generators from sending out available electricity to customers, contributing to the widespread, extended outages that resulted in the loss of life. Texas’s population and industrial growth will require an expedient expansion of transmission infrastructure to maintain the electric grid’s reliability and cost-efficiency.</p> <p>SB 1281 seeks to facilitate the construction of additional transmission infrastructure that will enhance grid reliability. It updates the criteria that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) must consider when granting certificates of convenience and necessity (CCNs) to transmission and distribution utilities (TDUs) for certain reliability projects to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• historical load, forecasted load growth, and additional load currently seeking interconnection</li> <li>• predictive models for a reasonable range of power generation dispatch scenarios, including reliability limitations during high and low renewable generation output</li> <li>• costs to consumers of a new project compared to reduced congestion costs</li> <li>• current and future expected congestion levels and the transmission project’s ability to reduce those congestion levels.</li> </ul> <p>The bill also permits a utility to construct limited new transmission lines without going through the lengthy process of amending its CCN, so long as relevant landowner’s consent. Finally, the bill directs ERCOT to conduct an annual assessment of the grid’s reliability in extreme weather scenarios that considers the variable performance of thermal and renewable resources and makes recommendations for future transmission projects to increase reliability.</p> <p>This bill will encourage transmission projects to be approved and constructed based on actual costs and benefits to customers, now and in the future. It places reasonable considerations on the intermittent nature of renewable generation without restricting its rapid and necessary growth. However, there are</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			concerns that renewable generation facilities’ ability to connect to the grid may be disadvantaged by the requirement for the PUC to directly consider the costs to customers of new transmission lines when deciding on CCNs, since these facilities are often located in more remote, and therefore costly, areas where renewable resources are more plentiful.	
<b>SB 1387</b> By: Creighton Sponsor: Clardy   Hefner   Cain	Relating to a requirement that a voting system used in an election in this state be manufactured, stored, and held in the United States by a company headquartered in the United States.	Elections Votes: 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Some believe voting machines with software or hardware acquired outside the United States are vulnerable to security breaches, although this has not been credibly shown to have happened. There is currently a shortage of semiconductors and computer chips used for voting machines in the United States without any restrictions on where parts may be purchased.  SB 1387 requires electronic voting systems in Texas elections to be owned entirely by companies with a main headquarters in the United States and that voting machines be assembled, and software installed then tested in the US. The bill also issues a feasibility study reported to the legislature by January 2023 to require these systems and their components to be entirely manufactured, stored, and held in the US.  These changes are impractical, expensive, and based on false allegations of fraud that ignore urgent needs for expanded voting access to citizens in Texas.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1111</b> By: Bettencourt   Birdwell   Creighton   Hall   Kolkhorst   Schwertner Sponsor: Paul	Relating to the residence address of a voter for purposes of a response to a confirmation notice sent by the voter registrar.	Elections Votes: 5 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Election integrity in Texas is protected by a thorough statutory code that is so adept at preventing voter fraud the Secretary of State’s office testified that the 2020 election was the most secure in modern history. Despite these facts, and an absence of evidence otherwise, it has been alleged that some voters manipulate local elections through residency fraud.  SB 1111 prohibits a voter from establishing a residence to influence a certain election, or list a residence where they have not lived, or previously lived. In addition, this bill requires a voter registrar to send a form for residency confirmation, that must be returned within 30 days of the form being mailed for a person to remain registered, to an address if it is a PO box. They must include all of their voter registration and proof of residency either by an affidavit, photocopy of unexpired state ID with the residence address, or a government issued bill with a corresponding address. If a voter has no listed voting address, they may deliver an affidavit describing their residence to the voter registrar. The bill excludes military, full-time on-campus college students, federal judges, and those who are protected from providing an address.  This bill creates additional burdens on county election officials to manage more paperwork. Providing only providing 30 days from the time a residency confirmation is sent is a prohibitive time frame for voters to correct and have the verification returned through the U.S. Postal Service. This bill will lead to qualified voters being unduly removed from registration lists.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 109</b> By: West	Relating to the criminal offense of fraudulent	Criminal Jurisprudence	SB 109 amends current language for the act of fraudulently, and without effective consent, harming someone through obtained or secured documentation. The bill removes the specification that conduct must be committed by deception. This offense occurs when an actor causes another individual or public	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson



<p>Sponsor: Meyer</p>	<p>securing of document execution.</p>	<p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>servant to sign, execute, file, or record the document without that person's or the public servant's effective consent. By bringing clarity to various codes and defining effective consent, SB 109 could alleviate any other loopholes to ensure actors are held accountable.</p>	<p>512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 678</b>  By: Alvarado  Sponsor: Button</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the small business disaster recovery loan program.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development  Vote: 5 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic hit small businesses hard with forced closures, leaving many facing the hard decision of letting employees go or even having close down permanently. Unfortunately, Texas lacks a dedicated assistance program to provide short-term loans for disaster recovery to small businesses, and the federal disaster assistance programs can be slow to roll out. SB 678 aims to establish a small business disaster recovery loan program to provide that immediate, short-term financial assistance to Texas's small businesses.</p> <p>SB 678 requires the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) to establish a small business disaster recovery loan program for small businesses in an area under a disaster declaration. The business may only apply for the loan during the period in which the declaration is in effect and may only use the loan to pay payroll costs, including costs related to health care benefits for employees. The bill also establishes a revolving fund outside of the state treasury to be administered by TEDTO.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1531</b>  By: West  Sponsor: Turner, Chris</p>	<p>Relating to formula funding for excess undergraduate credit hours at public institutions of higher education and to the tuition rate that may be charged for those credit hours.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1531 works to incentivize that public higher education institutions are monitoring excess credit hours by capping excess credit hours eligible for formula funding.</p> <p>SB 1531 lowers the threshold a public higher education institution may charge a higher rate of tuition for students with credit hours that exceed an associate degree requirements from 30 hours to 15 hours. The bill establishes that a student is assumed to be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program if the student is not officially enrolled into a degree program. The bill makes conforming changes to reflect these updates in formula funding calculation provisions. These changes do not apply to credits that were earned via examination like AP high school courses, college preparatory course credits, workforce education courses, technical courses, other courses that would not earn credit towards a degree program, or courses from an out-of-state or private institution.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1582</b>  By: Hughes  Sponsor: White</p>	<p>Relating to examinations for applicants for or holders of licenses or registrations to perform certain activities pertaining to compressed</p>	<p>Energy Resources  Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The licensing and registration of activities involving compressed or liquified natural gas is overseen by The Railroad Commission (RRC). Under current statute there are several barriers that exist when seeking to obtain such a license or certification. The examination to obtain a license requires a fee, is paper based, and must be administered in person by RRC staff. There have been calls to make the process to obtain a license involving the use of compressed or liquified natural gas more convenient.</p> <p>SB 1582 authorizes the RRC to also administer an examination by a third-party proctoring service, which may be offered online, to offer applicants and agency staff more flexibility. The bill also removes language that states if an examination is administered by a testing service, the testing service shall collect a fee for</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251) 422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>



	natural gas or liquefied natural gas.		<p>the examination before it is administered and shall forward the fee to the RRC. SB 1582 would remove this inefficient transfer process and direct the fee be paid directly to the RRC.</p> <p>These provisions will allow for a more efficient process when obtaining a license and provide a greater convenience to license and registration applicants and RRC staff.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1816</b></p> <p>By: Seliger</p> <p>Sponsor: Thompson, Ed</p>	Relating to certain temporary vehicle permits and tags.	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas web DEALER eTAG system was created to make processing electronic temporary tags for dealers and buyers convenient for dealerships. However, there are concerns regarding reports of thousands of fraudulent tags being issued and reports to Texas Department of Motor Vehicle (TxDMV) by law enforcement in Texas and other states regarding the misuse of temporary tags. TxDMV lacks a mechanism to detect fraud and address the abuses of the eTag system at this time. SB 1816 seeks to address this by giving TxDMV the authority to set a maximum number of temporary tags that a motor vehicle dealer may lawfully obtain.</p> <p>SB 1816 gives TxDMV the rule making authority to manage the real-time temporary tag database and establish a maximum number of temporary tags a dealer or converter can obtain based on their anticipated need for temporary tags. To identify the entity's anticipated need, TxDMV would consider for each entity their time in operation, sales data, and expected growth; expected changes to their market; and any temporary conditions that may affect sales. TxDMV may authorize additional temporary tags upon request and demonstration of need by the dealer or converter, and denials can be overturned if the entity proves it is more probable than not that their claim is valid.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1668</b></p> <p>By: Hughes</p> <p>Sponsor: Raney</p>	Relating to certification and examination requirements for persons engaged in liquefied petroleum gas activities.	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) provides guidelines for training and certification requirements for individuals who dispense liquefied petroleum gas, otherwise known as propane. The licenses needed to engage in liquefied petroleum gas activities in Texas are overseen by the Railroad Commission (RRC). It has been noted that under current statute, individuals may have demonstrated competence in propane activities but cannot work in Texas without going through the state-specific licensing process, which takes significant time and resources. Due to these obstacles, it is difficult for retail stores to find and employ individuals who are licensed, causing their propane cylinders to remain unfilled, which restricts opportunities for customers to refill at lower prices and convenient times.</p> <p>SB 1688 states that RRC shall waive course instruction, examination, and seminar license requirements for an applicant for a certificate for cylinder filling if they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• completed trainings consistent with guidelines established by PERC and submit completion of the training</li> <li>• applied for certification and paid the fee</li> <li>• completed an approved examination and submitted proof of completion of the exam to RRC</li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251) 422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>



			These changes in statute will permit out-of-state license holders to work in Texas without having to undergo additional training and examination, which will ensure that retail stores are able to find qualified workers to keep their propane cylinders full and provide more convenience for Texans.	
<b>SB 566</b>  By: Buckingham  Sponsor: Cain	Relating to electricity service provided by certain municipally owned utilities.	State Affairs  Vote: 9 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>SB 566 would subject only Austin Energy, a municipally-owned electric utility (MOU), to a retail rate review process not currently required of any MOUs. MOUs are managed and their rates are set through a transparent process that provides ample opportunity for public input. City residents can advocate for rate changes and even remove city council members should their oversight of the process be inadequate, rendering rate review proceedings through the Public Utility Commission (PUC) - which can be lengthy and costly to all parties involved - unnecessary.</p> <p>This bill would permit primarily industrial customers to file a petition with the PUC to review Austin Energy’s current or proposed rates as they apply to the petitioning customers. The PUC must initiate a proceeding to determine whether the rates are consistent with those available to similarly situated customers in areas that, unlike Austin and other areas served by MOUs or electric cooperatives, can choose their electric providers - and where electric providers are less incentivized to invest in reliability. The bill does not define “similarly situated customers,” which is problematic considering that no two electric utilities have the same “situations” related to contracts and costs.</p> <p>If the PUC determines Austin’s rates are inconsistent with other areas - or simply does not deny the petition - Austin Energy must file a rate application with the commission to begin the formal PUC review process, which will either result in a petition denial or the PUC setting Austin Energy’s rates, despite this being outside the norm for all other MOUs. This process would cost taxpayers significant amounts of money and disrupt the state’s electric utility structure - punishing one utility that fared far better during the winter storm than most - for no reason other than a large customer was unhappy with their electricity bill.</p>	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 165</b>  By: Blanco  Sponsor: Fierro	Relating to an exception to dropped course limitations at public institutions of higher education for courses dropped during a disaster that results in a bar or limit on in-person course attendance.	Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>COVID-19 caused many college students to withdraw from classes due to unprecedented and unforeseen circumstances. However, dropping these courses still counted towards the maximum number of dropped courses allowed by the school.</p> <p>SB 165 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to adopt rules that would have public higher education institutions permit students to drop more than the permitted maximum of courses. This will take place if the governor declares a state of disaster which results in a barring or limitation of attendance of in-person classes at an institution. The bill will also prohibit an institution counting courses towards the permitted number of dropped courses if these courses were dropped during the 2020 spring and summer semesters or the 2020-2021 academic year because of restricted or barred attendance due to COVID-19.</p>	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org





<p><b>SB 1764</b></p> <p>By: Bettencourt</p> <p>Sponsor: Shine</p>	<p>Relating to the payment of delinquent ad valorem taxes on property subject to a tax sale.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, tax collectors are required to accept check or credit card payment for property taxes, which can create problems when accepting payments for delinquent taxes. Checks are sometimes not honored by financial institutions due to insufficient funds and people can dispute charges with credit card companies to avoid the delinquent tax payment. SB 1764 aims to prevent this recurring fraudulent activity by authorizing tax collectors to adopt written policy requiring delinquent taxes, penalties, interest, and recoverable expenses on certain properties to be paid only with cash, a cashier's check, a certified check, or an electronic transfer. Applicable payments must be related to seized personal property, property subject to a tax sale order, or real property seized by a municipality or county and the amount secured by a municipal health or safety lien on the property.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 112</b></p> <p>By: West</p> <p>Sponsor: Harless   White</p>	<p>Relating to the procedures for the installation and use of tracking equipment and for access to certain communications and location information by law enforcement and the admissibility of certain evidence obtained through those procedures.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Law enforcement agencies can request information from private companies utilizing cellular data to locate fugitives quickly and efficiently or handle more urgent, life-threatening crimes. There have been reports that companies such as Facebook or other social media sites have been ignoring or denying warrants under the justification that the cellular data portion of the law does not cover immediate cell site location information. Though it is important law enforcement agencies are provided access to information that could save the lives of innocent people, it is also recognized that limiting law enforcement's access to private citizen location information would also protect citizens. SB 112 establishes state law governing law enforcement warrants requesting location information and clarifies when mobile tracking devices may be installed.</p> <p>SB 112 requires a warrant for disclosure of location information held in electronic storage by electronic communications service providers or remote computing service providers created after the warrant is initially issued. These warrants would be subject to statutory provisions related to the execution of and compliance with a warrant requesting access to cellular data from a service provider. "Location information" is defined as data or relevant information capable of identifying the real-time or prospective geographic location of someone using a communication device created by or accessible to applicable service providers.</p> <p>Warrant applications must be filed by authorized law enforcement personnel or on a motion of a prosecutor or their assistant in a county within the prosecutor or requesting law enforcement agency's judicial district and must include a sworn affidavit establishing sufficient facts for determining probable cause. SB 112 prohibits issuing warrants unless evidence establishes probable cause the provider has access to the information requested by the warrant and that disclosing the information would produce evidence for an investigation or result in the apprehension of a fugitive. The state would also be prohibited from using any disclosed location information in a criminal proceeding unless the bill's warrant provisions are met.</p> <p>District judges would be authorized to issue a warrant for purposes of obtaining disclosed location information from domestic or Texan entities or companies contracted to do business in Texas regardless</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>of whether the information is in-state. Warrants are valid for 60 days unless another 60-day extension is granted by the court and must be executed within 10 days after the initial issue date, but magistrates would be permitted to require a shorter execution period depending on the circumstances of the warrant. The bill would require district courts to seal records for warrants and applications they issue until after the warrant’s expiration date.</p> <p>SB 112 allows authorized peace officers to require emergency disclosure of location information without a warrant in certain circumstances, but officers would still be required to obtain a related warrant within 48 hours after requiring the information disclosure without one. The bill creates the following requirements for these instances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The officer must reasonably believe an immediate life-threatening situation, which is defined as a hostage, barricade, or other circumstance threatening death or bodily harm, is happening within their jurisdiction that must be addressed before a warrant could practically be obtained and</li> <li>• There is sufficient evidence establishing probable cause under the bill’s provisions</li> </ul> <p>Finally, SB 112 changes the evidence standard for a peace officer to order the installation of a mobile tracking device from reasonable suspicion to probable cause, for which evidence must be provided establishing that criminal activity has happened or will occur and installing a mobile tracking device is likely to aid in that investigation.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1780</b> By: Creighton  Sponsor: Burrows   Walle   Bonnen</p>	<p>Relating to the protection of public health in this state, including through the establishment of the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The impacts of COVID-19 would have been mitigated with better preparation and effective planning to respond to such a widespread disaster. SB 1780 establishes a public health institute that will create a network of public health professionals, community health workers, state and local public health agencies, health care organizations, universities throughout Texas, and other relevant health entities to aid such preparation and planning.</p> <p>SB 1780 requires the University of Texas System’s board of regents to establish and maintain the Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The administrators of the institute will be the system’s chancellor and the board of regents. SB 1780 requires that the institute receive a biennial financial audit which will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Comptroller. The establishment of the institute by the board of regents is only mandatory when appropriations are made for that purpose.</p> <p>The institute is required to establish and maintain a public health reserve network of relevant public and community health entities and individuals necessary to coordinate Texas public health protection efforts that support epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response components of the state emergency management plan. The state management plan is authorized to include provisions for protecting public health. The bill requires the Department of State Health Services to provide access to data necessary to</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>



			perform its functions, and the institute is authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source if it is for the purposes of the institute.	
<b>SB 2158</b> By: Campbell Sponsor: Frank	Relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to provide identification kits to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for distribution to the parent or legal custodian of certain students.	Public Education  Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Nationally an estimated 460,000 children are reported missing every year by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In 1997, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) created a National Child Identification Program (NCIP), with a mission of locating missing children. The NCIP is a community service initiative dedicated to reducing the number of missing children by providing parents and guardians with a tool to help protect their children. The ID Kit allows parents to collect specific information by easily recording their children’s physical characteristics and fingerprints on identification cards kept at home by the parent or guardian. In 2006 in a collaborative effort between the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) and NCIP, ID kits were disseminated to students in grades K-6 across Texas. SB 2158 seeks to ensure this program continues by codifying the collaboration between TASA and NCIP.  SB 2158 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to provide public school districts and open-enrollment charters identification kits to be distributed through the district upon request of the parents or guardian of a student. SB 2158 clarifies that the submission of the kits to a law enforcement agency is voluntary. The bill requires TEA to implement the provision only if the legislature appropriates funds for this purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate funds for this purpose, then TEA may still provide the kits but is not required. SB 2158 would enlist more participation in the NCIP through schools.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 424</b> By: Hinojosa Sponsor: Hunter	Relating to state agency enforcement of laws regulating small businesses.	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Texas’s Small Business Assistance Advisory Task Force regularly reports on and makes recommendations addressing small business-related issues. Its 2019 report highlighted the indirect costs associated with new regulations on small businesses, which business owners often find difficult to track or understand. SB 424 seeks to provide some relief to business owners who may face penalties for noncompliance due simply to misunderstanding or not knowing about new regulations.  This bill requires any state agency with authority over small businesses, such as the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, professional boards, or the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), to implement policies that would provide a business owner the opportunity to remedy noncompliance within a reasonable time before being penalized for a first violation so long as the violation was not committed knowingly. This would not apply to actions taken by an agency to protect health, safety, and the environment; by certain officers in connection with the regulation of financial services; or by TWC to comply with federal requirements.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 487</b> By: Hughes Sponsor:	Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools.	Land & Resource Management  Vote:	Many charter schools are governed by board members who are not elected, and many do not even live in the community. SB 487 would grant these charter leaders the same privileges as a local school district by requiring a political subdivision to consider an open-enrollment charter school a school district for the purposes of zoning, project permitting, utility services, contract requirements, regulations, fees, and signage, just to name a few. SB 487 explicitly states that open-enrollment charter schools do not have the	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org



<p>Deshotel   Leman   Huberty   Buckley</p>		<p>6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>power of eminent domain. SB 487 would remove any management authority local elected officials have in the approval of a new charter campus, which will result in charter schools receiving privileges not given to public schools. Additionally, this bill denies local communities from having their voices heard when a charter school campus is proposed in their neighborhood. SB 487 would deny the public an opportunity to provide input into the location of a charter school facility proposed in their neighborhood and would allow charter schools to build almost any kind of facility without any accountability to local taxpayers and local elected officials regarding zoning city ordinances, regulation, or policy.</p> <p>SB 487 states that a political subdivision may not take any action that prohibits an open-enrollment charter school from operating a campus within the political subdivision jurisdiction. SB 487 states that a political subdivision shall grant approval in the same manner and follow the same timelines as if the charter school were a school district. These provisions apply to owned and leased property of the open-enrollment charter school. The bill explicitly states that for this section of the bill “political subdivision” does not include a school district.</p> <p>SB 487 also states that at the request of an open-enrollment charter school governing body, a municipality shall enter an agreement with the governing body to establish review fees, review periods, and land development standards ordinances. The charter school would be exempted from all land development ordinances in this agreement.</p> <p>SB 487 expands the definition of land development standards by including that it also extends to building heights, traffic impact analyses, parking requirements, and signage requirements. This means that a multistory building could be constructed in the middle of a residential neighborhood, despite local zoning ordinances, without local government or voter approval. SB 487 does not affect the authority granted by state law to regulate open-enrollment charter schools regarding health and safety ordinances. Additionally, the bill does not grant the authority for fee waivers for fire, safety, health, or building code ordinances for open-enrollment charter schools.</p> <p>The role of local government in charter school approval provides the only opportunity for the public to become aware of plans for new charter school campuses to be built in their city. By exempting charter schools from paying these fees, it forces the taxpayers to pick up the tab. Presently local voters must approve funding for new school district facilities, but not for charter schools, even though they are both funded by taxpayers. SB 487 inequitably applies a public school funding mechanism to charters without requiring them to meet the same standards as public schools, resulting in a dangerous lack of accountability.</p>	
<p><b>SB 938</b></p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from the franchise tax</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means Vote:</p>	<p>State franchise tax exemptions are available for certain applicants to help encourage economic activity; however, veteran-owned businesses do not qualify for this opportunity. To encourage entrepreneurship</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon</p>



<p>By: Campbell   Gutierrez   Hall   Powell</p> <p>Sponsor: Holland</p>	<p>and certain filing fees for certain businesses owned by veterans during an initial period of operation in the state.</p>	<p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>and support the veteran community in their business endeavors, SB 938 provides a temporary franchise tax exemption during the initial start-up period for veteran-owned businesses.</p> <p>SB 938 exempts new veteran-owned businesses from the franchise tax during the first 5-years of operation, as long as the business remains under verified veteran ownership. The bill requires the Secretary of State to waive all filing fees for these businesses as well. To qualify as a new veteran-owned business, the owner must be an individual person who verifiably served and was honorably discharged from a branch of the US armed forces. A new business is a taxable entity chartered, organized, or formed in Texas that begins operations on or after January 1, 2022. The Texas Veterans Commission is required to provide written verification of honorable discharge status to applicable veterans for a comptroller's required form.</p> <p>SB 938 creates an exception for nonprofit corporations' beginning date if the corporation would have qualified as new veteran-owned businesses if the corporation loses its federal tax exemption. In this case, the date the nonprofit corporation was first subject to the franchise tax as a veteran-owned business, not the date it lost its federal tax exemption status. The bill applies to veteran-owned businesses established after January 1st, 2022, and the bill's provisions expire on January 1st, 2026.</p>	<p>(760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 800</b></p> <p>By: Nelson</p> <p>Sponsor: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to certain required reports or information received or prepared by state agencies and other governmental entities.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>In recent years, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has been directed to produce a biennial report on all state agency and public university reports required by statute. This report compiles all agency recommendations regarding the repeal or amendment of reporting requirements for reasons such as duplicative, obsolescence, or a lack of clarity. SB 800 implements recommendations from TSLAC in order to reduce and simplify required reports, allowing agencies to focus resources on fulfilling their core mission.</p> <p>The bill makes several clarifying changes concerning when, to whom, and how certain reports must be submitted and permits the consolidation of some reports that cover the same subject matter. It also reduces the number of recipients required for certain reports ensuring that entities receiving reports are not overburdened with unnecessary or irrelevant information, and repeals statute requiring some reports or aspects of reports that no longer serve a meaningful purpose.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1179</b></p> <p>By: Birdwell</p> <p>Sponsor: Anderson</p>	<p>Relating to the procedure for donating juror reimbursements.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>When an individual reports for jury services, they are entitled to daily reimbursements for the various expenses that accompany jury service such as travel expenses. Each juror is presented with the opportunity to donate these reimbursements before trial begins to certain public programs such as the compensation to victims of crime fund, child services programs, or other programs approved by the court. However, research has found that when presented with the opportunity to donate at the beginning of a trial, some jurors might face undue influence on their disposition to convict a defendant since they are given the opportunity to help a victim before a trial begins.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>SB 1179 states that an individual who reported for jury duty service shall be presented with the opportunity to donate all or a portion of their daily reimbursements to certain public programs after the jury service has concluded.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1341</b> By: Springer Sponsor: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to eligibility for certain benefits provided under public assistance programs.</p>	<p>Human Services  Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs provide low-income Texas families with short term assistance to provide food and pay bills. The eligibility requirements for these programs are strict, to the point where only the most destitute are eligible to apply.</p> <p>SB 1341 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop and implement methods for reducing abuse, fraud, and waste of resources in SNAP and TANF. On a monthly basis, HHSC is required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conduct electronic data matching with the Texas Lottery Commission to determine if a SNAP recipient or member of a recipient’s household has any reportable lottery winnings</li> <li>• utilize the Medicaid data collection system to match a list of eligible individuals for TANF or SNAP benefits and match recipients of TANF and SNAP benefits with vital statistics unit death records to ensure deceased individuals are not receiving benefits</li> <li>• review the out-of-state transactions for SNAP recipients EBT cards to determine whether those transactions indicate a possible address change</li> </ul> <p>If HHSC discovers any of these findings to be true, the commission is to immediately review the eligibility of a recipient for SNAP and TANF benefits. Should a recipient fail to disclose reportable lottery winnings that are required to be reported for public assistance eligibility presumptively commits a program violation.</p> <p>SB 1341 includes SNAP and TANF programs with Medicaid for HHSC to conduct electronic data matches for recipients quarterly to verify the identity, income, employment status, and other factors that affect recipient eligibility. The electronic data matching must match information provided by the recipient with information contained in databases maintained by the appropriate federal and state agencies to verify eligibility. HHSC will enter into a memorandum of understanding with each state agency for which data is required to conduct electronic data matches. The bill establishes that HHSC is prohibited from accepting a Medicaid eligibility determination from an exchange with another agency. HHSC may accept eligibility assessments from an exchange, but eligibility determinations for Medicaid can only be determined by HHSC.</p> <p>SNAP and TANF benefits are only available to recipients for a period of six months before the individual is required to reapply with current income, employment status, and other factors required for eligibility. Reporting policies are already laid out for recipients to report changes in income, household composition, and other reportable changes. Policies are also already in place for loved ones to report the death of a recipient. Requiring overworked case managers at HHSC to conduct additional eligibility</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>



			checks three months into a 6 month benefits period is a waste of resources. The legislature’s time would be better spent addressing the actual issues creating the need for assistance programs instead of investing time and resources on unnecessary, additional eligibility checks.	
<p><b>SB 1697</b></p> <p>By: Paxton</p> <p>Sponsor: King, Ken   Pacheco</p>	<p>Relating to allowing parents and guardians to elect for a student to repeat or retake a course or grade.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1697 seeks to bring parents into the decision-making process to best address student learning loss brought by the pandemic. Currently, a school district has the sole authority to decide whether a student is retained or not. SB 1697 amends the code to grant parents the power to determine whether or not their child should be retained.</p> <p>SB 1697 creates a parental option by which students may repeat or retake a course or grade at home-rule school districts, campus or campus program charters, and open-enrollment charter schools. The bill authorizes a parent to select the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>repeat pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, if the student would have been eligible to enroll in free pre-kindergarten or kindergarten during the previous school year and the student has not yet enrolled in kindergarten or first grade to enroll in the previous grade.</li> <li>for grades one through eight, repeat the grade in which the student was enrolled during the previous school year</li> <li>for high school credit, repeat any course in which the student was enrolled in the last school year</li> </ul> <p>SB 1697 requires an election in writing to a district or charter school. If the district or charter school disagrees with such an election, the district or charter school must convene a retention committee and meet with the parent or guardian to discuss retention. After the retention meeting, the district or charter school must abide by the decision of the parent or guardian. SB 1697 requires the Texas Education Agency to study whether students retained under the bill's provisions should be considered at-risk. The commissioner may adopt a rule excluding students retained by a parent or guardian from being considered a "student at risk of dropping out of school." This law only applies to the 2021-22 school year.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1602</b></p> <p>By: Taylor</p> <p>Sponsor: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to nonrenewal of certain property and casualty insurance policies for the insured's failure to cooperate in a claim investigation, settlement, or defense.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Automobile insurance policies require policyholders to cooperate with the insurer during an investigation, settlement, and defense in auto accident claims or denial lawsuits. Recent outcomes indicate that the only recourse in these auto claims occurs when an injured party files a lawsuit and requires the insurer and policyholder to go to court.</p> <p>If a policyholder has failed or refused to cooperate, SB 1602 explicitly mandates nonrenewal of the policy. The bill states that after an insurer has made reasonable efforts to contact the policyholder, the insurer shall provide written notice to the policyholder that states how they failed or refused to cooperate, the claim or action which the insurer was requesting cooperation with, and that the insurer will not renew the policy if the holder continues to fail or refuse cooperation.</p> <p>Texas has made strides in the past 10 years to stabilize uninsured motorist rates. SB 1602 will negatively contribute to an increase of uninsured motorists - recreating an environment where many Texans will be</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Chelsea Dalton Pederson 512-661-9708 Chelsea@TexasLSG.org</p>



			forced into higher premiums and rates by relying on insurers of last resort due to perceived failure or non-cooperation with insurers during a claim.	
<b>SB 741</b> By: Birdwell Sponsor: Sanford	Relating to the carrying or storage of a handgun by a school marshal.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Current law requires school marshals to store their weapon in a gun locker on campus if their job duties require them to regularly maintain direct contact with students. HB 781 would allow a school marshal appointed by a public school district board to concealed carry a weapon on the campus of a public school or an open-enrollment charter school, regardless of whether the position requires high student interaction. The bill requires the school's applicable governing body to set rules allowing for a marshal to carry a handgun on their person and authorizes a school marshal to use a handgun in circumstances where using deadly force to defend themselves or another is justified. The bill would apply starting the 2021-2022 school year.  There is little evidence to support the idea that providing more handgun access to school personnel has ever done anything to increase the safety of school children and staff. This legislation intends to add another layer of safety for rural or small schools who do not have their own campus police presence. However, incidents requiring the need for a weapon on campus would also require a police presence. Current law already allows marshals access to weapons on certain school campuses in the event of an emergency, thus current legal guardrails should remain in place.	<b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 793</b> By: Campbell Sponsor: King, Phil	Relating to a ribbon for certain service members of the military who served in support of operations to secure this state's international border.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs  Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	There have been calls to recognize the service and sacrifice of military service members who work on the Texas border with Mexico. SB 793 authorizes the governor or adjutant general, if delegated the authority, to adopt policies and regulations to award the Texas Border Security and Support Service Ribbon to a service member of the military forces. The bill qualifies those who serve in the military forces on or after July 28, 2014, state active duty or active under the authority for at least 90 consecutive days, or in response to an emergency activation, and honorably in support of operation under civilian authority to secure the Texas international border as eligible for the Texas Border Security and Support Service Ribbon.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 799</b> By: Nelson Sponsor: Paddie	Relating to contracting procedures and requirements for governmental entities.	State Affairs  Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	SB 799 makes several standardizing and clarifying changes to state procurement procedures that will simplify certain processes and provide state agencies oversight and flexibility as needed.  The bill clarifies the process for the Health and Human Services Commission to enter into certain contracts in the limited circumstances when it receives no response to a solicitation for bids while maintaining fair pricing and qualification requirements. The bill provides agencies more flexibility in making required reports to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and makes conforming and modernizing adjustments to the dollar amounts of procurements or contracts that the comptroller may delegate to agencies, require solicitations or competitive bidding, must be reported to LBB, or are subject to certain	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org





			<p>commodity item purchasing requirements. The bill provides for extra oversight over certain contracts entered into by agencies designated by the state auditor as in need of additional monitoring.</p> <p>The bill also updates information that must be included in the comptroller’s contract management guide to ensure agencies have all necessary guidance to meet contracting requirements. Finally, it removes the requirement that a nonprofit contracted by the state to provide training and evaluation of child advocacy programs be designated as an organization that supports or supervises other nonprofits. This will open up contracting opportunities to a wider variety of organizations, including private foundations. Implementation of this bill’s provisions may be delayed if a federal waiver or authorization is required.</p>	
<p><b>SB 783</b> By: Creighton Sponsor: Murphy</p>	<p>Relating to the purchase of iron and steel products made in the United States for certain projects by public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 783 includes public higher education institutions among the government entities whose construction or installation “uniform general conditions” require all contracts and bid documents to include the requirement that any manufactured iron and steel product used in the project must be produced in the United States.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 475</b> By: Nelson Sponsor: Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to state agency and local government information management and security, including establishment of the state risk and authorization management program and the Texas volunteer incident response team; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>State Affairs  Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Due to an increasing reliance on digital networks and several widespread cybersecurity incidents that have put Texans’ data and government systems at risk, the Texas Cybersecurity Council and the Texas Privacy Protection Advisory Council have made several recommendations to improve the state’s cybersecurity and data management practices. SB 475 implements several of these measures to ensure data is protected across the state.</p> <p>SB 475 requires each state agency with over 150 employees to appoint a full time data management officer charged with improving the agency’s data security and establishing a data governance program. These officers shall compose the state data management advisory committee to advise the Department of Information Resources (DIR) on various data-related topics such as ethics, best practices, and policy goals. DIR must establish a state risk and authorization management program to provide a standardized approach to assessing vendors’ data security capabilities, which must be demonstrated before entering or renewing a contract related to cloud computing services or one that enables access to government data.</p> <p>SB 475 directs DIR to establish a Volunteer Incident Response Team to provide rapid assistance to cybersecurity events at state agencies, universities, or local governments using guidelines provided by DIR. Individuals could apply to volunteer based on experience and other established criteria, and DIR would cover deployed volunteers’ living expenses using fees charged to participating entities. DIR may also establish regional network security centers housed in public universities to provide cybersecurity support to agencies and political subdivisions through interagency or interlocal contracts.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			SB 475 requires agencies and local governments to consider greater automation in their operations. It also prohibits state agencies from collecting or using data that could identify a person or their location, including GPS, individual contact tracing, and biometric identifiers, without the person’s consent. It may be permitted to the extent that federal and other state law allows it or for law enforcement purposes.	
<b>SB 484</b> By: Hinojosa  Sponsor: Leach	Relating to the right of a member of the state military forces to retain private legal counsel and file a civil action.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Military members that enter active duty are protected by several federal laws such as The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). SCRA provides financial relief and relief from certain civil obligations while they are in active duty. USERRA provides employment protections for active duty military members such as prohibiting employers from discrimination against employees that leave to serve in the military. While members of the Texas military forces are entitled to these same protections, there is no statute in place that enforces these measures. SB 484 will ensure that active duty military members are guaranteed employment protections under the law and provide ways for them to be compensated if these protections were violated.  SB 484 states that a service member of the Texas military forces who is ordered to active duty is entitled to SCRA and USERRA protections and other statutory provisions relating to entitlement to employment benefits. A service member may also retain private legal counsel and file a civil action in a district court if they are aggrieved by a violation of or denied a benefit or protection guaranteed under the bill. SB 484 states that the court may award to a service member who prevails in an action filed appropriate relief, including monetary damages, and costs of the action and reasonable attorney’s fees. This bill does not limit any remedy or relief available to a service member under the law including the authorization for a person to file a complaint with the Texas Workforce Commission or any other remedy or relief available under applicable provisions.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 63</b> By: Nelson  Sponsor: Meyer	Relating to the system for appraising property for ad valorem tax purposes.	Ways & Means  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Many issues have been reported with the property tax appraisal system, particularly with lack of timely responses from appraisal districts regarding exemption determinations and scheduling protest hearings. Some taxpayers have reported waiting over a year to receive a protest hearing. Additionally, changes in appraisal district employment practices are needed to limit conflicts of interest. SB 63 improves the overall property tax appraisal system by requiring more transparency, establishing accountability measures, and increasing overall efficiency.  SB 63 provides the Comptroller an option to electronically send to and receive from taxpayers any document, payment, report, notice, or other item required under the Property Tax Code. The bill provides a deadline for scheduling a hearing to correct an appraisal roll no later than 90 days after the appraisal records are approved. A 90-day deadline is also established for an Appraisal Review Board (ARB) to schedule a protest hearing from the day they approve related appraisal records. ARBs in	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org



			<p>appraisal districts with 120,000 people or more are permitted to provide an electronic reminder of the date, time, and place of a protest hearing upon taxpayer request.</p> <p>SB 63 makes the following changes to appraisal districts and their ARB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ARB members would be provided the option to complete required training and education in the initial onboarding process and ongoing continuing education through distance learning</li> <li>• prohibits any individual who served as director of an appraisal district for all or part of five terms, unless they were director of an appraisal district with a population less than 120,000, and anybody who has been employed by the district within the preceding three years from serving as chief appraiser</li> <li>• prohibits appraisal districts from employing a person who served as an ARB member at any time during the two years preceding employment</li> <li>• requires appraisal district board of directors and local administrative district judges or their designee to remove or determine removal is not warranted for ARB members within 90 days of learning there is potential grounds for removal</li> </ul> <p>SB 63 makes the following changes to the process for property tax exemptions and special appraisals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sets a 90-day deadline for chief appraisers to act on property tax exemption applications from the date the applicant first qualifies or provides necessary information to determine their eligibility</li> <li>• sets a 90-day deadline for a chief appraiser to act on special appraisals on land designated as agriculture, open-space, timber, or restricted use timber, recreational or scenic, or public access airports</li> <li>• requires chief appraisers to deliver written notice to an applicant requesting additional information used to determine their right to an exemption or a special appraisal by the 30th day after the application is filed</li> <li>• notice to applicants modifying or denying applications for tax exemptions and special appraisals must fully explain the justification for those decisions</li> <li>• prohibits chief appraisers from arguing or offering evidence supporting their reason for denying or modifying an application for tax exemptions or special appraisals beyond the reason stated in the initial notice, unless the chief appraiser provides notice to the taxpayer of additional reasons for modifying or denying an application</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SB 204</b> By: Schwertner  Sponsor: Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the operation of a public school transportation system.</p>	<p>Public Education  Votes: 8 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>When a student chooses to transfer to a school in a different district than where they reside and requires transportation, the two districts must make an interlocal agreement as to who will provide transportation for that student. Unfortunately, the districts often cannot agree, resulting in the district to which the student is transferring to pursue a waiver from Texas Education Agency (TEA). SB 204 seeks to circumvent this process and provide the student with bus transportation.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>



		1 Absent	<p>SB 204 allows a board of county school trustees or a school district board of trustees to establish and operate a public school transportation system outside the county or district; as applicable, the board can develop and use the transportation system if students served by the county system or enrolled in the school district reside outside the county or district.</p> <p>While SB 204 may seem to solve the transportation issue for a student who transfers, it opens up the door for schools to harvest students between districts for funding purposes and would open discriminatory practice of a district using student enrollment policy to be selective in the acceptance of transfer students.</p>	
<p><b>SB 62</b></p> <p>By: Zaffirini</p> <p>Sponsor: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to permitting the Texas Ethics Commission to provide seminars and charge an attendance fee for those seminars.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) administers and enforces laws concerning political campaigns, lobbying, conflicts of interest, and other ethics issues relevant to elections and state government. TEC is authorized to provide seminars for registered lobbyists on the various laws under which they are regulated, and to disseminate explanations and compliance guidelines through seminars generally. Still there have been concerns that there are not adequate educational opportunities available to elected officials or political candidates.</p> <p>SB 62 clarifies that TEC may provide a seminar to address any of the laws it administers and enforces and related legislation, for which it may charge a fee in an amount necessary to cover the associated costs. Additionally, the bill permits the cost of providing food or nonalcoholic beverages to attendees to be included in the fee charged for any TEC seminar. These provisions will facilitate better understanding and compliance with state ethics laws.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 403</b></p> <p>By: Johnson</p> <p>Sponsor: Gervin-Hawkins</p>	<p>Relating to a right of first refusal applicable to the sale of housing developments that have received certain financial assistance administered by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The right of first refusal is a contractual agreement that would give an interested buyer the contractual rights to be the first party to put an offer on a property when a seller lists it on the market. When housing developments are supported by allocations of low income housing tax credits and subject to the right of first refusal, this limits the amount of entities that are able to put an offer on a property when the property is put on the market. Oftentimes entities that have the rights of first refusal are not interested in fulfilling the purchase because the property tax exemption is lifted when ownership changes and sometimes the developments may be ground leaseholds only. This creates significant delays in the process since the right of first refusal time period would have to expire before other entities would be able to put an offer in on the property. However, public housing authorities are often interested buyers in these types of developments but are able to put in an offer until the right of first refusal time period expires.</p> <p>SB 403 would allow the owner of a housing development that is subject to the right of first refusal to enter into a purchasing agreement with a public housing authority, a public facility corporation created by a public housing authority, or that is controlled by such an authority or corporation. SB 403 would allow these agreements to be entered into during the first 60 day period after the required notice of intent to sell the development is provided.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Maddox Hilgers (512) 739-4885 Maddox@TexasLSG.org</p>



<p><b>SB 957</b> By: Zaffirini Sponsor: Krause</p>	<p>Relating to the denial or reduction of an award otherwise payable under the Crime Victims' Compensation Act.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 21 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 6 Absent</p>	<p>SB 957 will change the current law regarding compensation for the crime victims' compensation (CVC) program. The bill prohibits the Attorney General from denying or reducing a victim's awarded compensation amount due to a victim's lack of cooperation with law enforcement or hospitals. Instances that constitute a "lack of cooperation" could occur during initial interaction at the crime scene or the hospital immediately following the reported crime. Given that these victims may not be ready to immediately relive traumatic events at the crime scene or while in the hospital, SB 957 would prevent survivors of assault from being penalized for taking time to process their trauma.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Audrey Erwin (928) 210-4303 Audrey@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 828</b> By: Hughes Sponsor: Paddie</p>	<p>Relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue in certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Exceptions provided in the tax code allow certain cities and municipalities to use revenue from hotel occupancy taxes (HOT) for economic development projects. Legislation passed last session attempted to help Queen City and the City of Conroe update their sports facilities with concession stands and bathrooms to encourage more events and economic activity, but changes did not accomplish what was intended.</p> <p>SB 828 allows a municipality with a population of 50,000 or more that contains a portion of the Sam Houston National Forest to use HOT revenue for promoting tourism by upgrading an existing sports facility or field. The bill additionally removes a provision that prevented the legislation last session from being successfully enacted.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 907</b> By: Perry Sponsor: Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to the application for and issuance of a marriage license through the use of remote technology.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Vote: 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently in Texas, couples are required to show up in person to apply for a marriage license. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, county clerk offices placed restrictions on how many people could appear in person and some closed their doors completely. This created many challenges for couples who needed to apply for their marriage license and were unable to legally get married.</p> <p>SB 907 states that the Texas Judicial Council (TJC) and the Department of State Health Services shall develop and implement a voluntary certification process by which a county clerk may be certified to issue a marriage license through the use of remote technology. Under SB 907, a person who applies for a marriage license through the use of remote technology is considered to have appeared before the court and the county clerk may issue the license through the use of remote technology. SB 907 provides an alternative to showing up in person to obtain a marriage license which provides convenience for couples and county clerks.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Victoria McDonough (251)422-0558 Victoria@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1267</b> By: West Sponsor: Lozano</p>	<p>Relating to continuing education and training requirements for educators and other school district personnel.</p>	<p>Public Education Votes: 13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>During the interim, the Senate Education Committee was charged with reviewing existing teacher continuing education requirements, professional development, and training for teachers. The committee examined and evaluated current provisions for their efficacy in improving student academic outcomes. SB 1267 is a product of more than 30 consensus recommendations of a teacher training workgroup comprising K-12 education stakeholders convening over the interim for over 9 months. SB 1267 seeks to implement these recommendations.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Phuong Nguyen (832)302-9940 Phuong@TexasLSG.org</p>



			<p>SB 1267 requires the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to establish a clearinghouse advisory group consisting of educators and representatives of organizations that represent educators to review and provide input regarding those best practices and industry recommendations. With consultation of the advisory group, the bill requires SBEC to publish a comprehensive clearinghouse of information on continuing education and training requirements for educators and other school personnel. The bill also requires the advisory group to review the clearinghouse and submit a report to the legislature of recommendation every biennium.</p> <p>SB 1267 requires the board of trustees of a public school district and the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to adopt a professional development policy not later than August 1, 2022, and to annually review the clearinghouse. The adopted policy should be guided by the training recommendations in the clearinghouse and note the difference in policy from those recommendations and include a schedule of all training required. In terms of any conflicting requirements, the statutory frequency requirement prevails and completion requirements over others in the district or charter school policy. SB 1267 states that the commissioner cannot adopt rules regarding frequency and completion requirements unless it is provided in the statute and is granted explicit rulemaking authority related to the training.</p> <p>SB 1267 distinguishes and differentiates between certification renewal where an educator honed their craft and professional development which is related to situations working in the school environment clarifying those requirements based on specific topics related to the educator’s role. The bill also simplifies and merges duplicate training to reduce confusion and waste of resources. SB 1267 also refines record-keeping and reporting requirements of completion of training and certifications for all public schools while permitting TEA to perform audits upon request. SB 1267 establishes meaningful training requirements to honor and value an educator’s profession giving them more opportunities to select training to hone their craft and advance student outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>SB 1282</b> By: Hancock Sponsor: Paddie   Vasut</p>	<p>Relating to cost recovery for costs arising from the interconnection of certain electric generation facilities with the ERCOT transmission system.</p>	<p>State Affairs Vote: 7 Ayes, 5 Nays, 1 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Customers pay the costs of transmitting electricity, including the construction of new infrastructure, upgrades, and operational costs. There have been concerns that, because generators do not bear the cost of building the infrastructure that connects their facilities to the electric grid and to customers, they are not incentivized to build their facilities in locations closer and therefore cheaper to customers.</p> <p>SB 1282 attempts to address this concern by requiring the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a reasonable allowance for each generator or storage facility’s interconnection costs, including direct costs of infrastructure or upgrades to the grid, to be paid through traditional methods. Any costs that exceed the allowance must be borne directly by the generator or storage facility. This “reasonable allowance” does not consider the financial benefits that may outweigh new or higher transmission costs, which may disadvantage and discourage new generation, facilities that serve rural customers, and renewable generators that build in remote areas where wind and solar resources are more abundant. Further, a</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b> Evaluated by: Hannah Hall (832) 425-1224 Hannah@TexasLSG.org</p>



			recent ERCOT report showed that the annual cost of transmission per energy used has been dropping since 2017, raising questions on the need of a bill like this.	
<b>SB 1094</b> By: Creighton Sponsor: Frullo	Relating to the payment of certain education expenses using the state’s program for paying, prepaying, or saving towards the cost of attending an institution of higher education.	Higher Education  Vote 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Prepaid higher education tuition programs - programs that provide contracts for individuals to allocate a portion of their income to be used by a beneficiary for tuition and required fees - have been an alternative pathway to access higher education but going to college is not the appropriate path for all individuals. Trades and specialized occupations provide vital and essential services from which all Texans benefit. SB 1094 authorizes apprenticeship programs for such trades to be considered higher education institutions for the purposes of receiving funding from prepaid higher education programs.  SB 1094 authorizes any contract benefits from a prepaid higher education tuition program to be applied to the payment of tuition and required fees for a registered apprenticeship program. An apprenticeship program for the purpose of this bill must be registered and certified with the U.S. Department of Labor under the federal National Apprenticeship Act. The Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board is the responsible body to complete the payment of tuition and required fees associated with the beneficiary’s plan to the registered apprenticeship program, and the beneficiary is responsible for any excess tuition or fees not covered by the plan. SB 1094 makes codifying changes in applicable statute to reflect changes made in this bill.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 1088</b> By: Creighton Sponsor: Shine	Relating to the applicability of provisions entitling certain lessees to receive a copy of a notice of appraised value delivered to a property owner by the chief appraiser of an appraisal district.	Ways & Means  Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Property owners are required to provide a copy of an appraised value notice to people leasing their property who are obligated to pay taxes on these items in case they want to appeal an appraised value. These notices usually apply to property owners with a single lessee per parcel, but for businesses that lease personal property such as vehicles or computer equipment, these notices can sometimes have thousands of separate lessees on one notice. Having to break up this information and provide it to separate lessees is burdensome and inefficient, especially considering these lessees are far less likely to appeal or use the information provided. SB 1088 would only require someone who owns real property, or a landowner, to send notice of appraised value to a lessee for them to reimburse taxes on property they lease. With this change, the personal property leasing industry would no longer be required to provide notice on every individual piece of leased property.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org
<b>SB 916</b> By: Seliger Sponsor: Meyer	Relating to certain information regarding appraisal district noncompliance and property values in the Texas Department	Ways & Means  Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	In Texas, each appraisal district hires and maintains a chief appraiser responsible for analyzing the local property market and overseeing all appraisals in the district’s jurisdiction. Chief appraisers have the important responsibility of passing methods and assistance program reviews and property value studies that determine how much funding school districts are to receive. There is currently no uniform procedure for appraisal districts to obtain certain hiring information related to an appraiser’s past performance, and not being able to confirm an applicant’s qualifications could detrimentally impact schools and their funding.	<b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org



	<p>of Licensing and Regulation records of a professional property tax appraiser serving as chief appraiser for the district.</p>		<p>SB 916 would require the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to provide information on whether a registered appraiser has ever received a notation of noncompliance to an inquiring appraisal district considering appointments for the chief appraiser. The bill allows appraisal districts to request any additional information from TDLR regarding a chief appraiser candidate and requires TDLR to inform the requester of certain compliance standings if an applicant previously served as Chief Appraiser. When the Comptroller is finalizing the biennial review of the appraisal district’s performance, the bill requires TDLR to include an electronic link with the Comptroller’s report for the review and each school district property value study the Comptroller conducts for use in the review.</p>	
<p><b>SB 2038</b> By: Menéndez  Sponsor: Dean   Oliverson   Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the prices and fees charged by certain freestanding emergency medical care facilities during a declared state of disaster; providing administrative penalties.</p>	<p>Public Health  Vote: 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Freestanding emergency medical facilities advertised rapid testing for COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic. However, these facilities are not meant for general care but instead provide emergency care, which permits them to charge higher prices. There are examples of facilities charging exorbitantly high prices for COVID-19 testing that insurance companies had to cover. There is concern that these costs will impact the premiums of insured individuals. SB 2038 ensures that these facilities do not overcharge for provided services or products.</p> <p>SB 2038 requires certain freestanding emergency medical care facilities that are providing testing or vaccinations for an infectious disease during a declared disaster relating to that infectious disease to disclose prices for the test, vaccine, and other associated charges. This does not expand the type of healthcare services facilities are authorized to provide.</p> <p>SB 2038 prohibits facilities impacted under this bill from doing the following during a declared state of disaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• charging an individual with an unconscionable price for a product or service provided at the facility</li> <li>• intentionally charging a third-party payor a price higher than the price charged to an individual for the same service or product.</li> </ul> <p>The bill defines “unconscionable price” as a price that is 200% more than the average price for the same or substantially similar service or product provided by other facilities in the same or adjacent counties. The bill’s provisions do not prohibit a facility from offering an uninsured individual a cash discount for a product or service or accepting a full payment from an individual for a product or service in place of using their health care plan.</p> <p>The Health and Human Services Commission is required to impose sanctions for violations of the bill’s provisions on the facility’s operator. The first sanction is an administrative penalty of \$10,000, the second is a penalty of \$50,000 and a 30-day suspension of the operator’s license, and the third is a permanent revocation of the individual’s license.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Devan Daniel (419) 566-5465 Devan@TexasLSG.org</p>





<p><b>SB 69</b></p> <p>By: Miles</p> <p>Sponsor: White</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting peace officers from using neck restraints during a search or arrest.</p>	<p>Homeland Security &amp; Public Safety</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Last year, the world watched in horror as officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on George Floyd’s neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Chauvin only recently received a guilty verdict for manslaughter when many of his peers before him were exonerated in similar circumstances, demonstrating the United States is ready for serious change after years of police dehumanizing citizens in the streets with impunity. Many Texas families will never heal from losing their loved ones to police brutality regardless of what policy is created but preventing Texans from further harm is the legislature’s responsibility. Chokeholds and neck restraints erode trust between officers and communities, especially considering the unique potential for harm that causes broken families and the high cost of wrongful death claims against law enforcement agencies costing taxpayers millions.</p> <p>SB 69 prohibits peace officers from intentionally using choke holds, carotid artery holds, or similar neck restraints when searching or arresting a person. The bill makes an exemption if the restraint is necessary to prevent serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another person, a common situational example being a disarmed officer needing to protect themselves or others for survival.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Cassidy Kenyon (760)429 8388 Cassidy@TexasLSG.org</p>
<p><b>SB 1728</b></p> <p>By: Schwertner   Nichols   Powell</p> <p>Sponsor: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the equalization for road use by and public charging infrastructure for alternatively fueled vehicles; authorizing a fee and a surcharge.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Votes: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB 1728 establishes the Texas Transportation Electrification Council (TTEC), composed of the administrative heads of several state agencies. The Council will be administratively attached and funded through the Texas Department of Transportation and abolished in 2031.</p> <p>TTEC must assess the State's existing and planned electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and develop a comprehensive plan for installing public charging stations to meet the needs of a growing number of EV drivers through the year 2040 and be updated biennially. The Council's plan must consider technology allowing for two-way electricity flow capability to connect vehicles to the electric grid to promote grid stability. The Council shall also develop policy recommendations for agencies to encourage EVs through public charging infrastructure development, using input from stakeholder groups and experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The vehicle registration fee will be determined by weight: A \$30 or \$40 fee for plug-in or hybrid EVs, and a \$190 or \$240 fee for alternatively fueled vehicles (AFVs).</li> <li>• The annual mileage fee will be categorized by vehicles under or over 6,000 pounds: In lieu of paying the registration fee, owners may pay from \$30 to \$240 for AFVs, while plug-in or hybrid EVs range from \$5 to \$40.</li> <li>• In addition to other fees, applicants shall temporarily pay a \$10 surcharge - until September 2030 - that is deposited to the general revenue fund credit and may be used only for the operations of the TTEC.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure each owner pays an alternative mileage fee, SB 1728 subjects EV or AFV owners to the 2-year initial inspection period at the end of a 1-year inspection period. SB 1728 stipulates that each fee and surcharge collected shall be deposited to the credit of the State Highway Fund - unless otherwise stated. SB 1728 explicitly authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to adopt, implement, and</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p> <p>Evaluated by: Joy Fairchild (713)817-3842 Joy@TexasLSG.org</p>



		<p>administer rules relating to the registration or renewal of AFVs and EVs. The bill requires state vehicle inspectors to submit odometer readings upon completion of an inspection. In consultation with the Department of Public Safety, this provision will likely ensure that state-certified inspectors do not overlook or fraudulently bypass requirements for odometer readings. The bill includes exceptions to DMV rules for vehicles that are hybrid and do not require plug-ins, powered by natural gas, and those exclusively used for public transportation services.</p> <p>Beginning January of 2030, the DMV shall annually increase the registration or renewal fees as necessary to adjust for inflation and, if the federal government collects tax on AFVs or EVs, decrease the fees. If a fee is collected by the federal government and subsequently decreased, SB 1728 requires the decreased amount to be equal to the amount of the tax collected by the federal government and reflect the amount of tax reduced proportionally according to the miles traveled during the previous year. SB 1728 requires that the DMV's website provides notice of annual fee adjustments no later than November 1st of the previous year.</p> <p>Given that SB 1728 takes effect in January of 2022, the bill requires the Council to develop an initial infrastructure-related maintenance report, with findings on infrastructure assessments, plans, and policy recommendations sent by December of 2022, which will be updated biennially.</p>	
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