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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE CALENDAR HOUSE BILLS- October 15, 2021

Author	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 160 By: Wilson	Relating to making supplemental appropriations for education initiatives, institutions, and related agencies and giving direction regarding appropriations.	Appropriations Vote: 23 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>HB160 appropriates \$2 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the ARPA discretionary funds for education related items. These funds are intended to be one-time appropriations that will be appropriated over the next 2 years. These funds represent an opportunity to make long-lasting change for Texas. Additional ARPA funds can be found in SB8 (\$8.6 billion), HB161 (\$2.7 billion), and SB1 (\$3 billion).</p> <p>There are concerns regarding funds contingent on the passage of TRB (Tuition Revenue Bonds) legislation. This is much needed however the legislature should specify where these funds should go if the legislation does not pass. Additionally, there are concerns that the funds appropriated to the National Research University Fund might not follow ARPA guidelines since the funds are not directly spent. The funds spent come from interest payments from investments. Since this is the case, the legislature should stipulate where the funds should go if they do not meet the guidelines. Additionally, there are no funds in HB160 targeting junior colleges that were hit especially hard by COVID-19.</p> <p>Teacher Retirement System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$286.3 million to Teacher Retirement System (TRS) for COVID-19 related claims in TRS-Care and TRS-Active Care that were incurred before September 1, 2021. These funds ensure that no premium increases from COVID-19 related claims will occur. <p>Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$325 million for university construction contingent on the passage of TRB legislation. \$113.1 million for the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. These funds will be used through interagency contracts with health-related institutions of higher education. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$20.6 million for enhancements and expansions of the Child Psychiatry Access Network. 	<p>Favorable with Concerns Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>

OK for Distribution - Rep Garnet Coleman

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$56.2 million for enhancements and expansion of the Texas Child Access Through Telemedicine program. ○ \$33 million for the expansion of the child and adolescent mental health workforce. ○ \$3.3 for administrative expenses. ○ \$3.3 million will be transferred to an institution of higher education designated by the Consortium for oversight and evaluation. ○ The Consortium may transfer 10 percent between the purposes laid out in this section. In the event that the Consortium would like to transfer more than 10 percent with prior approval from LBB. <p>Texas Department of Emergency Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300 million for the acquisition of land and the construction of a state operations center. consolidate its current operations to a single headquarters close to the state capitol. <p>National Research University Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 billion to provide funding for emerging research universities. 	
<p>HB 161 By: Capriglione Rose Dean Raney</p>	<p>Relating to making supplemental appropriations relating to health and human services and giving direction regarding appropriations.</p>	<p>Appropriations Vote: 26 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB161 appropriates \$2.7 billion to the Coronavirus Relief Fund from the ARPA discretionary funds. These funds are all intended to be one-time appropriations that will be appropriated over the next 2 years. These funds represent an opportunity to make long-lasting change for Texas. Additional ARPA funds can be found in HB160 (\$2 billion), SB8 (\$8.6 billion), and SB1 (\$3 billion).</p> <p>There are concerns regarding the \$2 billion appropriation to DSHS for local hospital surge staffing, purchasing therapeutic drugs, including monoclonal treatments and operations of regional infusion centers. These funds are reimbursable by FEMA. Currently the bill stipulates that reimbursed funds will be deposited to the GR fund. These reimbursed funds should be returned to the Coronavirus Relief Fund to ensure they are used for their intended purpose.</p> <p>This bill does not address CPS worker bonus or back pay that is much needed as CPS workers are already overworked and underpaid under normal circumstances. Similarly, this bill does not adequately address bonus or back pay for home and community care attendants. Providing bonus or back pay to these workers could help address the issue of retention. This bill also does not address any needs regarding Medicaid or CHIP.</p>	<p>Favorable with Concerns Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



			<p>Department of State Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 billion for state and local hospital surge staffing, purchasing therapeutic drugs including monoclonal treatments, operations of regional infusion centers. These funds are expected to have a 100% reimbursement from FEMA. The monies that are reimbursed are to be deposited to the GR fund and not expended until the 88th legislative session. Any unobligated funds as of January 1, 2022, will lapse into the Coronavirus Relief Fund. • \$20 million for the Federally qualified health Center Incubator Program. • \$21.7 million to provide funding for emergency medical response service staffing including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ incentivizing and increasing the number of EMTs and paramedics ○ funding for EMS education programs to increase the number of EMTs and paramedics graduating from EMS education programs ○ These funds should be prioritized for rural and underserved areas. <p>Health and Human Services Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$237.8 million to complete the construction of the Dallas state hospital. • \$75 million for grants to support rural hospitals affected by COVID-19. • \$300 million for one-time grants related to providing critical staffing needs due to frontline health care workers affected by COVID-19. Including recruitment and retention bonuses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$150 million may be used only for grants for nursing facilities. ○ \$150 million may be used only for grants for assisted living facilities, home health facilities, community attendants, and facilities that serve persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities or related conditions, home and community-based services and Texas home living waiver programs. 	
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LSG Floor Report For GENERAL STATE CALENDAR SENATE BILLS- October 15, 2021

<p>SB 1 Sponsor: Meyer By: Bettencourt</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of direct relief from ad valorem taxes to certain property owners in this state through the distribution of certain federal economic assistance money received by the state and a study of the provision of additional ad</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>SB1 appropriates \$3 billion from ARPA funds that will be directly distributed to homeowners in the state of Texas. It is estimated that this will be about \$525 per household. The bill also sets up a 10 member joint interim committee to study the burdens on property owners imposed by the state's current property tax structure and identify potential solutions. A written report of committee's findings and recommendations for legislation should be submitted by December 1, 2022.</p> <p>Although property taxes are high, a \$525 check will only cover a fraction of a homeowner's yearly property tax bill. Additionally, this is an inequitable way to provide COVID-19 related</p>	<p>Favorable, with concerns Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>
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	valorem tax relief; making an appropriation.		<p>relief as it will not benefit Texans who need it the most. Renters and people who are houseless will not benefit from these funds while many renters are facing the threat of eviction. This will certainly affect some house districts more than others as some house districts have a high concentration of renters while other have a high concentration of homeowners. Further, the comptroller does not have the information to do this which could cause complications in ensuring everybody eligible gets their check. Additionally, there is no provision stipulating what happens to the funds that are not cashed.</p> <p>Instead, the legislature should use these funds to address the many pressing needs of Texans including childcare, housing, grants to small businesses, bonus pay for CPS workers, state employees and other direct service workers.</p>	
<p>SB 8</p> <p>Sponsor: Bonnen</p> <p>By: Nelson</p>	<p>Relating to making appropriations of certain federal coronavirus relief money.</p>	<p>Appropriations</p> <p>Vote: 25 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>SB8 appropriates a total of \$8.6 billion in ARPA funds. These are all one-time appropriations that aim to address the needs of Texans for the next 2 years. Additional ARPA related funds can be found in HB160 (\$2 billion), HB161 (\$2.7 billion), and SB1 (\$3 billion) respectively.</p> <p>This bill addresses many unmet needs in the state of Texas. However, this bill does not adequately address two major needs. Adequate childcare and housing have always been issues in our state, however during the pandemic we saw a rising need. Appropriations for homelessness alleviation, affordable housing, preventing evictions and assisting caregivers with pre-k and other childcare are essential in ensuring Texas’ recovery from COVID-19. Additionally, this bill directs \$7.2 billion to address unemployment insurance claims. Although a worthy proposal, it would be beneficial to use some of these funds to target small businesses to ensure that businesses that need the most assistance are receiving it instead of large corporations.</p> <p>Comptroller of Public Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7.2 billion in ARPA funds to the comptroller of public accounts to pay back outstanding federal loans received by the state and return the unemployment compensation fund to the statutory floor. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Texas saw an unprecedented amount of unemployment claims filed as many lost their jobs unexpectedly. In June 2020, the unemployment compensation fund was depleted, and the Texas Workforce commission requested Title XII loans from the federal government. The appropriation of \$7.2 billion will ensure that business owners do not face higher unemployment tax payments. • \$500.5 million for broadband infrastructure. \$75 million of these funds are only to be used for the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement program. • *14.9 million to the Judiciary Section for court case backlog including visiting judges and support staff. 	<p>Favorable with Concerns</p> <p>Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



		<p>Trusted Programs within the Office of the Governor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$160 million to provide funding for grants for victims of crime during FY2020 <p>Department of Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100 million for supplemental funding to food banks <p>Department of Information Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 million for cybersecurity projects. DIR must get approval from the Joint Oversight Committee on Investment in Information Technology Improvement and Modernization Projects before spending money. <p>Texas Facilities Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40 million for constructing a 100-bed behavioral health center in the Permian basin region. Once construction is complete ownership will transfer to the Ector County Hospital District and the Midland County Hospital District. <p>Office of the Attorney General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$52.3 million for the sexual assault program. • \$54.8 million for compensating crime victims. (Children’s Advocacy Centers and Texas Association Against Sexual Assault.) <p>Office of Court Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *\$10.3 million for court backlog including 8 FTEs and information technology support. • *Texas Indigent Defense Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$63.7 million for court case backlog for public defenders and 2 FTEs for the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. ○ \$13.9 million for court case backlog for the deposit to GRD Fair Defense Account. <p>Office of Capital and Forensic Writs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *\$200,000 for court case backlog, COVID-19 costs and 1 FTE <p>Texas Commission on Law Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *\$9.4 million for the GRD Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Account no. 116 <p>Commission on State Emergency Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$150 million for the Next Generation 911 service. Including equipment and administrative costs. 	
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			<p>Department of Transportation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$15 million customs inspection station on the South Orient Rail Line in Presidio, Texas. <p>*These items total \$112.4 million to address matters that have not been addressed due to court fee shortfalls.</p>	
<p>SB 7 PLANE2106</p> <p>Sponsor: Hunter</p> <p>By: Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the State Board of Education.</p>	<p>Redistricting</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 6 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The State Board of Education (SBOE) is comprised of 15 members elected from single member districts across the state. The ideal SBOE size is 1,943,034 people. Court decisions have allowed deviation from the ideal number in the amount of +/-5 percent. The SBOE adopts policies and sets policies and standards for Texas public schools, including curriculum standards, instructional materials, graduation requirements, and the investment of the Permanent School Fund.</p> <p>The SBOE map does not reflect the fact that 95% of the state’s four million person population growth was due to people of color. Given the vast diversity of the state and the responsibilities of the SBOE it is important to ensure that all Texans are properly represented on the board. This map is drawn to maintain an out of date status quo instead of providing representation for Texans based on the 2020 census. The legislature should be taking steps to draw districts that reflect the changing face of Texas instead of redrawing districts that maintain the status quo.</p> <p>In the SB7 plan urban and rapidly growing suburban areas are packed, cracked, and linked with far away rural communities without regard for communities of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the greater Houston area, almost 1.7 million people of color are unnecessarily packed into District 4, diminishing the ability of minority voters in another area of rapid and diverse population growth to be represented because they are placed in a rural District 8 that stretches halfway to Dallas, with whom they do not share communities of interest. In the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, almost 1.6 million people of color are packed into District 13 while other minority voters are scattered into four rural districts that also come into Dallas County. <p>Another area of concern involves the effect a significant undercount of Latino voters has on the border region. The undercount impacts the ability of voters in border Districts 1, 2 and 3 to elect their candidate of choice because the map was not drawn to address this concern.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>



<p>SB 4 PLANS2168</p> <p>Sponsor: Hunter</p> <p>By: Huffman</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the Texas Senate.</p>	<p>Redistricting</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes 6 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>The ideal population size for each senate district is 940,178 people. The Senate Redistricting plan, SB4, illegally denies minority voters the ability to elect candidates of their choice. 95% of the state's almost four million person population increase is attributed to people of color, yet this plan eliminates one minority opportunity district (SD10) and creates no additional minority opportunity districts.</p> <p>The most discriminatory aspect of this bill is the retrogression found in SD 10, a compact and effective minority opportunity district located entirely in Tarrant county. SB4 would expand SD10 to include 7 additional rural counties. There is no legal rationale that justifies fracturing the community of interest located in SD 10, which has deep historical and cultural ties to Ft. Worth and Tarrant county. SB4 could have easily left the district's current configuration, but the bill splits SD 10 into four districts, the other three being districts 9, 22 and 23. SD 10 would now include areas that are currently located in districts 30, 24 and 28.</p> <p>These distant rural communities share no community of interest with the longstanding communities of interest in Ft. Worth and Tarrant Co. For example, a portion of the City of Arlington would be placed in the same senatorial district (SD 22) as Rosebud, a small agricultural community more than 125 miles away. Fort Worth, the 12th most populous city in the country is placed in the same district as the town of Bangs, with a population of 1,540 persons, which is 159 miles away.</p> <p>In other areas, despite the effect that the census undercount has had, especially in border communities, the Senate addressed some concerns initially voiced by Senators but failed to accommodate the state's population growth by creating another minority opportunity district. Instead, the plan eliminates a minority district, which is unconscionable.</p>	<p>Unfavorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Brittany Sharp Brittany@TexasLSG.org (210) 748-0646</p>
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