



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 437 By Rep. John Davis	Relating to career and technical education programs.	Economic Subcommittee on Manufacturing	Currently, the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program allocates money to public junior colleges and technical institutes to purchase technical training equipment, fund non-profits serving as community resources and fostering workforce development, and create scholarships to support low-income students working to achieve associates degrees or certificates in high-demand technical training programs. HB 437 would entirely eliminate non-profit funding and scholarships by redirecting these funds to colleges solely for equipment purchases. There is no system in place to ensure non-profits are utilizing JET funds efficiently or for the purpose intended. Lack of equipment is still a major barrier to technical training programs, and streamlining money from non-profit services to equipment purchases will help to alleviate this constraint. However, eliminating scholarships from the JET program raises concerns about limiting opportunities to students with financial constraints who need assistance qualifying for economy-boosting careers.	<u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org
HB 860 By Rep. Chris Turner	Relating to an exception to the domicile requirement for issuance of a commercial driver's license for certain military personnel.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	According to statute, in order to obtain a commercial driver's license a person must have residency in the state. HB 860 waives the domicile requirement for a commercial driver's license for a person who is a member of the United States armed forces, active or reserve, that lives in another state but whose temporary or permanent duty station is located in Texas. Allowing service men and women in Texas to obtain a commercial driver's license would help them transition into private sector jobs.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org
HB 1390 By Rep. Harper-Brown	Relating to the electronic submission of a request for an attorney general opinion.	Government Efficiency & Reform	Currently, in order for a state employee or state official to request an opinion from the Attorney General (AG), a written request must be sent through certified or registered mail. HB 1390 allows a request for opinion to be sent via electronic mail to an e-mail address specifically designated to receive these requests. E-mail is an efficient method of communication for requestors and expedites the process of administering AG opinion requests.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 Nena@texaslsg.org
HB 695 By Rep. Phillips	Relating to funding state highway markers.	Transportation	HB695 requires TXDOT to accept a grant or donation to fund the design, construction, and maintenance of specific highway name markers enacted by the legislature. It strengthens language in statute to prohibit the agency from performing those actions unless the project has already been funded by outside sources.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman