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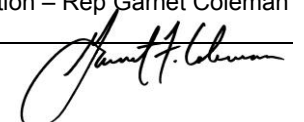
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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, April 16, 2013

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 8 By Rep. Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to the prosecution and punishment of offenses related to trafficking of persons and to certain protections for victims of trafficking of persons.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	<p>HB 8 combats human trafficking by enacting recommendations from the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, authorizing enhanced penalties for criminals while ensuring protective measures for trafficking victims remain in place. Created in the 81st Legislative Session, the task force was formed to respond to the estimated 600,000 to 800,000 victims of human trafficking each year. The Attorney General has estimated that approximately 20 percent of these individuals are moved through Texas.</p> <p>To correct conflicts in statute, the bills specifies that both parents, guardians and courts can file a protective order for under age victims of sexual assault or abuse, stalking, or trafficking. The bill removes the statute of limitations for compelling the prostitution of a minor and enhances penalties for various sexual offenses against a minor, including solicitation of prostitution and compelling prostitution of a minor for profit.</p> <p>HB 8 denies offenders convicted of compelling prostitution any possible community supervision and makes them ineligible for parole until their sentencing time is served. This bill adds compelling prostitution to the sex offender registration list. HB 8 also allows a trafficking victim to receive a one-time only assistance payment for relocation and rental housing expenses under the Crime Prevention Compensation Act.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 yvonne@texaslsg.org
HB 13 By Rep. Callegari	Relating to the State Pension Review Board and public retirement systems.	Pensions	<p>HB 13 requires all public retirement systems to submit a report to the State Budget Review Board regarding investment returns and actuarial assumptions, including: gross and net investment returns, rolling gross and rolling net returns for the most recent 30-year period or since inception of the system, and the assumed rate of return used in the most recent actuarial valuation and in each of the most recent 10 actuarial valuations. These reports must also be posted on a publicly accessible website along with the contact information for the administrator of the fund.</p> <p>This bill would also require the State Pension Review Board to develop and post a model of ethical standards and conflict of interest policies, and develop an educational training for trustees and administrators of public employee retirement systems. The board may assess a fee to offset training costs.</p> <p>Currently, there is no law mandating public employee retirement systems to post publicly available information regarding financial stability, or contact information for the administrator of the funds.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Maggie Nelson 512-763-0031 maggie@texaslsg.org

OK for Distribution – Rep. Garnet Coleman

<p>HB 15 By Rep. Kolkhorst</p>	<p>Relating to level of care designations for hospitals that provide neonatal and maternal services.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 15 enacts recommendations by the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Council, which was created last session. Because there are no consistent standards of neonatal and maternal levels of care for hospitals across Texas, the bill requires HHSC to work with the DSHS to establish criteria for the designations of neonatal and maternal levels of care for hospitals.</p> <p>This bill creates a 17-member Advisory Council to develop recommendations for HHSC and DSHS on the designation levels for hospitals. Each hospital will receive a level of care designation that meets the minimum standard for that level of care and is required to undergo a review process every three years. Hospitals failing to achieve the minimum level of care will not be assigned a designation level and will be ineligible to receive reimbursements through the Medicaid program for neonatal or maternal services.</p> <p>Hospitals are required to submit data regularly to DSHS on level of care designation which also must be posted on the department’s internet website. In addition, this bill requires HHSC to conduct a study on cost effectiveness of patient transfers and grants authority to HHSC to determine whether the transfers are necessary.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 32 By Rep. Menendez</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for and certain civil consequences of committing the offense of prostitution.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 32 deters prostitution solicitors, enhances penalties for repeat offenders and decriminalizes minors, who are victimized due to human trafficking.</p> <p>The bill enhances penalties from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony if a person other than a prostitute receives money for prostitution services if that person has been convicted of the same offense previously. Additionally, it becomes a third degree felony if the person being solicited for prostitution by that actor is younger than 17 at the time of the offense or solicits another to engage in sexual conduct with a person that is younger than 17.</p> <p>It is currently a third degree felony if a person knowingly owns, invests in, finances, controls, supervises or manages a prostitution enterprise that uses two or more prostitutes. This bill would make it a second degree felony if a prostitute in that enterprise is younger than 17 at the time of the offense.</p> <p>HB 32 changes statute relating to the Sex Offender Registration Program by adding a conviction or adjudication for the following offenses: prostitution involving the solicitation of a person under 18, the promotion of prostitution involving the solicitation of a person younger than 17 or soliciting another to engage in sexual conduct with a person younger than 17, and aggravated promotion of prostitution if the actor’s enterprise involves a person younger than 17.</p> <p>According to the LBB’s Criminal Justice Impact Statement, it is assumed that the number of offenders supervised or incarcerated under this statute would not significantly impact state correctional agency resources. Felony community supervision would be beneficial for convicted solicitors as it would involve rehabilitation and counseling.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@txlsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1491 By Rep. Branch</p>	<p>Relating to the temporary licensing of a dentist who performs voluntary charity care.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1491 allows the State Board of Dental Examiners to grant a temporary charitable license for retired and out-of-state dentists to provide voluntary dental care. This bill creates a mechanism for the board to grant temporary licenses to both retired and out-of-state dentists. Providing temporary licensing allows these dentists to volunteer their valuable services and increase care to under-served populations who would otherwise go without dental treatment.</p> <p>Currently in Texas, out-of-state dentists cannot provide charitable dental care, and the process to apply for a temporary license for retired dentists can be tedious.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>



<p>HB 1035 By Rep. Huberty</p>	<p>Relating to the filing of reports of political contributions and expenditures and of personal financial statements by certain officeholders and candidates.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>Currently, officeholders and candidates must file their personal financial statements and campaign finance reports with their appropriate state or local authority via first-class mail or courier.</p> <p>HB 1035 requires the Texas Ethics Commission to add personal delivery or electronic filing where available to the list of options for filing such reports. Expanding the allowable methods to include personal delivery and electronic filing where available are favorable alternatives to the current, outdated method of filing.</p> <p>HB 1035 requires the deadline for submissions to be 5pm on the last day of filing by personal delivery and midnight of the same day by electronic filing for positions in larger cities and counties. Specifically, this applies to: an election in a city with a population of 100,000 or more; a county judge, commissioner, attorney or candidate for those offices in a county with a population of 100,000 or more; a sheriff, county tax assessor-collector, county clerk, district clerk, county treasurer, county auditor, county purchasing agent, constable, justice of the peace, master, magistrate, or referee appointed by a justice of the peace or candidate for those offices in a county with a population of 125,000 or more; a county employee in a county with a population of 125,000 or more; or a judge of a statutory county court or probate court.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 994 By Rep. Bonnen</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of state law regulating the decommissioning costs of certain newly constructed commercial nuclear-powered electric generating facilities.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>The funding mechanisms described in this bill were initially developed to encourage nuclear power in Texas. This bill enhances this mission by giving nuclear companies an incentive and an extended deadline for proceeding with the advancement of their plants.</p> <p>HB 994 redefines "nuclear generating unit" by removing a specification that a nuclear generating unit be under construction in Texas after January 1, 2007, but before January 1, 2015. It therefore alters the definition of a nuclear generating unit to mean <i>any</i> electric generating facility that uses nuclear energy to generate electricity for sale and is licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).</p> <p>HB 994 extends the deadline for license applications for the first <i>six</i> nuclear units to 2033, which is 20 years later than the deadline in statute. Although not specified in the bill, HB 994 subjects two South Texas Project units, two Comanche Peak units, and two XTO Energy units to the decommissioning costs and funding mechanisms referred to in this bill.</p> <p>According to the NRC, before a nuclear power plant begins operations, the licensee must establish or obtain a financial mechanism – such as a trust fund or a guarantee from its parent company – to ensure that there will be sufficient money to pay for the ultimate decommissioning of the facility. Current law states that if there should be any shortfall in the cost of decommissioning a nuclear generating unit, retail electric customers and ratepayers will be responsible for funding those costs through increased rates. HB 994 upholds this safety net for the aforementioned six plants.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Williams 512-763-0031 amanda.williams@texaslsg.org</p>

