



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

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Representative

Desk

**LSG Floor Report for Postponed Business – Thursday, April 25, 2013**

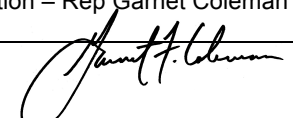
Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
<b>HB 519</b> By Rep. Zerwas	Relating to voluntary donations to the Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry.	Transportation	<p>HB 519 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to designate a nonprofit organization to maintain and administer the Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry, which is an organ and tissue donor registry. The monetary donations will be kept in a trust fund by the state comptroller outside the state treasury. The bill requires money in the fund to be disbursed at least monthly to the nonprofit organization chosen to pay administrative costs, and allows the nonprofit organization to charge fees related to the operation and maintenance of the registry.</p> <p>Background: The Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry works in conjunction with DSHS by allowing Texans to register as organ and tissue donors when renewing a driver’s license. The program is funded by a \$1 voluntary contribution that can be made at time of renewal or when registering a motor vehicle.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>            Evaluated by:            Kelle’ Martin            512-763-0031            Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<b>HB 578</b> By Rep. Guillen	Relating to the regulation of industrialized housing and buildings.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	<p>HB 578 grants the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) a 2 year window to inspect new manufactured homes. The bill enables TDLR to assess penalties on builders, manufacturers, or third party inspectors of manufactured homes as long as the inspection occurred within two years of an initial inspection.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b>            Evaluated by:            Yvonne Okonkwo            512-763-0031            yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>
<b>HB 611</b> By Rep. Guillen	Relating to the regulation of subdivisions in counties, including certain border and economically distressed counties.	Land & Resource Management	<p>Background: The Texas Legislature has invested \$1 billion to inhibit the expansion of <i>colonias</i> along the Texas-Mexico border. Model Subdivision Rules were created to establish humane standards and quality infrastructure for the development of new subdivisions. These rules are enforced by counties and have successfully prevented the expansion of <i>colonias</i>.</p> <p><b>HB 611 strips counties of the tools needed to inhibit growth of <i>colonias</i>.</b></p> <p>HB 611 removes the ability for a county to impose a higher standard for streets or roads in a subdivision than the county imposes on itself for the construction of new streets or roads. It increases minimum subdivision lot sizes.</p> <p>This bill includes procedures and requirements regarding plats and earnest money contracts. If a plat has not been approved, a contract for sale may not be entered until it receives final approval by the county. Minimum standards for water and sewage services must be met in order for the land to be possessed or occupied. The earnest money contract must be in the amount of \$250 with a potential purchaser, and if the plat for the land is not fully approved, a 90 day extension is granted.</p>	<p><b>Unfavorable</b>            Evaluated by:            Muna Javaid            512-763-0031            muna@texaslsg.org</p>

(continued)

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<p><b>HB 611 (cont.)</b></p>			<p>This bill expands the conditions that make it a Class A misdemeanor for false statements or representation by sellers for subdivided land and removes the specification that the land offered for sale or lease be subdivided. Subdividers of land subject to platting requirements will be subject to civil enforcement action if in violation and are given 90 days to cure it.</p> <p>HB 611 amends the Texas Water Code by requiring a municipality to adopt their model rules if the area for which funding is proposed is located in the municipality and have demonstrated that the rules have been adopted and enforced in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.</p>	
<p><b><u>LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Thursday, April 25, 2013</u></b></p>				
<p><b>HB 2198</b> By Rep. Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the State Pension Review Board.</p>	<p>Pensions</p>	<p>HB 2198, the Sunset bill of the State Pension Review Board (PRB), continues the agency until 2025. This bill requires public retirement systems, (except the Employee Retirement System (ERS), Teacher Retirement System (TRS), Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS), and the Judicial Retirement System), to complete and submit an actuarial experience study. This study must include a review of assumptions in light of investment trends and economic projections, and must be submitted to the board no later than 31 days after the study is adopted.</p> <p>This bill also adds Sunset language prohibiting a person from serving on the board if they or their spouse is an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a Texas Trade Association in the field of pensions. HB 2198 also provides for the board to develop and conduct training for trustees and administrators of public retirement systems. This training can be done live on the internet, and as frequently as the board deems necessary.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b> Evaluated by: Maggie Nelson 512-763-0031 maggie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>Amendment</p>	<p>By Rep. Callegari</p>	<p>#830960</p>	<p>This amendment is contingent upon the failure of HB 3148, which provides for the abolition of the office of firefighters commissioners and transfers all functions to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System and to Texas local firefighters retirement systems. This amendment mandates that the State Pension Review Board (PRB) provide assistance, including training and information to local firefighter retirement systems. Additionally, this amendment allows a person to appeal a decision by the board of a local retirement system relating to eligibility for the amount of benefits payable, to the State office of Administrative Hearings.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b><u>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Thursday, April 25, 2013</u></b></p>				
<p><b>HB 685</b> By Rep. Márquez</p>	<p>Relating to the commissioners court oversight of certain emergency services districts.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p>	<p>HB 685 is bracketed to El Paso County to increase oversight of emergency service districts (ESD) by the commissioners court. <i>ESD board members are appointed by the commissioners court to serve as the district's governing body.</i></p> <p>HB 685 requires the ESD board to comply with rules and policies established by the commissioners court regarding use of tax dollar funds. This bill prohibits the ESD from entering into contracts or financial agreements without the approval of commissioner's court. This bill promotes accountability and addresses the unique needs of ESD in El Paso County.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 688</b> by Rep. Márquez</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of certain autopsy records.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 688 authorizes a governmental body to withhold a photograph or x-ray of a body taken during an autopsy without requesting a decision from the attorney general. This bill would not affect the required disclosure of a photograph or x-ray under a subpoena, authority of other law, or a photo or x-ray of someone who died while in the custody of law enforcement.</p> <p>Currently, law enforcement is required to submit a request to the attorney general for review when withholding an autopsy photo or x-ray. Except for the statutory exceptions, this bill would allow a governmental body to withhold that information without seeking a ruling from the attorney general. The extra steps required under current statute to request confirmation of the attorney general are onerous, but are also the only independent verification of the validity of the decision to withhold the record.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b> Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>

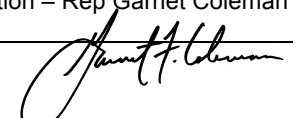
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<p><b>HB 1494</b> By Rep. Tracy King</p>	<p>Relating to certain regulatory programs administered by the Department of Agriculture; providing penalties; imposing fees.</p>	<p>Agriculture and Livestock</p>	<p>HB 1494 makes changes to regulatory programs in the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to improve efficiency and update the functionality of systems. Following are changes made to improve those programs in statute:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB1494 requires a person charged with an administrative penalty to accept the determination made by TDA or request a hearing. If the person charged accepts the determination or fails to timely respond to the notice, the commissioner must approve the determination and order payment, which must be paid no later than 30 days after receiving notice.</li> <li>• HB 1494 allows TDA to issue a cease and desist order immediately, rather than waiting to issue a notice and set a hearing.</li> <li>• HB 1494 streamlines license and registration processes by authorizing TDA to prescribe term length of a license or registration by rule. E-mail is added as an option for notification of license or registration expiration.</li> <li>• HB 1494 clarifies the measures of capacity for liquids to be derived from the gallon and the definition of a liquid gallon of motor fuel. HB 1494 amends administrative penalties for violating provisions relating to weighing and measuring devices. Criminal offenses are removed and civil penalties are imposed for noncompliance with standard net weight, selling, keeping, offering, or exposing for sale milk or cream, cheese, meat, or a meat product, noncompliance with proper measures, and misrepresentation of price or quantity of a commodity.</li> <li>• The Agriculture Code is clarified by stating that it is an offense to buy, sell, compute charge, or determine weight or measure of a commodity if the person <i>knowingly</i> uses an incorrect weighing or measuring device. HB 1494 authorizes TDA to issue a stop-sale order if they believe a person is selling a commodity or service by the use of an incorrect weighing or measuring device.</li> <li>• TDA is authorized to inspect weighing and measuring devices every four years and may collect a fee for the test of a device. Devices are required to be registered with TDA before use in a commercial transaction. Removing a registration tag, owning or selling an incorrect device, or disposing of an incorrect device is a misdemeanor.</li> <li>• HB 1494 requires service technicians who perform device maintenance and service companies to hold licenses. TDA and its employees are not required to hold licenses to perform device maintenance activities.</li> <li>• HB 1494 authorizes the commissioner to prescribe the way in which notice is given about Commodity Producers board elections.</li> <li>• HB 1494 repeals a provision requiring a hearing before TDA can quarantine an area infected by horticultural disease or pests.</li> <li>• HB 1494 grants the TDA authority to dispose of or sale an export pen, shed, or ancillary building constructed by TDA along with their current authority to construct and operate an export pen, shed, or ancillary building.</li> <li>• HB 1494 repeals the following provisions relating to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Section 13.1012- Registration requirements for a person who places or removes device tags.</li> <li>○ Section 13.115 (g): The option for TDA to collect annual fees for the testing of devices.</li> <li>○ Subchapter F, Chapter 13: License requirements for the testing of liquefied gas meters.</li> <li>○ Subchapter G, Chapter 13: Inspection and testing of ranch sales.</li> <li>○ Subchapter H, Chapter 13: Licensed inspectors of weighing and measuring devices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 Katherine@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2302</b> By Rep. Hunter</p>	<p>Relating to the electronic filing system established by the Texas Supreme Court, to the statewide electronic filing system fund, and to certain court fees and court costs; imposing and authorizing certain fees.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 2302 grants all Civil Court clerks and Supreme Court clerks the authority to collect a \$20 e-filing fee. Additionally, this bill would allow civil proceeding justice court clerks to collect a \$10 filing fee. A person convicted on any criminal offense in a district, county court, or statutory court must pay a \$5 court fee. Court clerks will submit these fees to the Comptroller for deposit into the Statewide Electronic Filing System Fund. The monies in this fund will only go to the Office Court of Court Administration and the Texas Judicial System e-filing implementation and administration related costs.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>

<p><b>HB 2392</b> By Rep. Menéndez</p>	<p>Relating to the mental health program for veterans</p>	<p>Defense and Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>HB 2392 expands the mental health program for veterans under the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). This bill specifically requires the program to include Peer-to-Peer counseling, veteran jail diversion services, and training for peer volunteers. It also requires DSHS to establish a grant program for organizations to administer these mental health programs. Veterans experience unique mental health issues and can often better relate to other veterans who have had similar experiences. This bill will help meet the needs of the growing number of veterans requiring mental health services.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 Torey@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 317</b> By Rep. Otto</p>	<p>Relating to the classification of certain entities as primarily engaged in retail trade for purposes of the franchise tax.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p>	<p>HB 317 expands the definition of retail trade in the tax code to include rental-purchase activities. The new classification allows rent-to-own businesses to calculate their franchise tax at the .5 percent rate instead of the higher 1 percent rate paid by non-retail businesses. This bill aims to bring fairness to the tax system by taxing competing industries similarly. However it is estimated to result in a revenue loss of \$5.4 million from the property tax relief fund for each biennium.</p>	<p><b>Will of the House</b> Evaluated By: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 459</b> By Rep. Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of navigators for health benefit exchanges</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), health insurance exchanges will become operational in 2014. These exchanges will serve as a competitive marketplace where consumers can purchase comprehensive, quality health insurance. Depending on their income levels, certain consumers will be eligible for sliding scale subsidies to assist in the purchase of health insurance in the exchange. Since the Texas Legislature failed to enact legislation last session to establish its own state run exchange, Texas consumers will be able to participate in a federally run exchange program.</p> <p>In order to assist consumers, the PPACA also included a provision for the establishment of navigators. These navigators are tasked with conducting public education activities to raise awareness of the marketplace, distribute fair and impartial information concerning enrollment in qualified health plans, and the availability of subsidies, facilitate enrollment in qualified health plans, and provide information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the needs of the population. The entities that can serve as navigators can include trade, industry, and professional associations, fishing, ranching and farming organizations, community and consumer-focused nonprofit groups, chambers of commerce, unions, other licensed insurance agents and brokers, and other entities that can meet federal guidelines.</p> <p><b>HB 459 seeks to build an effective, conflict-of-interest free, and consumer friendly navigator program within the federal Health Insurance Exchange established in Texas under the Affordable Care Act.</b> This bill requires the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to adapt rules overseeing the administration and preparation of a health benefit exchange navigator program for consumers until September 1, 2017 in order to ensure that TDI has the needed authority an capacity to regulate navigators under the bill. This bill directs TDI to ensure that federal Exchange navigator training prepares the navigators to assist consumers in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completing their health coverage affordability program uniform applications</li> <li>• Explaining how Medicaid, HIP, and advance premium tax credits and cost-sharing assistance work</li> <li>• Providing linguistically-appropriate and culturally-competent information and</li> <li>• Avoiding conflicts of interest and protecting patient privacy and data security.</li> </ul> <p>If TDI finds that the federal Exchange will not adequately prepare navigators in Texas, the bill requires the commissioner to work collaboratively with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and if and improve the standards and guidelines provided by the federal regulations. The bill also declares that persons with a suspended or revoked professional license, received a disciplinary action from a financial or insurance regulator, or have been found guilty of a felony are ineligible to be a navigator. (continued)</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p><b>HB 459 (cont.)</b></p>			<p>The bill directs TDI to obtain a list of federal Exchange Navigators from U.S. HHS and authorizes TDI to create a state navigator registration process if needed.</p> <p>In order to seek consumer-protection and accountability, HB 459 directs that navigators cannot solicit to potential clients, nor declare, or suggest professional superiority of their navigator position or use the following descriptive words when advertising to the public: advisor, advisory, agent, agency, consultant, or counselor. HB 459 ensures that navigators can't break the law by receiving prohibited compensation from Health Insurance Companies.</p> <p>Navigators must complete training. Navigators who aren't licensed health insurance agents cannot perform certain duties including selling insurance, recommending a specific plan, or providing information on other insurance products outside of the exchange. The bill clarifies that community organizations who are navigators can continue to provide information on benefits and services outside of the exchange that are consistent with their mission.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1294</b> By Rep. Price</p>	<p>Relating to the dismissal of a charge for the offense of failing to secure a child in a child passenger safety seat system.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>Currently, an individual is not allowed to transport a child under the age of eight and under a certain height if the child is not secured in a child passenger safety seat. However, it is a defense to prosecution if the individual is able to prove that they own an acceptable child passenger safety seat. HB 1294 changes the defense to prosecution, to only allow it if the individual is not given an additional citation for another offense, such as speeding. Additionally, if a driver does not have a child passenger safety seat system at the time of their citation because they cannot afford one or haven't had time to obtain one, showing proof of purchase or obtaining one can be used as defense against the fine.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1739</b> by Rep. Naishtat</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of psychoactive medications to person receiving services in certain facilities</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1739 strengthens oversight and promotes best care practices for patients in residential care facilities regarding the use of and right-of-refusal for psychoactive medications.</p> <p>HB 1739 promotes informed consent by ensuring that patients or guardians understand the course of treatment including potential risks and side effects. For patients lacking decision-making capacity, a court order to authorize treatment must be issued before a physician can administer psychoactive medications. HB 1739 ensures due process protection for patients in residential care facilities by allowing the right to appeal the court's determination on the administration of psychoactive medications.</p> <p>Currently, there are <i>no</i> statutory guidelines for the administration of psychoactive medications for patients in residential care facilities. This bill extends the same individual rights protections given to patients of nursing homes and state hospitals by allowing patients in residential care the right to refuse psychoactive medications.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2137</b> By Rep. Fletcher</p>	<p>Relating to eligibility of certain persons for enrollment in school district summer school courses.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 2137 requires a school district to permit a student living in that district but attending a different school to enroll in the residing district's summer school classes. However, it excludes enrollment requirements for intensive summer math or science programs, or programs for students at risk of dropping out of school.</p> <p>Currently, some schools, particularly private schools, do not offer summer school programs. This leaves the students enrolled in those schools without any options for summer school to satisfy course requirements.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>

<p><b>HB 696</b> By Rep. Kleinschmidt</p>	<p>Relating to the duties of and the application of the professional prosecutors law to the county attorney in Gonzales County and to the duties of the district attorney for the 25th Judicial District.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 696 will remove Gonzales County from the 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and allows the voters of Guadalupe and Lavaca counties to elect a district attorney for the 25<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to represent these counties. HB 696 also authorizes the Gonzales county attorney to have all the powers bestowed upon her/him as a district attorney according to general law. The Gonzales County Attorney or the Commissioners Court of Gonzales may accept monetary items or grants from multiple entities for the purpose of financing and operating the county attorney's office.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 773</b> By Rep. Farney et al.</p>	<p>Relating to a requirement that students at an open-enrollment charter school recite the pledges of allegiance to the United States flag and the state flag</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 773 requires the governing board of open-enrollment charter schools to have students participate in the pledge of allegiance in all campus charter schools. The bill allows students to opt-out of this requirement only through written consent by a parent or guardian.</p> <p>Currently, the Education Code requires students in public schools to recite the pledge, but does not address the requirement for charter schools.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 2571</b> By Rep. Keffer</p>	<p>Relating to the inspection of certain information regarding the production, transportation, sale, and marketing of oil and gas from state land; imposing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p>	<p>HB 2571 creates a timeline for production of information by a lessee of state land or minerals when requested by the commissioner, the attorney general or the governor. This timeline would include a deadline for providing the information and steps by which a lessee might extend the deadline. The bill also allows an administrative penalty to be assessed for failure to comply - up to \$100 a day for the first 60 days delinquent and up to \$1000 for each day after 60 days delinquent. No penalty may be assessed when information is withheld on a good faith legal basis until the commissioner has determined the requestor is entitled to the information. Revenue from the penalties, though not projected to be significant, would go towards the Permanent School Fund. The production of information such as books and accounts, receipts and discharges upon request is already required under current law.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated By: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1973</b> By Rep. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of water by a public utility or water supply or sewer service corporation for use in fire suppression.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 1973 allows the governing body of a municipality by ordinance to adopt standards, established by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), requiring a utility to maintain a minimally sufficient water flow and pressure to fire hydrants in a residential area located in the municipality or the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction.</p> <p>This bill requires a municipality that adopts standards or that seeks to use a utility's water for fire suppression to enter into a written memorandum of understanding with the utility. It also allows a municipality to notify the TCEQ of a utility's failure to comply with an adopted standard, and upon receiving the notice TCEQ will require a utility in violation to comply within a reasonable time.</p> <p>HB 1973 allows TCEQ to approve infrastructure improvements and make corresponding changes to the tariff or rate schedule of a utility that is a public utility as needed to permit compliance. This bill does not allow an ordinance to require a utility to alter the existing infrastructure at the time of the adoption.</p> <p>HB 1973 also ensures that a utility will not be liable for a hydrant's or metal flush valve's inability to provide adequate water supply in a fire emergency.</p> <p>Currently there are already established fire flow standards for certain larger municipalities, such as Dallas, Houston and San Antonio.</p>	<p><b>Favorable</b> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org</p>

<p><b>HB 431</b> By Rep. Riddle</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of certain inmates convicted of injury to a child for release to mandatory supervision</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>Texas law currently requires inmates who have a second or a third degree felony to be considered for parole at 1 year and every year thereafter, even if it was an offense against a child.</p> <p>HB 431, termed as “Emma’s Law”, would give the parole board the discretion to delay the parole for an inmate who harmed a child for up to 5 years. This bill would safeguard victims and their families from having to go through the emotional toll and fear due to the possibility of the perpetrator being released. Under current law the victim and/or victims’ families are given notification that the inmate is up for parole and in order to stop their release, they must start a campaign with family and friends to lobby against the release of the perpetrator by sending letters to the parole board asking for the inmate not to be released.</p> <p>Although the intent of this bill is laudable, there may be situations in which individuals that unintentionally harmed a child, due to this change, would no longer be automatically considered for parole. For example, a school counselor who fails to report suspicion of neglect within 48 hours could be convicted of this charge if their omission led to serious injury of a child.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b> Evaluated by: Natalie R. Powell 512-763-0031 Natalie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 148</b> By Rep. Burkett</p>	<p>Relating to aid provided to certain voters; providing criminal penalties.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 148 prohibits a person that possesses an official carrier envelope containing a marked ballot for mail from carrying more than 10 envelopes unless the ballots are voted by a member of the U.S. military, their spouse, or their dependent. The bill makes the offense a Class A misdemeanor to knowingly violate this prohibition. The bill additionally outlaws the act of compensating an individual for handling more than 10 carrier envelopes.</p> <p>Although this bill is an improvement upon its original form heard in committee, it still has the potential to negatively impact voters. Ballot harvesting is already illegal in Texas. HB 148 has the potential to impose punishments on ordinary citizens who assist family and friends in voting.</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b> Evaluated by: Kelle’ Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1549</b> by Rep. Laubenberg</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of speech-language pathology and audiology and the fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1549 clarifies licensing requirements for speech-language pathologists and audiologists.</p> <p>This bill establishes licensing standards for out of state military spouses by allowing them to practice in Texas if they meet certain requirements. The bill requires the establishment of rules for the use of telecommunication technology in the form of video conferencing, also known as telepractice, in fitting and dispensing of hearing instruments.</p> <p>Currently, telepractice can only be used after the patient has been seen in person by these medical professionals for an initial visit. The following telepractice sessions are done with the guidance of the medical professional while a technician assists in person.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p><b>HB 1192</b> by Rep. Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications for appointment as a medical examiner.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 1192 authorizes the commissioner’s court of a county to appoint a medical examiner who is licensed and in good standing in another state, who has applied to the board for a license to practice in Texas, and who has been granted a provisional license by the board to practice in a location designated by the federal government as a medically underserved or health professional shortage area.</p> <p>Currently, in order to be a medical examiner in Texas a physician must be licensed by the Texas Medical Board. This bill would help remedy the severe shortage of medical examiners in Texas.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b> Evaluated by: Muna Javid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>