



Chair, Rep. Garnet Coleman

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Representative

Desk

LSG Floor Report for Postponed Business – Monday, May 06, 2013

Bill	Caption	Committee	Analysis & Evaluation	Recommendation
HB 2038 By Rep. Dukes, et al.	Relating to addressing disproportionality and disparities in the education, juvenile justice, child welfare, health, and mental health systems, the continuation and operation of the Interagency Council for Addressing Disproportionality, and the duties of the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities.	Human Services	<p>HB 2038 expands the duties for the Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparity and duties and composition of the Interagency Council for Addressing Disproportionality.</p> <p>The Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparity duties include identifying social determinants and health conditions in need of urgent response, monitoring the implementation of plans to address health disparities, and assisting agencies in developing performance measures. The center must advise agencies on the implementation of culturally competent training and develop community partnerships to support culturally competent service delivery.</p> <p>The composition of the Interagency Council for Addressing Disproportionality is amended to consist of relevant professionals who can only serve up to 2 years. The council's duties are amended to include developing and adopting a Texas model of addressing disproportionality and disparities in various systems to be implemented across state agencies.</p> <p>The Center for the Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities was established in the 82nd session to address disparities across education, juvenile justice, child welfare, health, and mental health systems. The Center and the Council are vital in understanding and addressing the overrepresentation of minority groups in a wide range of health and human service systems.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 katherine@texaslsg.org
HB 2712 By Rep. Perez, et al.	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of energy storage systems used for the control of air pollution in a nonattainment area.	Ways & Means	<p>HB 2712 allows a taxing entity to exempt energy storage systems from taxation. Systems that store energy for use at a later time are eligible if they meet environmental regulations, are located in an area that does not meet EPA air quality standards, have at least a 10 megawatt capacity, and were installed 2014 or later. Energy storage systems can potentially relieve power grids without producing emissions and without additional infrastructure. The bill also allows the taxing entity to repeal the exemption.</p> <p>HB 2712 requires that for any revenue lost by a school district due to this tax exemption, the state will make up the same amount with state aid.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 kristen@texaslsg.org
SB 1251 by Sen. Carona Companion HB 2315 By Rep. Villarreal	Relating to authorized charges and terms for certain consumer loans.	Investments and Financial Services	<p>HB 2315 updates finance code relating to administrative and acquisition fee charges for non-realty consumer loans. The bill authorizes the Finance Commission of Texas to set the maximum administrative fee and acquisition fee, and specifies that the fees must be greater than what is currently allowed. Additionally, the bill allows for alternate ways to compound interest to allow for flexibility.</p> <p>Currently, lenders are allowed to charge a \$10 administrative fee for certain loans of \$1000 or less and \$25 for certain loans above \$1000. Lenders state that these charges have not been updated in over 10 years and do not accurately reflect the cost of doing business.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Natalie R. Powell 512-763-0031 Natalie@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 996 by Rep. Giddings</p>	<p>Relating to permitting electronic delivery of certain documents in a criminal case.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 996 allows for secure e-mail as one of the acceptable methods to transmit the following documents: an application for writ of habeas corpus in a death penalty or felony case, a copy of a court order in a habeas corpus application in a community supervision case, a certificate of lab analysis, and a copy of a chain of custody affidavit. This is a permissive, cost-saving measure that may enhance efficiency for certain criminal cases.</p> <p>Currently, criminal case documents must be transferred through certified mail with return receipt, fax, personal service, or hand delivery.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 990 by Rep. Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a sentencing policy, accountability, and review council to develop means to assess the effect of sentencing practices and policies on state correctional resources and improve the efficiency of the state criminal justice system</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 990 creates the Texas Sentencing Policy, Accountability, and Review Council. This council consists of a 20 member appointed board including four House members, four Senate members, and twelve members from various areas of the criminal justice system.</p> <p>This bill requires the council to conduct an in-depth analysis of sentencing practices used throughout the criminal justice system, identify disparities between the severity of offenses and their penalties, enhance consistency, and reduce disparity in sentencing. They also compare community supervision, parole and sentencing terms to other states, determine how to balance state and county responsibilities with resources and devise an approach that would allow the state to balance sentencing policies with correctional resources. The commission will issue a report with findings and recommendations on streamlining and updating sentencing practices.</p> <p>Texas sentencing laws have not been evaluated since 1993. According to a recent report by the LBB, nearly half of all states, as well as the District of Columbia and the federal government, have sentencing commissions. A sentencing policy commission seeks to ensure relevancy and uniformity of criminal sentences.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 194 By Rep. Farias</p>	<p>Relating to considering ownership interests of certain disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting.</p>	<p>Defense and Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>HB 194 expands the category of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) to include businesses owned, operated, and controlled by one or more veterans with a service connected disability for purposes of state contracting. The bill adds veterans with a service-connected disability to the definition of an "economically disadvantaged person" for the purpose of identifying a HUB. There are concerns that expanding this definition will dilute the program's effectiveness and result in an end to the program as a whole. Certain disabled veterans are eligible to participate in Federal programs designed for the same purposes as the HUB program. Alternatively, many believe that disabled Veterans fit the definition of "economically disadvantaged person" and should be included in the HUB program.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 416 By Rep. Hilderbran</p>	<p>Relating to the computation of the franchise tax by a taxable entity engage in Internet hosting.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 416 exempts internet hosting service providers from paying taxes on services provided to out-of-state customers. The bill seeks to update the franchise tax system, recover Texas from industry disadvantage, and encourage investment and revenue. However, the industry in Texas has seen sizable and high-profile investment projects since the re-apportionment of the franchise tax in 2007. In addition, the LBB estimates a \$5 million loss from the Property Tax Relief Fund each biennium. The same amount would need to be found in General Revenue in order to fund the Foundation School Program.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 kristen@texaslsg.org</p>

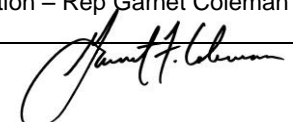
LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Monday, May 06, 2013

<p>HJR 133 By Rep. Harper-Brown</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize a political subdivision of this state to extend the number of days that aircraft parts that are exempt from ad valorem taxation due to their location in this state for a temporary period may be located in this state for purposes of qualifying for the tax exemption.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HJR 133, which is enabled by HB 3121, allows a taxing entity to extend the tax exemption on aircraft parts beyond the current 175 days. The taxing entity may not extend the exemption beyond 730 days after the property is acquired or imported. While any exemptions on these high-dollar parts would mean a loss for already underfunded schools, local entities are better equipped to make the decisions that directly impact their economies and avoid an inflexible one-size-fits-all approach. If passed, HJR 133 must be submitted to Texas voters through an election.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HJR 86 By Rep. Ritter</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation real property leased to certain schools organized and operated primarily for the purpose of engaging in educational functions.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HJR 86, which is enabled by HB 1360, exempts property that is leased to a school for educational use and necessary school functions from incurring any property taxes. The owner of the property must reduce the rent by an amount equal to the tax exemption. Current law allows an exemption for property that is owned and operated for school purposes, but many charter schools lease their property and do not receive the exemption.</p> <p>An estimated fiscal note of \$11.8 million dollars in 2015 is predicted. It is important to ensure that the tax savings are properly passed on to the lessee and not hoarded by the private entity that leases the property.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>

LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, May 06, 2013

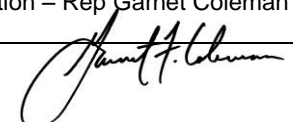
<p>HB 1965 By Rep. Harper-Brown</p>	<p>Relating to the state contracting duties of the quality assurance team and Contract Advisory Team.</p>	<p>Government Efficiency & Reform</p>	<p>HB 1965 specifies the duties of the existing Quality Assurance and Contract Advisory Teams. Along with current responsibilities, the Quality Assurance Team and Contract Advisory Team will develop and recommend policies and procedures to advance state agency contract management practices, improve value-based decision making and monitor state agencies to determine whether the programs meet the needs of the population the agency serves.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2447 By Rep. Martinez</p>	<p>Relating to the sale and advertisement of portable fire extinguishers.</p>	<p>Insurance</p>	<p>The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is an international organization dedicated to fire prevention advocacy and providing consumers with key information related to fire safety. The NFPA Standard 10 aims to ensure the proper functioning of fire extinguishers by outlining conditions and standards that should be met.</p> <p>HB 2447 prohibits the term “portable fire extinguisher” or “fire extinguisher” from being used for fire suppression devices that do not meet NFPA Standard 10 requirements, or other equally strict requirements accepted by the Commissioner. Fire extinguishers that are not tested or do not meet these requirements can still be sold, but cannot be labeled as a “portable fire extinguisher.”</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Laura Welch 512-763-0031 Laura@texaslsg.org</p>

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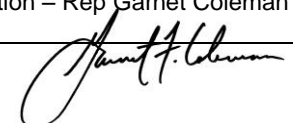


<p>HB 2446 by Rep. Crownover</p>	<p>Relating to the definitions of advanced clean energy projects and clean energy projects and to franchise tax credits for certain of those projects.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p>	<p>HB 2446 extends the deadline for issuance of franchise tax credits for clean energy projects another 5 years. The bill limits tax credits to no more than the amount of franchise tax due. However, the remaining portion can be carried forward up to 20 consecutive reports. HB 2446 adds natural gas to the type of fuels that qualify as a clean energy project and assigns admission standards these projects. The LBB estimates revenue loss from the Foundation School Fund totaling \$4 million in 2017, climbing to \$18 million for each biennium following. Current clean energy tax credits will expire after September 2013.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3671 by Rep. Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the right of certain young crime victims to a speedy trial and to be considered with respect to a defendant's motion for continuance.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3671 entitles a child 14 years of age or younger who is a victim of injury, on the request to the attorney representing the state, the right to a speedy trial consistent with the defendant's right to a fair trial. This includes the right to have the court consider the impact on the victim when a postponement of a hearing or trial is requested by the defendant. This bill also extends the right to a speedy trial for victims of assault or sexual assault who are younger than 17 or whose case involves family violence. Currently, the court will consider the impact of postponement of a trial for cases involving child victims of family violence. This bill expands the provision to include child assault cases. It addresses the mental and physical trauma for child victims associated with delays in trial.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3427 by Rep. Lavender</p>	<p>Relating to the transport of a mental health patient who is not a resident of this state</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 3427 authorizes the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to coordinate arrangements and enter into reciprocal agreements to return out-of-state committed mental patients to a mental health facility in their home state. This bill allows the agreement to include cost sharing between states for transporting patients back to their state of residence. HB 3427 increases efficiency and improves coordinated care for patients to receive the appropriate mental health services. Currently, border Texas counties are burdened with the cost of returning patients to a mental health facility in their home state. This often results in patients being held in medical facilities and Emergency rooms which further delays access to mental health services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3459 by Rep. Eiland</p>	<p>Relating to the determination of the boundaries of, and the enforcement of the law governing access to, public beaches.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p>	<p>HB 3459 authorizes the Commissioner of the General Land Office (GLO) by order to suspend action on conducting a line of vegetation determination for a period of up to 3 years from the date the order is issued if the commissioner determines that the line of vegetation was obliterated as a result of a meteorological event. For the duration of this order, the public beach must extend to a line 200 ft. inland from the line of mean low tide. This order must be posted on the GLO website, published in the Texas Register, and filed in the real property records of the county. The commissioner's discretion is related only to the <i>temporary suspension of a line of vegetation</i>. However, the bill does not create a duty for the commissioner to issue an order related to the line of vegetation or create a private cause of action. If an order is issued by the commissioner, provisions relating to beach use and maintenance is suspended. When the order expires, a determination must be made by the commissioner regarding the line of vegetation in accordance with the bill with consideration of the meteorological event. The commissioner is authorized to consult the UT Austin Bureau of Economic Geology to consider factors in determining the erosion rate. The line of vegetation as determined by the commissioner will constitute the landward boundary of the area subject to public easement until the line of vegetation moves landward due to a meteorological event, erosion, public use, or until a court establishes the line in another place. The bill extends the period from 2 to 3 years for which the commissioner may suspend the submission of a request that the Attorney General file a suit to obtain a court order to remove a house from a public beach by the commissioner's determination. Currently, the public has a <i>rolling easement</i> across the dry (sandy) parts of beaches due to erosion over time. Recently, in the Severance v. Patterson case, it was determined that in the case of an avulsion when the beach moves dramatically, the easement does not roll. This bill gives a 3 year period to determine that the line of vegetation was obliterated as a result of an avulsion, and helps establish boundaries relating to the access of public beaches.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>

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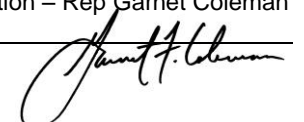


<p>HB 3463 By Rep. Bohac</p>	<p>Relating to information provided to recipients of certain assistance programs.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>HB 3463 requires HHSC to provide a statement of the total amount of assistance or benefits received over the preceding 12 months to recipients of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid when they are recertified as eligible.</p> <p>This bill is an attempt to further stigmatize low-income families and humiliate populations who are already aware of their low economic status. Sending a financial statement is unnecessary.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 Katherine@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1133 By Rep. Otto</p>	<p>Relating to a sales and use tax refund for tangible personal property used to provide cable television service, Internet access service, or telecommunications services and to the exclusion of that property in certain economic development agreements.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 1133 establishes a one-time sales and use tax refund available to internet access, cable or telecommunications service providers for investment in new broadband infrastructure. This bill specifies the criteria for property eligible for a refund including qualifying only when it is not receiving a refund for another reason. This bill places a \$50 million cap on the available refunds which prevents open ended increases of the refund, providing two ways to calculate a tax refund by either the amount of tax paid by the provider on eligible property or at a prorated share of \$50 million. Finally, it does not impact local municipal sales taxes. The investment that results from the refund will also be available for local ad valorem taxation, benefiting local and school taxing districts.</p> <p>While the tax refund will be spent on infrastructure development that will create jobs and broaden local tax bases, it still carries a fiscal note of \$100 million from General Revenue for the biennium. Members must weigh the benefits of the legislation against the cost, as they would any other item in the budget that utilizes General Revenue, such as education, health care, parks, and other vital governmental services.</p>	<p>Favorable with Concerns Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1736 by Rep. Anchia</p>	<p>Relating to temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of a property used to collect, process, and deliver landfill-generated gas.</p>	<p>Ways & Mean</p>	<p>HB 1736 institutes a property tax exemption for property located next to a landfill that is used for pollution-control activities. If the land is used to collect, compress, transport, process, or deliver the methane gas naturally produced by the landfill and destined for a natural gas pipeline or methane fueling station, it is considered to be aiding in the control of pollution.</p> <p>Currently, Texas offers property tax exemptions for pollution control activities, but not specifically for methane conversion processes as it does here. The exemption expires December 31, 2015.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3808 By Rep. Farney, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to evaluating the performance, including computing dropout and completion rates, of public schools designated as dropout recovery schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 3808 describes a dropout recovery school as a registered high school, with an enrollment of at least 50 percent of students being 17 years or older; that operates under the alternative education accountability procedures.</p> <p>The TEA commissioner will evaluate accountability and indicate student achievement of dropout recovery schools with an alternative completion ratio— the total number of student graduates, high school equivalency certificate recipients, or students continuing school to the total number of students in the cohort.</p> <p>The development of an alternative ratio for dropout and completion rates allows for substitute achievement standards that ensure dropout recovery schools are assessed and measured based on indicators specific to the dynamics of the school and its students.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1748 by Rep. Branch</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for defendants who commit certain aggravated sexual assaults.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 1748 sets the punishment for aggravated sexual assault of a child to a first degree felony punishable by life in prison or for any term of not more than 99 or less than 25 years if at the time of the offense the defendant is younger than 18. This penalty applies to cases in which the victim is younger than 14 and the defendant causes serious bodily injury, places the victim in fear of death, uses a deadly weapon, acts in concert with another actor engaging in sexual assault, or administers rohypnol or other “blackout” drugs. When the victim is 6 or younger, this aggravated sexual assault penalty applies regardless of bodily injury or circumstance.</p> <p>If the defendant is 18 years or older, the offense is increased to a first degree felony punishable by life in prison <i>without</i> parole, and adds instances in which the victim is younger than 17 and suffered serious bodily injury.</p> <p>HB 1748 (Chelsea's Law) would further enhance Jessica's law by providing for a one-strike life without parole sentence for adult</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>



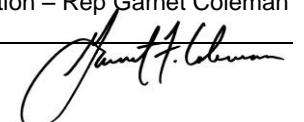
			offenders, and 25 years to life for offenders under 18. Juvenile offenders would benefit more from community supervision and rehabilitation. In cases of juvenile sexual abuse, punishment-only approaches have repeatedly proven not to work, and it is ineffective to deprive youth of meaningful opportunities to change.	
HB 1772 By Rep. Turner, Chris, et al.	Relating to the disconnection of electric or gas utility service.	Urban Affairs	<p>HB 1772 seeks to provide safeguards for apartment or condominium tenants whose property owners fail to pay utilities and cause service disconnection at no fault of the tenant.</p> <p>An owner must hand-deliver or mail a written notice of service disconnection to tenants no later than 5 days after the owner receives a warning from the utility company. The notice must be in both English and Spanish, specify when the service will be cut off, and for what reason. The owner must provide tenants with information on what recourse can be taken to rectify the situation.</p> <p>A municipality must also be notified of the service disconnection by the owner or utility company so that, if necessary, the municipality can be aware of serious situations in which first responders are required, due to a large number of service disconnections in an apartment complex or condominium unit.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org
HB 26 By Rep. Martinez-Fischer	Relating to unemployment compensation eligibility and chargebacks regarding certain persons who are victims or whose immediate family members are victims of sexual assault.	Economic & Small Business Development	<p>Current employees who voluntarily leave their job also forfeit their earned unemployment credit, regardless of the circumstances that caused them to abruptly leave the workplace.</p> <p>HB 26 allows employees or a member of the employee's immediate family to access the unemployment benefits when the employee's departure is a result of violence related to a sexual assault. The bill stipulates that eligibility for unemployment compensation and chargebacks must be evidenced by one of the following evidentiary items that explain the sexual assault: protective order, a police record documentation, physician statement, medical record, or intake record from family violence center.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org
HB 3285 by Rep. Yvonne Davis	Relating to the reporting of health care associated infections.	Public Health	HB 3285 requires health care facilities to submit a report to Department of State Health Services (DSHS) that specifies if an infection resulted in the death of a patient. This bill directs DSHS to make this report available to the public. HB 3285 promotes patient safety and ensures best practices from hospitals to reduce preventable deaths.	Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org
HB 2268 by Rep. Frullo	Relating to search warrants issued in this state and other states for certain customer data, communications, and other related information held in electronic storage in this state and other states by providers of electronic communications services and remote computing services.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>HB 2268 authorizes a district judge to issue a search warrant for customer data in electronic storage, including contents and records held by a service provider of remote computing service regardless of whether that data is held in Texas or another state. A search warrant is required based on probable cause that an offense was committed and that the electronic data constitutes as evidence. This warrant must be sealed and presented in the name of the state of Texas and executed not later than the 11th day after issuance.</p> <p>The bill requires that the local provider produce all data within 15 days in accordance to the warrant, and authorizes a 30 day extension period if needed. These deadline requirements are under the judge's discretion and may be adjusted according to risk of danger or physical safety of persons involved. All information regarding the customer data must be verified by the provider with an affidavit to attest to its authenticity. A provider must comply with a warrant issued in another state seeking information held in electronic storage.</p> <p>Several other states have enacted computer data warrant laws that take advantage of out-of-state jurisdiction when dealing with internet data. Providers often hold vital information to prosecute an offense under state law. Although certain internet activity may take place within a state, law enforcement officers must apply for a local search warrant in an internet company's jurisdiction, often found out of state. This limitation hinders law enforcement's efforts to obtain evidence on internet criminals.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org

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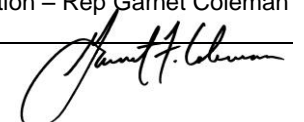
<p>HB 2887 by Rep. Davis, John</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment and expansion of community collaborative by entities to provide services to and coordinate the care of persons who are homeless, persons with mental illness, and persons with substance abuse problems.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 2887 requires DSHS to provide grants to local entities for the expansion of community collaboratives. The purpose of the collaborative is to bridge together private and public entities to provide services for the homeless, persons with mental illness and substance abuse. This bill specifies acceptable uses of grant money and requires certain elements be incorporated into the program that can better assist vulnerable individuals. HB 2887 provides oversight by directing these entities to perform outcome measures and authorizes DSHS to reduce or cut funding if goals are not met. The expansion of the community collaborative is a powerful tool to strengthen the community and create change.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3668 By Rep. Naishtat</p>	<p>Relating to an individual's responsibilities following an accident possibly resulting in injury to or death of a person; imposing criminal penalties.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>HB 3668 requires an operator of a vehicle involved in an accident that results or may result in injury or death of a person to stop their car immediately at the scene of the accident or return to the scene of the accident, and check to see if anyone involved in the accident requires aid. The driver must remain at the accident until information is exchanged. HB 3668 seeks to ensure that the law does not incentivize fleeing the scene of a crime to receive a reduced sentence.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 928 by Rep. Krause</p>	<p>Relating to the enforcement of certain federal laws regulating firearms, firearm accessories, and firearm ammunition within the State of Texas</p>	<p>Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility, Select</p>	<p>HB 928 makes it illegal for a governmental entity or employee, such as a police officer, to enforce certain federal laws relating to a firearm. They can lose state funding for enforcing any firearm laws that have not been already outlined in Texas law. This includes firearm regulation regarding background checks, accessories, size limitation and registration requirements. Additionally, the bill specifies that a report can be made against those suspected of enforcing firearm policies, and if the suspicion is true they will be compelled, by the court, to comply with this law and be responsible for the related costs of the investigation.</p> <p>This bill causes confusion and criminalizes hard working Texans who choose to follow federal law. Specifically, it puts law enforcement in unreasonable situations and creates a conflict of interest, since they are forced to choose between state and federal law. Additionally, this bill is unnecessary. The U.S. constitution already addresses this issue through the Supremacy Clause, which states that when there is conflict between federal and state law federal law supercedes state law, when federal law is consistent with the U.S. Constitution. Due to this bill's unconstitutionality, Texas would spend unknown amounts of taxpayer money attempting to defend this flawed law in court.</p>	<p>Unfavorable Evaluated by: Natalie R. Powell 512-763-0031 Natalie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3162 By Rep. Davis, John</p>	<p>Relating to Texas Emerging Technology Fund</p>	<p>Economic & Small Business Development</p>	<p>HB 3162 streamlines the administrative duties and managerial powers related to the awarding of Subchapter D grants from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund. The bill accomplishes this by eliminating the Texas Emergency Technology Advisory Committee and creating Texas Emerging Fund Board, which would be responsible for administrative process and the approval grant adding prices to eligible participants. The board will consist of 15 board members and Governor's appointees are decreased from 13 to 5. The bill clarifies that the information collected by the board are confidential unless they consent to release it. The Lieutenant Governor's appointees are increased from 2 to 5. The Speaker's appointees are increased from 2 to 5.</p> <p>Moreover, HB 3162 gives authority to the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker to make appointees after deadline. The bill requires the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker, and Governor to appoint the presiding member, rather than just the Governor. The bill requires the</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>

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			committee to hire a fund manager for the purposes of maintaining incentives for commercialization grants. The bill requires the fund manager to make recommendations for the award money from the fund, with the advice of the regional centers for innovation and commercialization in order to maximize investments. HB 3162 authorizes 4% of the money in the Emerging Technology Fund will be allocated to regional centers of innovation and commercialization. The bill requires the final award decision to be made by the advisor board. The bill authorizes the administrative staff salary would come from the following sources the office of the governor, gifts, grants, and foundations and the Emerging Technology Fund.	
HB 170 By Rep. Alonzo	Relating to the coverage by certain health benefit plans of mammograms performed by certain health care providers	Insurance	According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, 40% of women find breast cancer after performing self-exams. HB 170 would allow patients who have health coverage for low-dose mammography to bypass the primary care physician referral and go directly to the Low-dose Mammographic Specialist who is not in the patient's existing mammography network. This bill would allow patients to save crucial time for oncology care that is wasted waiting for a physician appointment and subsequent unnecessary referral.	Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org
HB 1908 by Rep. Eiland	Relating to sports and community venue projects.	Ways & Means	HB 1908 requires specific language to be used in a ballot proposition that authorizes the imposition of a hotel occupancy tax or an increase in the hotel occupancy tax. The language must include what the cumulative hotel tax rate will be if the proposition were to pass. The bill also caps the cumulative hotel tax rate for a city or county at 17 percent the price of a room. HB 1908 also expands the definition of conference center to conference center facilities. These changes bring clarity, add transparency and have no fiscal impact.	Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 3805 By Rep. Gonzales	Relating to the discharge of an officer or employee of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	HB 3805 allows a discharged <i>commissioned</i> officer of DPS to appeal the discharge and entitles them to a public hearing before the Public Safety Commission. Current statute only allows a discharge officer or employee to appeal.	Favorable Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org
HB 2532 by Rep. Workman	Relating to the regulation of propane distribution system retailers; authorizing a fee.	Energy Resources	HB 2532 regulates the retail sale and service of propane gas to improve on fairness, safety and accountability. The bill outlines policies and procedures around service and gives the Railroad Commission some oversight of the process. The bill sets a cap on rates but allows a mark-up based on a two-year price average. The bill also outlines what other costs and fees may be charged. HB 2532 outlines when a retailer may refuse service, delay or disconnect service, what they must do in case of interruption and how they must respond to complaints. The bill also requires a retailer maintain records and prepare reports for the Railroad Commission (RRC). HB 2532 directs the commission to open a toll free number to receive customer complaints, authorizes the commission to investigate, to intervene in certain circumstances, impose certain remedies and enforce the provisions of the bill.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 2694 By Rep. Villarreal	Relating to the provision of credit by examination for public school students.	Public Education	HB 2694 allows students in 6 th grade or higher to receive course credit for passing State Board of Education approved examinations for class subjects. Students receiving course credit, under this bill, are exempt from taking an end-of-course (EOC) assessment. Specifically, the bill requires that school districts select at least four examinations that are approved by the SBOE and must include Advanced Placement (AP) exams, and exams administered through the College-Level Examination Program. A student wishing to obtain course credit by examination may not take a test more than once and is expected to pass within the 80 th percentile to qualify for course credit and EOC exemption. HB 2694 has a positive impact on students seeking college admittance and provides more flexibility for parents and students. The bill also creates opportunities for disadvantaged students to progress and flourish in the public education system through tested proficiency, without being limited by classroom time.	Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org

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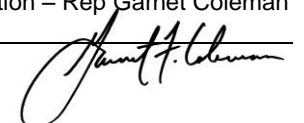


<p>HB 2330 By Rep. Gooden</p>	<p>Relating to regulation of traffic in a conservation and reclamation district by a commissioners court.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>The first section of HB 2330 is bracketed to Kaufman County. The commissioners court may enter into an interlocal contract with the board of conservation and reclamation district to apply the county’s traffic regulations to a public road in the county that is owned, operated and maintained by the district if the commissioners court finds that it is in the county’s interest to regulate traffic on the public road.</p> <p>The second section of HB2330 which applies to all of Texas authorizes a county commissioners court to apply the county’s traffic regulations to public roads in the county that is owned, operated, and maintained by a conservation and reclamation district and located wholly or partly in the county of the commissioners court. Public roads being considered for this order are considered county roads for traffic regulation purposes. Commissioners court of a county may adopt regulations establishing a system of traffic control devices in restricted traffic zones.</p> <p>HB2330 seeks to address a gap in traffic law enforcement because roads outside the jurisdiction of any municipality or county lack adequate enforcement capabilities.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Kelle’ Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3536 by Rep. Otto</p>	<p>Relating to imposing a fee on the sale of cigarettes and cigarette tobacco products manufactured by certain companies; providing penalties; changing the rate of the tax on chewing tobacco.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 3536 imposes a fee on cigarettes and cigarette tobacco products made by tobacco companies not a part of the 1998 Tobacco Settlement Agreement, which do not pay into the tobacco fund. The bill outlines fees per unit for 2013, amounts of increase each subsequent year, penalties for noncompliance and how to include manufacturers that begin sale of these products after the fee is imposed. Revenue from these fees are deposited in General Revenue. Products sold out-of-state or to an Indian tribe are exempt from this fee.</p> <p>HB 3536 requires distributors to include information on the sales and fees of these products among reports they file with the comptroller. The bill also authorizes the comptroller or attorney general to enforce the bill’s provisions including conducting audits.</p> <p>HB 3536 lowers the tax per ounce of chewing tobacco.</p> <p>Background: In 1998 a suit against major tobacco companies was settled. In exchange for release from cause of action, these companies have agreed to pay in perpetuity into a fund the state uses for health costs related to use of tobacco products. Not all tobacco companies were a part of the suit.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2851 By Rep. Callegari, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the adoption of rules by state agencies.</p>	<p>Government Efficiency & Reform</p>	<p>HB 2851 establishes that a state agency may only adopt rules that fulfill the purpose established by the constitutional and statutory laws regulating the agency.</p> <p>Currently, there are no restrictions on the Legislature’s ability to address, enhance, change or eliminate rules adopted by state agencies if it is proven that rules are outside the purview of the law. The bill creates redundancy, in that state agencies operate and are regulated by the guidelines of the Legislature. Furthermore it is unclear who the arbiter would be or what the enforcement mechanism is for agencies operating outside of constitutional and statutory law.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3233 By Rep. Ritter</p>	<p>Relating to interbasin transfers of state water.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 3233 seeks to clarify the procedures of interbasin transfers. This bill removes the requirement that the projected effect on user rates and fees for each class of ratepayers must be included in the application. It also adds that an evidentiary hearing is limited to considering issues related to the requirements listed. HB 3233 requires that a cause of notice of application be published twice within a 30-day period, instead once a week for two consecutive weeks.</p> <p>HB 3233 adds that TCEQ will determine whether the detriments to the basin of origin are less than the benefits to the receiving basin during the proposed transfer period. Currently under certain circumstances a transfer will contain a condition for a term or period not greater than the term, this bill requires the inclusion of any extension or renewal of the contract.</p> <p>HB 3233 expands the criteria that does not apply to the provisions of interbasin transfers to part of the territory of a county or municipality, or part of the service area of a retail public utility of a proposed transfer, that is within the basin of origin for use in that part of the territory of the county, or municipality or that part of the service area of the utility not within the basin of origin.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 3234 By Rep. Ritter</p>	<p>Relating to the procedure for action by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on an application for a water right.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p>	<p>HB 3234 creates the procedures for the review of a water right application by the TCEQ. HB 3234 codifies some of the existing practices by the TCEQ, with the exception of some shortened time frames, and makes appropriate changes to statute.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 613 By Rep. Orr</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of foundation repair contractors; providing penalties; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p>	<p>HB 613 creates a licensing program for companies and individuals who perform foundational repairs on residential properties. This bill does not apply to persons working on new construction. Improper foundation work has been exacerbated by soil disruption from Texas' drought, and the only recourse a homeowner has for faulty or negligent repairs is to sue the contractor and endure legal expenses. The bill seeks to address this problem by creating a Foundation Repair Advisory Board which would give recommendations on proper foundation repair standards to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).</p> <p>The bill requires that only master license holders can own foundation repair companies and contract to or employ a master license holder who would perform foundational work. Journeyman license holders will be authorized to perform foundation repair contracting work under the supervision of a master license holder. The journeyman license holder can supervise the estimator license holder, whom would provide estimates to the homeowner. The bill authorizes license holder to take examinations, and TDLR would be responsible for issuance, term, expiration, and renewal of licenses. The criminal history background information is requested upon application for a master, journeyman, and estimator license. The bill excludes nonsupervisory manual labor workers from having a license if they are working directly under a supervisor that holds a license to perform foundation repair work.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1813 By Rep. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a municipality to confiscate packaged fireworks; providing an affirmative defense for possessing fireworks in certain circumstances.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1813 disallows a police officer's ability to confiscate unopened fireworks from persons pulled over for a violation. If cited, a person has an affirmative defense against a firework violation as long as the unopened package was in the glove compartment, car trunk or truck bed.</p> <p>The bill allows the purchase and transport of legal fireworks without the potential for confiscation by officers in other municipalities. The bill intends to defend individuals who may be traveling through cities with fireworks packaged in a proper and safe manner.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 555 By Rep. Callegari</p>	<p>Relating to certain criminal offenses for violations of the law regulating metal recycling entities.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>HB 555 increases the penalty for violations involving certain registration requirements, electronic transaction reporting procedures, and operating hours for the purchase of regulated materials by a metal recycling entity. The penalty increases from a general misdemeanor and fine of \$1000 to a Class A misdemeanor with a fine up to \$10,000. This bill also adds the penalty of state jail felony for a person who has been previously convicted of such violations.</p> <p>HB 555 makes it a Class C misdemeanor to violate any statutory provisions or a rule relating to metal recycling entities under current law.</p> <p>This bill addresses the recent slew of unlawful purchasing of metal material by recycling entities sold by thieves who have stolen the materials from city water stations and other businesses, resulting in millions of dollars to replace and repair. The intended purpose of increasing the penalties and fines for this violation is to eliminate financial incentives for the buyers, therefore denying thieves an easy buy and resulting in fewer thefts.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Williams 512-763-0031 amanda.williams@texaslsg.org</p>

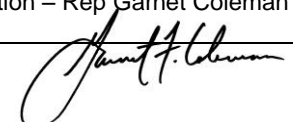
<p>HB 953 By Rep. Button, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to a franchise tax credit for research and development activities performed in conjunction with institutions of higher education; authorizing a tax credit.</p>	<p>Economic Subcommittee on Manufacturing</p>	<p>HB 953 provides tax incentives for certain Research and Development (R&D) activities in the form of franchise tax credit to companies that partner with universities. HB 953 places a cap of 50 percent of the franchise tax credit. This tax incentive encourages partnerships between businesses and universities as well as promoting innovations. Concerns: These tax breaks would reduce available funds for public schools, through the Property Tax Relief Fund, with an estimated cost of \$10.3 million for the 2014-15 biennium along with rising yearly costs. This is a steep cost to pay when the Legislature continues to struggle to find sufficient revenue to fund public education and other state priorities. There is no expiration date or a sunset in place to review the effects of these tax incentives and determine the overall fiscal impact of this legislation. While the policy objective of HB 953 is important, it must be weighed by members against the cost to public schools.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 626 By Rep. Harper-Brown</p>	<p>Relating to the number of hours certain employees must work to be eligible to participate in the Texas Municipal Retirement System.</p>	<p>Pensions</p>	<p>HB 626 gives municipalities the option to increase the required number of hours a part time municipal employee must work to become eligible to participate in the Texas Municipal Retirement System to 1,500 hours per year. Under HB626, if a municipality passed an ordinance to increase retirement requirements, police and fire employees would be excluded. Currently, a part-time municipal employee must work a minimum of 1,000 hours per year to qualify for benefits under the Texas Municipal Retirement System. The current requirements allow for employees who choose to work part-time to also receive retirement benefits they earned. In addition, lowering the number of eligible participants could negatively impact the stability of the fund.</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u> Evaluated by: Maggie Nelson (512) 763-0031 Maggie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1862 By Rep. Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the criminal consequences of engaging in certain conduct with respect to a switchblade knife.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 1862 eliminates switchblade knives from the weapons list of which the intentional and knowing possession, manufacture, transportation, repair, or sale is prohibited. A switchblade knife is defined as any knife with a blade that folds, closes or retracts into the handle or sheath and opens <i>automatically</i> by pressure applied to a button or other device located on the handle. During the 20th century, switchblade knives became symbols of gang culture and mischief; however, there is little evidence that switchblade knives exclusively present a danger to the general public.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 462 By Rep. Huberty, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to state control of teacher appraisal criteria, curriculum standards, and assessment instruments.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 462 establishes that the State Board of Education may not adopt national curriculum standards, developed by the Common Core State Standard Initiative. School districts should not use common core state standards to comply with TEKS curriculum instruction in appropriate grade levels. Also, TEA may not adopt or develop any assessment instrument based on common core state standards with the exception of Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams. The bill adds that the TEA commissioner may not appraise the quality of an educator who uses federal or national criteria to assess student achievement.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 887 By Rep. Lucio III</p>	<p>Relating to full-contact drills by students who are members of a high school or middle school football team that participates in activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 887 requires the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to adopt rules limiting the amount of full contact drills or live action simulations for middle and high school football players. Football teams shall not conduct full body contact drills for more than one hour per week. The bill is precautionary and seeks to address the potential for long-term impacts of head and body traumas. In 2011 the National Football League (NFL) eliminated offseason full body practices and restricted full body contact drills during the season to 14; less than one per week. The NFL guidelines are more restrictive than the UIL rules for adolescents and this bill creates more protective standards for the youth.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 1428 By Rep. Davis, Sarah</p>	<p>Relating to inappropriate actions by the early voting ballot board; creating an offense.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>When a presiding judge of an early voting ballot board knowingly accepts the ballot of an ineligible voter or knowingly refuses to accept the ballot of a person who is eligible to vote, HB1428 makes this offense a Class A misdemeanor. Voting clerks are required to report the offense to the county or district attorney with jurisdiction and to the secretary of state.</p> <p>HB1428 seeks to address concerns with occurrences in which early voting ballot boards accept or reject ballots for inappropriate reasons.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1897 By Rep. Eiland</p>	<p>Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of pollution control property.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 1897 stipulates a property owner with land used for pollution control must provide a letter from the TCEQ in order to receive a property tax exemption. The letter determining property use must be provided to the chief appraiser at the time the exemption is applied for. The property is only entitled to an exemption for the year in which the owner provides a copy of the letter with the application. This bill addresses concerns that property owners may capitalize on incentives when properties do not meet or exceed environmental regulations for air, water, and land pollution as required.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2320 By Rep. Parker</p>	<p>Relating to establishing a pilot program for driver education schools to administer certain driver's license examinations; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p>	<p>HB 2320 creates a pilot program for additional testing by a driver education school. This bill allows DPS to designate licensed driver education schools to administer the driving portion of the examination, in addition to the department's administration of that examination.</p> <p>HB 2320 requires DPS to establish criteria for determining the eligibility of a driver education school to apply for participation and operate under the pilot program, monitor participating schools to ensure that they are conducting thorough examinations, and conduct annual reports outlining certain criteria.</p> <p>HB 2320 allows DPS to charge a fee for administrative costs to a driver education school that applies to enter and participates in the program. This bill stipulates that the pilot program will expire September 1, 2017 but leaves the option to make the program permanently available to DPS and TCLEOSE.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2859 By Rep. Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the amount of money authorized to be used for Clean Air Act local initiative projects related to vehicles.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p>	<p>HB 2859 increases the amount of allotted fees collected from vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs from \$5 million to \$10 million. These fees may be used for vehicle-related local initiative projects under the Texas Clean Air Act.</p> <p>The intent of increasing the amount capped for fee revenue from these programs is to accommodate at least sixteen nonattainment counties, like Harris County, that are administrating projects geared toward preventing fraudulent and expired registration stickers, eliminating illegal vehicle inspections, and reducing emissions. This bill also addresses the growth in nonattainment counties.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Williams 512-763-0031 amanda.williams@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3101 By Rep. Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to filing deadlines to become a write-in candidate in elections.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 3103 repeals Election Code provisions that entitle write-in ballot candidates a three day grace period to drop out of a race. The bill establishes that the filing deadline for write-in ballot applications is considered a declaration of candidacy.</p> <p>Other candidates are not given a grace period. This bill seeks to level the playing field, speed up the ballot printing process, and create consistency.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3103 By Rep. Morrison</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of primary elections.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 3103 allows county parties to take advantage of modern technology when making notices of their availability to accept applications for a place on the ballot. Currently, parties must place notice on a bulletin board at a county courthouse.</p> <p>This bill requires the chair to notify the secretary of state of all candidates who file for election; the secretary of state will then post the certified list on their official website. HB 3103 changes submission and compilation rules to allow electronic submission to the political candidates accessible by county and precinct chairs of their respective parties.</p> <p>HB 3103 requires the secretary of state to be notified if a candidate withdraws from an election, dies, or is declared ineligible to run for office. The bill requires parties to post information on their internet website about candidates running for office. This bill modernizes current policies and updates election law with the provisions necessary to increase the efficiency of Texas elections procedures.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031</p>



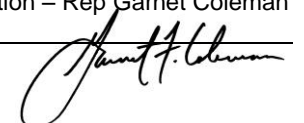
<p>HB 3121 By Rep. Harper-Brown</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications for the exemption from ad valorem taxation for aircraft parts located in this state for a limited time.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 3121 allows a taxing entity to extend the tax exemption on aircraft parts beyond the current 175 days. The taxing entity may not extend the exemption beyond 730 days after the property is acquired or imported. While any exemptions on these high-dollar parts would mean a loss for already strapped schools, local entities are better equipped to make the decisions that directly impact their economies and avoid an inflexible one-size-fits-all approach.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3152 By Rep. Giddings</p>	<p>Relating to the payment of and contracts with health care providers by certain entities under contract with a certified workers' compensation network.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p>	<p>HB 3152 clarifies requirements regarding third party contractors for health care networks that accept worker's compensation. This bill ensures that third party contractors are receiving payment for their services. It specifies that if third party contractors meet certain requirements they will receive compensation according to the terms that were set in their contract. If they fail to meet the requirements they will be compensated based on the certified networks contract rate.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3196 By Rep. Price</p>	<p>Relating to licensing and certification requirements for certain health facilities and to the allocation of Medicaid beds in certain of those facilities; increasing fees.</p>	<p>Human Services</p>	<p>HB 3196 increases license and renewal fees that Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) can collect to establish, conduct, or maintain a convalescent nursing home or similar institution. Certification for institutions that care for persons with Alzheimer's and similar disorders is extended to three years and HHSC must adopt a system where certifications issued by DADS expire on staggered dates in the three year period.</p> <p>HB 3196 authorizes the executive commissioner of HHSC <i>by rule</i> to require a nursing facility that is to be constructed and is applying for Medicaid beds to provide a performance bond of \$500,000 to HHSC conditioned on the applicant obtaining the Medicaid beds within a specific time frame. Requirements are laid out for the bond, and DADS may not require the bond to be from a specific insurance or surety agency, agency, or broker.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 Katherine@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3327 By Rep. Coleman</p>	<p>Relating to a list of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention programs that may be selected for implementation by public schools.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 3327 promotes early intervention for students by expanding the list of programs implemented by schools that address mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention. Each school district selects from a list of best practices programs to implement what is most appropriate to the needs of their students. HB 3327 requires this list to include programs that address mental health and substance abuse intervention and prevention. DSHS, TEA, and each regional education service center are required to make the list easily accessible on their website.</p> <p>Currently, the best practices list does not include any strong components of mental health, substance abuse intervention, and suicide prevention.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3370 By Rep. Craddick</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of certain retired peace officers to carry certain firearms.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety</p>	<p>Currently the head of a state or local law enforcement agency may allow an honorably retired peace officer the opportunity to demonstrate weapons proficiency if the retired officer provides to the agency a sworn affidavit stating certain criteria.</p> <p>An officer has the option on an affidavit to state that before completing 15 years of service as a commissioned officer with one or more state or local law enforcement agencies, they separated from employment with said agency, and is a qualified retired law enforcement officer that can carry a concealed firearm.</p> <p>HB 3370 adds a qualified retired law enforcement officer to the current positions that are exempt from the offenses of carrying of weapons and places where weapons are prohibited.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org</p>

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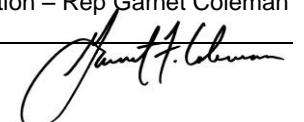
<p>HB 3566 By Rep. Kleinschmidt</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of advertising by structural pest control businesses.</p>	<p>Agriculture and Livestock</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regulates the advertising of pest control businesses to prevent false or misleading practices.</p> <p>HB 3566 extends TDA's authority to the practices of a person <i>subject to regulation</i>, rather than only regulated by TDA. Extending regulations can aid in the prevention of unlicensed people providing pest control services.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 Katherine@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 167 By Rep. McClendon et al.</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment, operation, and funding of victim-offender mediation programs; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 167 establishes a pre-trial victim-offender mediation program for a person who has been arrested and charged with a misdemeanor property offense and has not previously been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor other than a fine only misdemeanor. The bill authorizes the court to allow for referral to the program for an arrested person who has not formally been charged.</p> <p>The respective attorneys are prohibited from acting as mediators, and only qualified staff that meet training requirements are designated as mediators. The victim, lawyer and defendant enter into a consenting agreement and all communication is confidential. A guilty plea is not required to enter the program, but the defendant must proceed through the regular justice system. The mediation would consist of testing, counseling and treatment for alcohol and drug abuse, mental health and anger management. The mediation is valid for no more than one year unless a state attorney approves an extension.</p> <p>A participation fee is required from the defendant which must not exceed \$500. There is also a \$15 court fee in addition to fees related to counseling, testing and treatment. These fees do not have to be paid upfront, and may be on a deferred payment schedule based on their ability to pay.</p> <p>This is a voluntary, expedited way of obtaining justice without court proceedings and allows for a safe forum. It holds offenders accountable in a positive and productive manner. There are currently 300 programs in North America and 40% victims show fewer PTSD symptoms after a crime in courts that have mediation programs.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 899 By Rep. Perry, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to certain rights of victims, guardians of victims, and close relatives of deceased victims in the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 899 entitles a victim of a capital offense or a guardian or close relative of that victim, the right to decline to be contacted by a victim outreach specialist (VOS) if the contact is initiated or retained by the defendant or the defendant's attorney. This bill gives them the right to designate a victim service provider to receive all communications from a victim outreach specialist acting on behalf of any person, and the right to have the attorney representing the state notify the defendant and the defendant's attorney of any decisions relating to declining that contact. This expands the current rights given to victims and their families relating to prosecution proceedings.</p> <p>A VOS is an expert consultant with knowledge and skills in crime-related trauma, capital case procedure, theory and practice of victim rights, and the theory and practice of restorative justice. The mission of the VOS is to help victim-survivors identity needs that can be addressed through direct and indirect contact with the defense. The VOS works on behalf of victim-survivors, serving as a liaison for their needs and concern and is not a core member of the defense team. The ability to be contacted and decline should remain rather than eliminating the opportunity to be contacted all together.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Muna Javid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1050 By Rep. Callegari</p>	<p>Relating to construction-related and purchasing contracts by certain governmental entities.</p>	<p>Government Efficiency & Reform</p>	<p>HB 1050, a clean-up bill, establishes a purchasing cooperative—an organization that joins with a governmental entity in which members or vendors pay fees to the managing entity. The bill requires that a local government may not enter into a contractual agreement with a purchasing cooperative for greater than \$50,000 unless certification designated by an Engineer or the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners is provided.</p> <p>Under the bill, a governmental entity may also require a design-build firm, responding to proposal contracts, to guarantee that</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>

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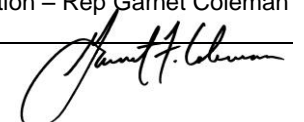
			<p>companies serve as key task leaders and provide, project management, quality control and assurance management. Furthermore, the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes statute that limits the number of civil work project agreements a governmental entity or water utility can establish. • Retracts the provision requiring a governmental entity to make a formal finding on certain qualification criteria for design-build procedures. • Prohibits the collective dollar amount approved for change orders of a public contract from increasing the original contract price by more than 25 percent; a change from 10 percent. • Reduces the minimum population, for an authorized city granting general responsibilities to a municipal official for the approval of public contract orders, from 500, 000 to 300,000. <p>Although significant fiscal impact is not anticipated by the LBB, the Texas Education Agency reports that HB 1050 would put a cost on schools when accessing certification for purchasing cooperative agreements higher than \$50,000. Be aware that this legislation could be a vehicle for potential bad amendments. LSG would encourage members to keep the bill clean and oppose any attempts to change current law, especially related to prevailing wages.</p>	
<p>HB 1129 By Rep. White, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to a program allowing certain military voters on active duty overseas to cast a ballot electronically.</p>	<p>Defense and Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1129 requires the Secretary of State to create a temporary pilot program that allows certain military members to vote electronically via e-mail. The bill prescribes certain requirements including the use of a voter's military e-mail address and common access card. In order to participate in this program, the military member must be serving on active duty overseas and must be receiving hostile fire pay. The pilot program will be isolated to the one specific county. The bill will allow the state to study the viability of a permanent voting process for these service-members.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1159 By Rep. Kolkhorst</p>	<p>Relating to a utilization review process for managed care organizations participating in the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>HB 1159 provides oversight and accountability by requiring a utilization review process for Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) participating in the STAR+PLUS Medicaid managed care program. This is a program for persons with disabilities or older than 65 years of age that have complex needs. This bill requires the HHSC Office of Contract Management to establish and implement a review process. This review must include the evaluation of procedures that MCO's use to determine if an individual is eligible for the STAR+PLUS and Community-based Services and Supports (HCBS) program.</p> <p>HHSC's office of contract management is required to submit a report to the Senate and House. This report must include results on review process and recommendations to address inappropriate placements in these programs. This provides transparency and ensures tax dollars are spent appropriately. This expires September 1, 2016.</p> <p>Background: The Texas State Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report (GEER) indicated concerns with inappropriate placement of persons for STAR+PLUS and HCBS programs that resulted from the lack of oversight.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1228 By Rep. Dukes, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to consideration by the court of sexual abuse and conduct that constitutes sexual assault in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>Currently, in rape cases in which a child is born, the convicted rapist has the same parental rights as the victimized parent. This bill addresses this issue by legally aiding women who have experienced this trauma. HB 1228 would allow courts to use sexual abuse evidence to be considered in parent-child relationship suits and trials. The bill establishes that an offender cannot have parenting rights of the child if there is a preponderance of evidence that the child is the product of the offense. The offender will still be required to pay child support if they are financially capable.</p> <p>Moreover, court-ordered parental termination would also be authorized if a woman terminates her pregnancy from the rape based on clear and convincing evidence. Finally, the court shall revoke a father's parental rights if it finds that the parent has continuously engaged in any sexually abusive conduct with the child or children. The bill contains safeguard provisions which seek to ensure that the</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org</p>

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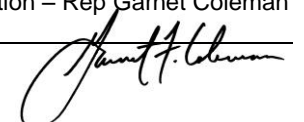


			courts rule in the best interest of the child and allow the judge to use their discretion in certifying that contested parties don't use this legislation to make false claims against the other party in a parental custody case.	
HB 1302 By Rep. Clardy	Relating to the imposition of a sentence of life without parole on certain repeat sex offenders and to certain restrictions on employment for certain sex offenders.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>HB 1302 requires the judge in a trial of a sexually violent offense to make an affirmative finding of fact and enter it in the judgment if it is determined that the victim or intended victim was younger than 13 years of age. It also requires the judge to make and file an affirmative finding of fact for this crime when placing a defendant on deferred adjudication community supervision. Affirmative findings are specific findings that support an enhanced punishment or other action by the court; without the finding an action is not available.</p> <p>If it is shown that the defendant is 17 or older and has previously been convicted of a sexually violent offense against a child younger than 13, <i>they will receive a mandatory life sentence without the benefit of parole.</i></p> <p>This bill also prohibits a person convicted of a sexually violent offense against a child from certain types of employment including the operation of a taxicab, bus, limousine, or amusement ride, and jobs providing any type of service in the residence of another person. The sex offender will have these employment restrictions included on their registration form and will be informed of them upon release. HB 1302, "Justin's Bill", is in response to 12 year old Justin Fletcher, abducted and murdered by a convicted and registered sex offender who lured him into his cab in Stonewall, Louisiana.</p> <p>This bill addresses victim's rights and public safety, however it considerably limits service job opportunities for offenders who are working to reintegrate into society.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org
HB 1360 By Rep. Ritter	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property leased to and used by certain schools.	Ways & Means	HB 1360 exempts property that is leased to a school for educational use and necessary school functions from incurring any property taxes. The owner of the property must reduce the rent by an amount equal to the tax exemption. It is important to ensure that the tax savings are properly passed on to the lessee and not hoarded by the private entity that leases the property. HB 1360 is the enabling legislation for HJR 86.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 1392 By Rep. King, Susan, et al.	Relating to information provided by the Department of State Health Services on food regulation.	Public Health	<p>HB 1392 improves efficiency and provides clarification regarding food safety regulations to ensure small business owners are in compliance. This bill requires Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to respond within 30 days to information requests as well as official determinations. HB 1392 prohibits an inspector from issuing a citation for a food safety violation if the individual provides proof of official determination.</p> <p>Currently, there are no clear instructions from DSHS on food safety regulations for small businesses, causing confusion among the public regarding proper compliance.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org
HB 1597 By Rep. Gonzalez, Naomi, et al.	Relating to installment payments of ad valorem taxes.	Ways & Means	<p>HB 1597 establishes an installment payment program for residential owners of a homestead to no longer include unmarried living spouses of disabled veterans. At the request of the owner with a delinquent payment, a tax collector must provide an installment agreement. The installment plan cannot be requested more than once in a 24 month period. Under the installment agreement, the homestead owner must make four equal payments with the first installment being before the March 1st delinquency date. The second payment must be paid before April 1st with the other installments due bi-monthly— June 1st and August 1st.</p> <p>The installment plan, if maintained, will allow the owner to be exempt from penalty or interest as long as the first installment is on time. Failure to abide will lead to an incurred penalty of 6 percent plus interest with a notice of delinquency delivered to the owner.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 kristen@texaslsg.org

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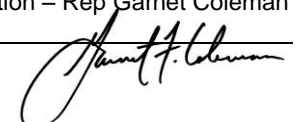


			The bill also provides protection from homestead property seizure if a delinquency owner under an installment agreement gives a notice of intent to their mortgage company no less than 10 days from entering into the installment plan.	
HB 1931 By Rep. Guillen	Relating to compensation of property owners whose property is damaged as a result of a pursuit involving a law enforcement agency.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	HB 1931 allows a county or municipality with a population of 150,000 or less to transfer any funds to the attorney representing the state that were previously given to law enforcement agencies from the municipality's or county's GR and were not used by the agencies within 90 days. This bill allows the attorney to use these funds in the manner provided for a law enforcement agency to compensate property owners with property damaged as a result of a pursuit involving the agency.	Favorable Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org
HB 1992 By Rep. Smith, et al.	Relating to the transfer of certain inmates to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence.	Corrections	HB 1992 allows certain inmates from county prison who have been sentenced and are appealing their conviction to be transferred to state prison during the appeals process. Currently, inmates in county prisons who are convicted for less than ten years but are appealing their case are allowed to remain in county during the appeals process. This can become burdensome for counties due to the cost of housing a long term inmate and their limited resources. However, this bill could create barriers for the family of the incarcerated that will have to use extra time and resources to visit their family member since state prisons are usually further away from their hometown.	Favorable Evaluated by: Natalie R. Powell 512-763-0031 Natalie@texaslsg.org
HB 2172 By Rep. Lucio III	Relating to the penalties prescribed for repeated violations of certain court orders or conditions of bond in a family violence case.	Criminal Jurisprudence	HB 2172 creates a third degree felony offense of 2 or more violations of court orders in cases of family violence in 12 months or less. If a jury is the trier of fact, they must agree unanimously that the defendant violated their court order in a family violence case. This bill expands the circumstances in which a violation of a court order is a third degree felony to include if the defendant has <i>previously</i> been convicted of an offense of a repeated violation of a court order in a family violence case. County Court at Law No. 13 of Bexar County and County Criminal Court No. 5 of Tarrant County must give preference to cases of repeated violators in family violence cases. This bill states that a previous conviction or deferred adjudication in a repeated family violence case makes a defendant ineligible to petition for nondisclosure of criminal history record information. This bill requires that the Texas Board of Nursing must suspend or refuse a nurse's license if a person is convicted of repeated family violence. This bill seeks to remedy the repeated violations of protective orders involving family violence, which may take up to a year or more.	Favorable Evaluated by: Muna Javid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org
HB 2280 By Rep. Phillips	Relating to prohibited employment by a bail bond surety	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	HB 2280 is a cleanup bill that is aligned with Code of Criminal Procedures Occupation Code. This bill prohibits bail bondsmen and attorneys acting as bail bondsmen from hiring or contracting with a bail bondsman agent that has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude. Currently, the law prohibits a person from being employed by a licensed surety if that person has been convicted of a misdemeanor offense involving moral turpitude or a felony in the preceding 10 years.	Favorable Evaluated by: Yvonne Okonkwo 512-763-0031 Yvonne@texaslsg.org
HB 2668 By Rep. Vo	Relating to requirements applicable to meetings of the governing board of certain junior college districts.	Higher Education	HB 2668 is a continued effort to increase transparency amongst public higher education institutions. This bill requires the governing board of junior college districts with more than 20,000 students to post meeting materials and video broadcast of the board meetings online. The bill exempts meetings with general counsel or meetings deemed confidential.	Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org

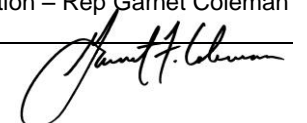


<p>HB 2691 By Rep. Elkins</p>	<p>Relating to the permissible noise level of a sound emitted from a motor vehicle audible warning device.</p>	<p>Transportation</p>	<p>HB2691 prohibits a motor vehicle with an audible warning device from emitting an unreasonably loud or harsh sound that exceeds a decibel level prescribed by the Department of Public Safety.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2733 By Rep. White</p>	<p>Relating to the administration and operation of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.</p>	<p>Corrections</p>	<p>HB 2733 clarifies language, seeks transparency, and consolidates provisions related to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD). It allows certain TJJD employees access to the DPS records of adolescents in the juvenile justice system. This change helps employees assess the needs of youth and provide them with appropriate treatment. This should not affect the confidentiality of the adolescent as the bill further clarifies the duties and responsibilities of TJJD employees to keep the youth's information private. However, TJJD employees are allowed to use this information in court so that the judge is fully informed about the juvenile's background. Additionally, this bill seeks transparency by allowing the public to access certain information regarding current and past TJJD employees.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Natalie R. Powell 512-763-0031 Natalie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2780 By Rep. Elkins</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of research technology corporations by institutions of higher education; providing for tax exemptions.</p>	<p>Technology</p>	<p>HB 2780 encourages research and development in Texas by authorizing public universities to create special-purpose corporations in order to commercialize university owned technologies. This bill stipulates that any goods or services must be produced in Texas, and the main offices of the corporation must be located in Texas. The bill provides an exemption from franchise taxes and other taxes imposed by the state or a political subdivision of the state. It also stipulates that the special purpose corporations must be only used for the development and commercialization of technologies, and if the corporation engages in activities prohibited by this bill they will become subject to repayment of tax exemptions.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3060 by Rep. Herrero</p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for the offense of tampering with a witness and the evidence that may be offered to show that offense.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3060 makes tampering with a witness the greater of a third degree felony or the most serious offense charged in the criminal case if the official proceeding involves family violence. If the defendant has previous convictions involving family violence, then it becomes the greater of a second degree felony or the most serious offense charged. Tampering with a witness involves the intent to cause a witness's unavailability. This bill authorizes the prosecution if the actor is alleged to have committed the offense by committing an act of family violence against a witness or prospective witness to offer testimony or evidence of all relevant facts and circumstances that would aid a trier of fact in determining whether a witness was coerced, including the nature of the relationship between the defendant and the witness. HB3060 allows the trier to use evidence they've obtained through testimony or statements based on the unavailability of a witness through forfeiture by wrongdoing. The bill's provisions regarding forfeiture by wrongdoing do not permit the presentation of character evidence that would otherwise be inadmissible under the Texas Rules of Evidence or other laws.</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1866 By Rep. Klick</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of a political party's state executive committee.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 1866 eliminates the requirement that the chair and vice chair of the state executive committee for a political party nomination must be of different genders.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3815 by Rep. Carter</p>	<p>Relating to the suspension of a person's driver's license or permit on conviction of a fifth offense relating to the operating of a motor vehicle while intoxicated.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3815 requires a court to order DPS to suspend a person's driver's license for a period of 10 years in DWI related offenses when that person has been previously convicted 4 or more times of DWI related offenses. If that person does not have a driver's license, issuance of a license or permit will be denied until the 10th anniversary of the date of the order. This bill excludes a person whose driver's license is subject to a court order recommending community supervision, proposing that their license not be suspended. The bill also prohibits a person from driving under an occupational license for more than 4 hours in a day, and may be extended to a maximum of 9 hours if necessity is shown to the court. Suspending a driver's license for 10 years of a person with multiple DWI offenses aims to combat habitual offenders, however this bill does not specify a time span for which those offenses can occur and could be detrimental to a person's livelihood and mobility. The Data Resources Program from the National Institute of</p>	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: Tanya Gripton 512-763-0031 Tanya@texaslsg.org</p>

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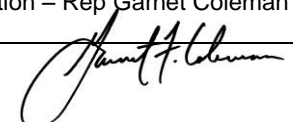


			Justice notes that persons with a suspended license continue to drive which results in individuals without licenses, or insurance, on the road.	
HB 1073 By Rep. Allen	Relating to student loan repayment assistance for speech-language pathologists or audiologists employed by a public school or as faculty members of certain graduate programs at public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education	HB 1073 creates a student loan repayment program for speech-language pathologists or audiologists employed by a public school or as faculty members of certain graduate programs at public institutions of higher education. The bill requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to implement this program and authorizes a \$6,000 loan repayment for recipients with a master's degree or \$9,000 for recipients with a doctoral degree. HB 1073 stipulates that all funding for the program must come from gifts, grants, and donations solicited and accepted by the coordinating board. This bill seeks to address the shortage of speech-language pathologists or audiologists in Texas.	Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org
HB 1223 by Rep. Hilderbran	Relating to the temporary exemption of certain tangible personal property related to data centers from the sales and use tax.	Ways & Means	HB 1223 creates a sales and use tax exemption on the personal property of data centers in order to encourage technological investments. This exemption is available to new data centers creating at least 20 jobs and investing at least \$150 million over five years. The bill outlines an application and certification process and authorizes the comptroller to run it. The exemption lasts 10 to 15 years depending on the level of investment. Attracting new investment is an important endeavor of the state. However, shorter exemption periods and more evaluative steps would work better to ensure the best return on the state's investment. The LBB fiscal not estimates a negative General Revenue impact of \$18.2 million over the next biennium.	Will of the House Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 2767 by Rep. King, Phil	Relating to the treatment and recycling for beneficial use of certain waste arising out of or incidental to the drilling for or production of oil or gas.	Energy Resources	HB 2767 stipulates that when oil and gas waste is physically transferred between parties for treatment, ownership transfers with it. Previous owners will not be held liable for civil action due to any consequences of subsequent use. This bill also requires the Railroad Commission to adopt rules necessary to govern the treatment and use of this waste. With the rise in oil and gas production and the difficulty of accessing and transporting of these materials, this bill seeks to improve the efficiency and sustainability of the process.	Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Torey@texaslsg.org
HB 2770 By Rep. Branch	Relating to the investment of a certain portion of the economic stabilization fund balance.	Appropriations	This bill adds provisions stipulating that the comptroller must invest a portion of the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), better known as the "Rainy Day" Fund, to ensure that the state is making the best practical investment of taxpayer money. The investment must be greater than 20 percent of the maximum authorized balance of the fund. The maximum authorized balance of the fund is equal to 10 percent of the general revenue obtained in the previous biennium according to Article III of the Texas Constitution. Currently, money in the "Rainy Day" Fund is held in highly liquid, low-yield assets, so the state can easily access cash in case of an emergency. Unfortunately, the fund loses its purchasing power, even against inflation, resulting in returns that are lower than the rate of inflation. The Treasury Pool, managed by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company, has yielded the following returns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1-year: 0.5% ➤ 3-year: .77% ➤ 5-year: 1.49% 	Favorable Evaluated by: Laura Welch 512-763-0031 Laura@texaslsg.org



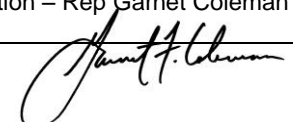
			<p>Since the “Rainy Day” Fund is projected to hold roughly \$11.8 billion at the end of the 2014-2015 biennium, short-term assets are abundant enough to meet any of the state’s expected emergency needs. While emergency access is a necessity for the fund, there should be a balance in place that will protect the fund’s purchasing power while maximizing the use of the taxpayers’ money.</p> <p>HB 2770 would invest these funds into an intermediate term investment strategy, similar to that of the University of Texas Investment Management Company’s (UTIMCO) Intermediate Term Fund (ITF). This fund oversees the investments in the Permanent University Fund (PUF), the Permanent Health Fund (PHF), the Long Term Fund (LFT), and the Intermediate Term Fund (ITF). The fund invests in intermediate-term assets, which result in higher yields, and can be liquefied rather quickly. Returns for the ITF have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 1-year: 5.8% ➤ 3-year: 7.4% ➤ 5-year: 3.5% (low because of 2008) <p>The “Rainy Day” Fund is projected to hold \$11.8 billion by the end of the 2014-2015 biennium, with a cap of \$14.4 billion. Per HB 2770, the provisions currently in place for the “Rainy Day” Fund do not apply to this investment and investments must be reflective of the way taxpayers would invest their own personal money. Following passage of the bill as written, the investment of the “Rainy Day” Fund money would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.88 billion: Invested as has been historically, as very liquid, low yield assets, to ensure the stability of the fund in case of emergency situations. • \$8.92 billion: Invested in an ITF, with a 1-year yield of 5.8 percent. An additional \$892 million for the biennium could be obtained with a more conservative return of 5 percent. This would yield an additional \$446 million for each fiscal year of the biennium. 	
HB 1620 by Bonnen, Greg	Relating to the eligibility for judge-ordered community supervision or for release on parole of certain defendants convicted of burglary with the intent to commit a sex offense.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>HB 1620 prohibits a judge from ordering community supervision for a first degree felony burglary with the intent to commit certain sexual offenses. This addition also makes offenders ineligible for parole until they have completed either 30 years or half their sentence, whichever is less, but in no event in less than 2 years.</p> <p>Community supervision often contains rehabilitative counseling and services which help prevent individuals from reoffending. The state should focus on rehabilitation of these offenders rather than harsh sentences.</p>	Will of the House Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org
HB 2396 by Rep. G. Bonnen	Relating to the penalty for certain family violence committed in the presence of a child.	Criminal Jurisprudence	<p>HB 2396 enhances the penalty for intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another person in the presence of a child. This would increase the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum term of 30 days confinement when committed by an actor who is dating or is a family member of the victim, and in the physical presence or within hearing distance of a person under the age of 15. The actor must know or have reason to know they are in the presence of a person under 15. When a judge grants community supervision for this offense, the defendant must be incarcerated for 5 continuous days. In cases of witnessing domestic violence, children are often left with emotional difficulties and trauma.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Tanya Gripton 512-763-0031 Tanya@texaslsg.org
HB 628 By Rep. Dale, et al.	Relating to the right of a member of the board of trustees of a school district to obtain information, documents,	Public Education	<p>HB 628 gives board of trustee members the right to access information, documents and records maintained by the district that must be provided without the submission of a public records request. Trustees have fiduciary responsibilities and may need access to certain documents to help with decision-making and improve transparency.</p> <p>Privacy measures are maintained by the district’s ability to deny a request for information that is confidential and exempt from disclosure under current statute.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org

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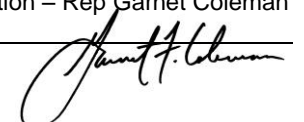
	and records.			
HB 2240 By Rep. Turner, Sylvester	Relating to a study on homeless youth.	Human Services	HB 2240 requires the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) in conjunction with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Homeless Education Office, to conduct a study on the number of homeless youth in Texas. The study must examine the needs of homeless youth and whether current programs are meeting those needs, as well as available sources of funding to provide services to homeless youth. The study and statutory recommendations must be submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2014. Homeless youth are often under reported and experience difficulty in the school system which can lead to difficulty obtaining and maintaining employment.	Favorable Evaluated by: Katherine Little 512-763-0031 Katherine@texaslsg.org
HB 1508 By Rep. Anchia	Relating to assessment collection in certain public improvement districts.	Urban Affairs	HB 1508 establishes that a qualifying municipality, tasked with a public improvement project under the Public Improvement District (PID) Assessment Act, may adopt procedures for collection and resolution of assessments in the same manner that hotel occupancy taxes are collected and resolved. The PID Assessment Act allows cities to collect special assessments on properties with the intent to improve the city's infrastructure. HB 1508 provides more economic growth for public improvement districts by the issuance of a hotel occupancy tax assessment.	Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org
HB 2075 by Rep. Anchia	Relating to the operation of certain condominium unit owners' associations.	Ways & Means	HB 2075 updates laws regarding operation of condominium unit owners' associations. It assigns costs and refunds in the case of repair, releases condo owners and association officers and directors from liabilities resulting from act or omission, and allows the board to borrow money and also to assign collateral as allowed in the condo declaration. The bill clarifies the steps by which a former condo owner may redeem their unit after it is sold in foreclosure, including what monies are due and to whom and directs a county clerk to receive and file and index management certificates in the county records.	Favorable Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 710 By Rep. Callegari	Relating to the use by a peace officer of the officer's rank or status to advertise or promote certain private businesses.	Homeland Security & Public Safety	HB 710 prohibits an officer from using their rank or status for the promotion of a private business that they have ownership of or are employed by, an officer in violation is subject to disciplinary action by the Commission of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE). This bill identifies an exception is made if the promoted business is directly related to the profession of law enforcement; including private security, firearms instruction, or another related business as determined by TCLEOSE.	Favorable Evaluated by: Amanda Foster 512-763-0031 Amanda.foster@texaslsg.org
HB 3276 By Rep. Simmons	Relating to the coverage by certain health benefit plans for the screening and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.	Insurance	This bill requires insurers to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorder screenings at age 18 months and 24 months, in accordance with recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Currently, private insurance companies only have to cover enrollees once they are diagnosed with the disorder, though this coverage only lasts until the child is nine years old. The Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) provides coverage for diagnosed children beginning at age three. Coverage for this disorder is important to the child's development, but the remaining oversight is related to the ability to diagnose the disorder at an early stage. Autism spectrum disorder is a developmental disorder that requires individualized behavioral treatment, medical treatment, and life-long services. Currently, routine screenings conducted do not include autism spectrum disorder since it is not covered by insurance. Early detection will give the child the time and resources to be more prepared to enter the school system. Investing early can save roughly \$2 later in life, for every \$1 invested in early stages of childhood. According to the CDC, one in 88 children nationwide are diagnosed with the disorder. In Texas there are 32,987 individuals between ages 3-21 who have been diagnosed, and make up 7.44 percent of the special education student population in Texas. Individuals living with the disorder spend an average of \$4,000-\$6,000 more per year on medical expenses than those without. These costs are in addition to the \$40,000-\$60,000 spent per year on necessary behavioral intervention services. Early detection can decrease the life-long cost burden of individuals living with the disorder, forego the need for institutionalization, and ultimately equip the individual with	Favorable Evaluated by: Laura Welch 512-763-0031 Laura@texaslsg.org

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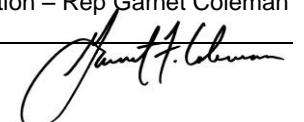
			the tools to be independent.	
HB 2753 By Rep. Branch	Relating to excellence funding for health-related institutions of higher education.	Higher Education	HB 2753 establishes the Excellence Fund for Health Related Institutions. This funding mechanism seeks to encourage excellence at these institutions similar to funding mechanisms provided by the Competitive Knowledge Fund. The bill includes the metrics by which the institutions will be measured and subsequently receive funding, including sponsored research, faculty quality, Doctoral degrees, philanthropy, commercialization, and patents. In order to participate in this fund, institutions will contribute a one-time buy-in of \$2.5 million. The bill requires that each institution receive at least their initial buy-in by the end of the biennium in which they initially bought into the fund.	Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org
HB 3454 by Rep. Eiland	Relating to an exemption from the franchise tax for certain insurance entities.	Ways & Means	HB 3454 exempts certain insurance organizations that are not licensed in the state but may sell supplemental insurance from paying franchise tax in years where they pay any other business tax. Currently, these nonadmitted insurance organizations are exempt only in years where they are required to pay a gross receipts tax. While there is no estimated fiscal impact, any franchise tax exemption has the potential to affect funds intended for schools at a time when there is no solution on the table to address the chronic underfunding of schools.	Favorable with Concerns Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org
HB 3574 By Rep. Orr	Relating to the authority of the School Land Board to designate certain revenue for deposit in the real estate special fund account of the permanent school fund.	Appropriations	HB 3574 reverses authority granted to the School Land Board (SLB) to direct mineral or royalty revenue from the Permanent School Fund (PSF) to the Government Land Office (GLO). Legislation passed in 2001 gave the SLB the authority to give the GLO revenue from the PSF's Real Estate Special Fund Account (RESFA) for the investment of additional state assets and to grow the fund. The majority of revenue collected is mineral related. Now that the GLO has roughly \$3.2 billion of discretionary rural state holdings and a diversified set of assets, the GLO no longer has a need for this revenue to grow the fund. In addition, the GLO is limited in what it can invest in, limiting the usability of these funds. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) is able to invest in any type of asset and currently has over \$600 million of its own money invested in real estate. This bill aims to create a better payout from the Permanent School Fund (PSF) so children get more money from public schools and so taxpayers pay less in long run. In comparison to the state's other major investment funds, the PSF has the lowest payout rate. The PSF's adopted rate for the upcoming biennium is only 3.3 percent. The PSF is only able to perform as well as the other major investment funds when the cash revenue of the PSF land goes to the TEA or Available School Fund (ASF). The payout rates for other major investment funds are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Permanent University Fund: 4.75% ➤ Permanent Health Fund: 4.5% ➤ Tobacco Settlement Fund: 4.5% ➤ Permanent Public Health Fund: 4.5% The PSF would gain an estimated \$414.3 million of revenue for FY2014-2015 following passage of this legislation. A constitutional amendment passed last session allows the SLB to send this revenue directly to the ASF or the SBOE. These funds would be left in the PSF Fund and their use would be under the discretion of the State Board of Education (SBOE). The SBOE may then transfer funds to the ASF, which may have a positive fiscal impact for some school districts. Revenue would come from the following sources:	Favorable Evaluated by: Laura Welch 512-763-0031 Laura@texaslsg.org

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oil and Gas Lease Bonuses ➤ Oil and Gas Lease Rentals ➤ Oil Royalties from Lands owned by Educational Institutions ➤ Gas Royalties from Lands Owned by Education Institutions ➤ Hard Mineral Prospects and Leases ➤ Wind/Other Lease Income from School Land ➤ Royalties on Other Hard Minerals <p>In light of the current public education funding needs, and the self-sustaining status of the GLO, it is appropriate to return to the historically accepted use of these revenues.</p>	
HB 2138 By Rep. Dutton	Relating to the boundaries of the Near Northside Management District.	Urban Affairs	HB 2138 expands the boundaries of the Near Northside Management District. The district’s territory extends to the south boundary of <i>Buffalo Bayou</i> ; no longer to Interstate 10. The expansion of the Near Northside Management District to Buffalo Bayou will allow for improved infrastructure, economic development, business investment and enhanced image for the community.	Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org
HB 2100 By Rep. Thompson, Senfronia	Relating to the salary for certain employees of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.	Appropriations	<p>HB 2100 increases salaries for Trooper Trainee, Probationary Trooper, and Trooper I classified officers in order to attract and retain employees at entry level positions. The bill allows the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to pay these officers at a maximum of 15 percent more than the maximum rate given in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), for each fiscal year. This rate increase addresses employees’ first four years as officers.</p> <p>The Texas Position Classification Plan (1961) establishes employee salaries within the DPS, based on a position classification system. Current pay rates for troopers are not competitive with the state’s other law enforcement departments and DPS is facing difficulty recruiting and training officers at the rate by which it is losing them. This has been a particular problem faced by the commercial vehicle enforcement area due to their specialized skills and extensive knowledge of federal motor carrier regulations. These skills are in high demand by the oil and gas industry, which has the ability to provide more competitive pay. This problem has been further exacerbated by the increased production at the Eagle Ford Shale.</p> <p>Currently, the department loses 10-15 employees per month, has roughly 400 vacant positions, and has lost about 11 percent of its commissioned officer workforce. These officers often have to work extended hours without pay and the DPS estimates that salaries are about 61 percent lower than most highly paid police officers in the state.</p>	Favorable Evaluated by: Laura Welch 512-763-0031 Laura@texaslsg.org
HB 3042 by Rep. Oliveira	Relating to the allocation of state hotel occupancy tax revenue to certain municipalities for cleaning and maintenance of and erosion control for public beaches.	Ways & Means	HB 3042 increases funding to barrier island municipalities for the cleaning, maintenance, and control of erosion for their public beaches. The bill allocates two percent of revenue from the state hotel occupancy tax collected from hotels in that municipality. Currently they receive one percent. The additional funding will help barrier island municipalities keep their beaches in tourist friendly condition and further attract economy boosting visitors.	Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Powell 512-763-0031 Torey@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 705 By Rep. Howard</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of emergency services personnel for purposes of the enhanced penalty prescribed for an assault committed against a person providing services in that capacity.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 705 adds emergency room personnel to the definition of emergency services personnel. This addition will increase the penalty from a Class A misdemeanor to a third degree felony for an assault against emergency services personnel.</p> <p><i>Although the state should provide protections to its emergency room personnel, the state should also make necessary protections for those with mental illness or intellectual disability.</i> The bill does not require de-escalation training, which will allow these professionals to resolve many of these situations Amendments that adds these protections and de-escalation training would make this bill more palatable.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 296 By Rep. Rodriguez, Eddie, et al.</p>	<p>Relating to breakfast for certain public school students.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 296 requires the board of trustees of a school district participating in the National School Lunch Program to provide a free <i>breakfast</i> program for district campuses or open-enrollment charters in which 80 percent of the students already qualify for free and reduced meals. A school district may opt-out of the program within one year via waiver.</p> <p>Texas has the 11th highest rate of child food insecurity in the United States. The adoption of a free breakfast program would combat child hunger in the state and ensure that over 1 million children will have access to breakfast. The bill poses no negative impact to the state and the program is federally funded.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1581 by Rep. Riddle</p>	<p>Relating to an entity's designation of an agent for service of process, notice, or demand in an assumed business or professional name certificate.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p>	<p>HB 1581 requires a business operating under an assumed name to include the name and address of a person who is an agent of the business on an assumed name certificate. The bill also requires that if the agent of the business changes, an update be made in each county where the business operates. This simple administrative fix has the potential to save time and cost of service.</p> <p>Under current law there is no such requirement, making it difficult to serve a business operating under an assumed name for purpose of process, notice, or demand.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Kristen Macaluso 512-763-0031 Kristen@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2004 By Rep. González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to the determination of certain exemptions from the administration of state assessment instruments to public school students and to the consideration of the performance of certain students on state assessment instruments.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 2004 provides certain exceptions to limited English language proficiency (LEP) students. Under the bill, a student who has not attended a U.S. school for at least a consecutive 60 days is not considered an enrolled student and is exempt or deferred from testing for up to a year. Further, a school's performance rating may not be lowered by unsatisfactory scores of LEP students, and the results will be assessed for compliance monitoring and accountability.</p> <p>The bill intends to give LEP students time to acclimate and prepare for unfamiliar academic material and testing measures. HB 2004 provides schools with the time needed to help students reach the same level as other students and not be negatively impacted from LEP testing scores.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u> Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2595 by Rep. Parker</p>	<p>Relating to the value of personal property that is exempt from seizure to pay a crime victim under an order of restitution.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 2595 reduces the amount of personal property that is exempt from seizure to pay a crime victim under an order of restitution.</p> <p>Currently, a certain amount of personal property is exempt from collection or seizure in order to assure that an individual or family under a restitution order do not lose all of their assets. A family property valued at a maximum of \$60,000 or a single adult's property valued at not more than \$30,000 are currently exempt. This bill would amend the conditions of exemption of property for defendants convicted of an offense to \$20,000 and \$10,000 respectively.</p> <p>Differentiating restitution specifically for defendants convicted of an offense places an additional financial constraint on these individuals and could create a negative ripple effect on families of defendants who rely on them for support.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated by: Muna Javaid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 2570 By Rep. Miles</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of the reason for rejecting a voter registration application.</p>	<p>Elections</p>	<p>HB 2570 requires a voting registrar to identify which section(s) of a voter registration application resulted in the rejection of the application. The registrar shall specify whether a section is incomplete, improperly filled out, or contained information identifying the applicant as ineligible to vote.</p> <p>Because some counties currently offer vague explanations for why an applicant is rejected, a more thorough explanation will provide more insight for when an individual reapplies. This bill seeks to empower individuals to exercise their right to vote.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Kelle' Martin 512-763-0031 Kelle@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 3240 by Rep. Phillips</p>	<p>Relating to the penalty for delivery of certain miscellaneous substances under the Texas Controlled Substances Act.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3240 enhances from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony if a person knowingly manufactures, delivers, or possesses with intent to deliver a controlled substance listed in a schedule by an action of the commissioner to: a person younger than 18 who is enrolled in a public or private primary or secondary school or to a person who the actor knows or believes intends to deliver a controlled substance to those persons.</p> <p>This bill applies to controlled substances such as designer drugs, which are created by preparing analogs or derivatives of existing drugs by modifying their chemical structure to varying degrees. Enhancing the penalty to a state jail felony for delivering a controlled substance that is not listed in any penalty groups will overburden the state with costs associated with prosecution and incarceration of low-level drug crimes. Felony convictions will leave individuals with limited access to housing and employment in the future.</p>	<p>Will of the House with Concerns Evaluated by: Muna Javid 512-763-0031 muna@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2952 By Rep. Rodriguez, Justin</p>	<p>Relating to the period of time allowed for issuance of decisions by the commissioner of education in certain appeals against school districts.</p>	<p>Public Education</p>	<p>HB 2952 requires that if a decision or action by a school district is appealed, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Commissioner must review the appeal and issue a decision no later than the 240th day from the date the plea was filed. If an extension is necessary, all parties involved may submit in writing an agreement that requires the TEA commissioner make a decision no more than 60 days from the 240th date.</p> <p>The bill adds a set deadline for the commissioner to issue decisions on appeals, which in the past have taken months and even years to be resolved.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Nena Chima 512-763-0031 nena@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 2158 by Rep. Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the period of ineligibility from participation in the Medicaid program by providers found liable for certain unlawful acts under the program.</p>	<p>Public Health</p>	<p>Under current law, a Medicaid provider becomes ineligible to participate in the Medicaid program on the date that a determination that they committed an unlawful act becomes final.</p> <p>HB 2158 clarifies that the provider is ineligible to participate in Medicaid on the date on which a trial court enters a judgment finding them liable for committing an unlawful act. Under this change, Medicaid providers will no longer be eligible to receive reimbursement from Medicaid while going through trial until they have exhausted all of the appeals process.</p>	<p>Will of House Evaluated by: Han Bui 512-763-0031 Han@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 793 by Rep. Lozano</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the smuggling of persons.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 793 grants more authority to District Attorneys to effectively prosecute and deter persons such as "Coyotes," who collect fees for organizing dangerous operations to get people across the Mexican border, from committing the unlawful transport of undocumented persons. This bill seeks to create stricter punishments on Coyotes and addresses the more severe forms of smuggling.</p> <p>HB 793 expands current law regarding the unlawful transport of an undocumented person. Currently the punishment for smuggling undocumented persons under certain circumstances is punishable by a state jail felony. HB 793 expands the offense of smuggling persons to include a person who intentionally assists, guides, or directs three or more individuals to enter or remain on agricultural land without the consent of the owner.</p> <p>The punishment for smuggling undocumented persons is currently a third degree felony if the smuggling is committed for financial gain or there is substantial likelihood that the undocumented person would suffer bodily injury during the transport, such as smuggling persons in a vehicle with more than the maximum capacity of passengers and getting into an accident. HB 793 adds the conscious possession of a firearm as an offense punishable by a third degree felony.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Amanda Williams 512-763-0031 Amanda.Williams@texaslsg.org</p>

<p>HB 30 By Rep. Branch</p>	<p>Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer of students within the public higher education system and the timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 30 addresses the large number of students who enroll in public junior colleges with the intention of transferring to a four year public institution, but never make it to the four year institution. The bill helps ensure a seamless transition by requiring four year institutions to establish articulation agreements with public junior colleges from which they regularly receive transfers. It requires these institutions to make information available online for at least 12 courses that are frequently transferred for credit. This information includes course prerequisites, content and learning objectives. This bill helps ensure that students are not being required to complete unnecessary hours that prolong their stay at these institutions by prohibiting institutions from requiring a student to complete more hours than required by the accrediting board of the an institution. This provision does not apply to degrees requiring professional licensure.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Torey Ian Powell 512-763-0031 torey@texaslsg.org</p>
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