



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, March 28, 2023

<p>HB 446</p> <p>By: Craddick Rose Leach Frank Davis</p>	<p>Relating to the terminology used in statute to refer to intellectual disability and certain references to abolished health and human services agencies.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas statute still contains outdated language that is harmful to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. Currently, federal law, health care providers, and the majority of people use the term “intellectual disability” instead of “mental retardation,” and Texas law should reflect this.</p> <p>HB 446 updates outdated language by replacing all instances where “mental retardation” is used in Texas statute with “intellectual disability,” as well as replacing “physically handicapped” with “physical disability.” Additionally, the bill updates references to non-existing agencies or agencies absorbed by HHSC. HB 446 replaces harmful, outdated language in state statutes with socially and medically appropriate language.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512)672-8406 drew@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 300</p> <p>By: Howard Button Neave Criado Thierry Leach</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from sales and use taxes for certain family care items.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>Vote: 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texans are facing high inflation rates, making it more difficult to afford essential family and personal care products. Additionally, 14.2% of Texans, about 4 million people, live in poverty. Essential items like diapers, maternity clothing, breast pumps, and menstrual products are generally taxed at 8.25%, including state and local sales and use taxes. This tax makes it difficult for Texas women and families to afford necessary personal and family care items.</p> <p>HB 300 aims to solve this problem by exempting family care, maternity, menstrual, and postpartum products from taxation, including children’s diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, maternity clothing, breast pumps, tampons, menstrual pads, and other related feminine hygiene products. The bill also changes language in the Tax code to person-first language when referring to people who are blind and people who are deaf. Person-first language puts a person before their disability and is the most accurate way to refer to people with different disabilities.</p> <p>Currently, essential products including wound care items, over-the-counter medications, baby formula, and many groceries are exempt from sales tax. Family care, maternity, menstrual, and postpartum products are also essential for women and families and should be exempt from sales tax. Exempting these essential items from taxation would make these products more affordable for women and families in Texas.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512)672-8406 drew@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p>HB 590 By: Bailes</p>	<p>Relating to the labeling and sale of Texas honey.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock Ayes=9 Nays=0 Present Not Voting=0 Absent=0</p>	<p>Data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that the honey bee population has been declining since the 1940s, negatively impacting honey production. To meet demand, vendors import and blend honey produced in Texas with honey from other countries and states. The geographical source of the honey impacts its taste, smell, and other attributes. Even when blending honey, these products can still be labeled “Texas honey” despite being mixed with honey from other areas. HB 590 would prohibit a person from labeling, offering, or selling a product labeled as “Texas honey” if the honey was not exclusively produced in Texas apiaries. HB 590 would allow Texas consumers to be accurately informed they are purchasing honey sourced from Texas.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 laticia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 608 By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the sale of fireworks before and during the Diwali holiday.</p>	<p>County Affairs Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 608 authorizes the sale of fireworks during the Diwali holiday. Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a cultural celebration integral to Indian religions often celebrated with fireworks. The timeframe is determined by the lunar calendar, with dates varying from late September to early November. Currently, retail firework permit holders may only sell fireworks to the public in preparation for and on several federal and state holidays, which do not include Diwali.</p> <p>HB 608 authorizes the sale of fireworks during the Diwali season by giving county commissioners’ courts jurisdiction to expand local statute to allow retail fireworks permit holders to sell fireworks beginning five days before the first day of Diwali and ending at midnight on the last day of Diwali.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>