



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Monday, April 10, 2023

<p>HB 15</p> <p>By: Thompson, Senfronia Craddick Buckley Bonnen</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Mental health and brain-related diseases and disorders impact millions of Texans of varying circumstances — veterans who have PTSD or major depression, people sixty-five and older diagnosed with Alheizmers, or the 1 in 3 teenage girls who seriously consider attempting suicide. This comes at a great cost of care, with nine of the most common neurological diseases costing \$800 billion per year nationally. More than 100 million Americans are affected by some form of mental health or brain disorder whose lives could benefit from more research on their conditions and how to treat them.</p> <p>HB 15 would establish the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas (MBRIT) to advance and expedite innovation in mental health and brain research and to develop and implement a research plan to foster collaboration with eligible higher education institutions in mental health and brain research.</p> <p><i>Powers and Duties</i> The MBRIT, as laid out in HB 15, will have the powers and duties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue grants to fund eligible higher education institutions, medical research facilities, public and private persons, and collaborations; • Collaborate with state agencies, coordinating councils, and consortiums; • Oversee and monitor grant contracts, compliance requirements, and potential conflicts of interest; • Employ necessary staff for administrative support; • Submit an annual report to the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House detailing the institute’s activities and grant recipients; • Design a statewide data registry for brain research; and • Implement and monitor the MBRIT research plan, with revisions as needed. <p><i>Governing Bodies</i> The MBRIT will be governed by an oversight board consisting of nine members with appointments equally split between the Governor, Lt. Governor, and the Speaker of the House. HB 15 outlines qualifications for the makeup of the board, such as the requirement for expertise in mental health, brain disease, or public health. The oversight committee must hire the institute’s chief executive officer (CEO) and chief</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>
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<p>HB 1750 By: Burns Bell, Keith Harris, Cody Metcalf Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of certain city requirements to agricultural operations.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1750 strengthens protections for farms and ranches within city limits. Currently, a city must prove that a regulation is necessary to protect persons in the immediate vicinity to regulate agricultural operations annexed by the city after initially being outside city boundaries. Proximal dangers include flooding, radiation, insect infestation or vermin, physical injury, or obstructions that could cause traffic hazards. The city’s governing body must use the services of a city health officer or consultant to produce a report specifying why the regulation is necessary and identifying the health hazards related to the agricultural operation. There is no such requirement for farms and ranches within city limits. HB 1750 makes it so farms and ranches within city limits have the same regulatory requirements as those annexed by the city.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 1750 expands reporting requirements to include whether a city regulation restricts generally accepted agricultural practices that do not threaten public health, as outlined in a manual that the bill directs Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to create.</p> <p>HB 1750 would also prohibit cities from imposing requirements on agricultural operations within city limits that would restrict or prohibit the growing or harvesting of vegetation to feed animals unless it is ten feet or less from a property line adjacent to a sidewalk, street, highway, or another inhabited residence;</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 Laticia@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>prohibit the use of pesticides or other measures to prevent vermin or disease-bearing insect infestations; and prohibit agricultural operations protected under the “Texas Right to Farm” law. The bill does not provide clarification on acreage limits and could potentially include home gardens as agricultural operations.</p> <p>HB 1750 clarifies that cities that want to regulate agriculture operations within the city's boundaries must provide clear and convincing evidence that there are public health concerns or imminent danger.</p>	
<p>HB 2308</p> <p>By: Ashby Bailes Rogers Kitzman Cain</p>	<p>Relating to nuisance actions and other actions against agricultural operations.</p>	<p>Agriculture & Livestock</p> <p>7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Farmers have been vocal about city governments' impact on their ability to run their farms, such as receiving fines for hay bales or unpainted metal fencing. HB 2308 intends to update and clarify legislative intent for Texas Right to Farm laws.</p> <p>HB 2308 adds language on the importance of food security in the state’s policy to encourage the development and improvement of Texas agricultural lands – better known as the Texas Right to Farm law. It also clarifies that legally threatening or subjecting an agricultural operation to a suit are actions that the state intends to avoid with the Texas Right to Farm laws; the statute already includes limiting instances of regulation or considering agricultural operations a nuisance. HB 2308 adds hay and other forages for animal feed and veterinary services to the definition of “agricultural operations.”</p> <p>HB 2308 prohibits a nuisance action or other action from stopping or limiting an agricultural operation to be brought against an operation that has been operating lawfully and remained unchanged for a minimum of a year before the action’s delivery date. HB 2308 would require clear and convincing evidence for any nuisance or other actions permitted under the bill’s provisions. HB 2308 clarifies that the establishment date of an agricultural operation is the date operations began and removes language creating separate establishment dates for expanded physical sites or additional operations. HB 2308 clarifies that the provisions do not interfere with city governments enforcing state law, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ) enforcement actions. HB 2308 includes additional damages that may be ordered by a judge to be paid to an agricultural operator who receives a nuisance or other actions that violate HB 2308’s provisions.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 laticia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Monday, April 10, 2023</p>				
<p>HJR 135</p> <p>By: Thompson, Senfronia Craddick Buckley </p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HJR 135 proposes a constitutional amendment for HB 15 to establish the Mental Health and Brain Research Institute of Texas (MBRIT) and the Mental Health and Brain Institute Research Fund.</p> <p>HJR 135 would establish the MBRIT Research Fund as a special fund in the state treasury. It would be administered by the Institute, which would receive \$3 billion from the general revenue fund on January 1, 2024. This transfer would not count towards the Constitutional tax spending limit. The MBRIT Fund consists of money from legislative appropriations; gifts, grants, or donations; patent, royalty, and license</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>

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Bonnen			fees; and investment earnings and interest earned on amounts credited to the fund. The MBRIT must use the money appropriated or otherwise acquired to fund grants to perform the functions of the MBRIT in research advancement, to fund facilities needed by state agencies or grant recipients, and to fund the overall operations of the institute.	
HJR 126 By: Burns Burrows González, Mary Ashby Bernal	Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.	Agriculture & Livestock 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HJR 126 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish that people have the right to engage in generally acceptable farm, ranch, timber production, horticulture, or wildlife management practices on property that they own or lease. This amendment would not impact the legislature’s authority to, by way of a state agency or political subdivision, regulate agricultural practices that are shown to be a clear danger to public health or safety, prevent danger to animal health or crop production, or preserve or conserve the state’s natural resources as outlined in the Texas constitution. This amendment would not protect any individual engaged in animal cruelty. This amendment would also not impact the legislature’s authority to use or acquire property for public use, including land intended for natural resource development.	Favorable Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 Laticia@texaslsg.org
LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Monday, April 10, 2023				
HB 450 By: Craddick	Relating to a cause of action for the bad faith washout of an overriding royalty interest in an oil and gas lease.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Oil and gas companies can remove or “washout” overriding royalty interest (ORRI) owners by getting property owners to cancel existing leases that include the ORRI owner, leaving them without their agreed upon royalty percentage. Those companies can then acquire a new lease from the same property owner without including the ORRI owner. ORRI owners are comparable to brokers; they connect royalty interest owners with oil and gas entities and then receive a percentage of the profit. Identifying and proving when a washout is committed in bad faith is difficult. Texas courts have requested legislative clarification regarding these cases so ORRI owners can file claims when bad-faith washouts occur. HB 450 defines “washout” as eliminating or reducing an overriding royalty interest in an oil and gas lease with the subsequent acquisition of a new lease on all or part of the same land without the overriding royalty interest included. In addition, it defines “bad faith” as the conscious action of washing out all or part of an overriding royalty interest. HB 450 authorizes a person to bring a cause of action in the court of the county where the leased property was located for a bad faith washout against the ORRI owner. To pursue a cause of action, an overriding royalty interest owner must prove that a bad faith washout occurred. This permits ORRI owners to recover actual damages, including court costs and attorney’s fees, and enforce a constructive trust on the pertinent oil and gas lease or mineral estate. ORRI owners would also have two years from receiving constructive notice or stopped receiving payment to file a claim.	Favorable Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512) 672-8406 Drew@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 1699 By: King, Tracy</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District to impose certain fees.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Ayes 8, Nays 0, PNV 0, Absent 3</p>	<p>There are 98 groundwater conservation districts across Texas created to help manage, conserve, and protect our water resources. The Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District (UWCD) covers Atascosa, Frio, Wilson, and Karnes Counties. Approximately 70% of the total groundwater pumpage is used for agriculture, an industry district residents heavily rely on. The current export fee is insufficient to meet costs or demands amidst rapidly rising material costs, large groundwater export contracts, and increased demand for more export projects.</p> <p>HB 1699 authorizes the Evergreen UWCD Board of Directors to impose a combined production and export fee of up to 20 cents per one thousand gallons of water exported from the district. If this new fee structure is applied, it will minimally increase consumers' monthly water bills in export locations and simultaneously provide considerable gains to the district. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Board to impose other fees authorized under the water code, such as those for operating permits.</p> <p>The gains in revenue provided under HB 1699 will help support the district in operations, including domestic, agricultural, and industrial water conservation, well permitting, reporting and compliance, public engagement, and infrastructural necessities. The bill takes effect immediately if it receives a 2/3 vote in each chamber or on September 1.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Carl Schwartz (512) 777-1391 Carl@texalsg.org</p>
<p>HB 393 By: Goldman Burrows Moody Canales Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to restitution payments for the support of a child whose parent or guardian is a victim of intoxication manslaughter.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, when a child loses a parent because they are a victim of DUI intoxication manslaughter, the perpetrator is not required to pay restitution to that child or their family. This may leave a family in a situation in which they are navigating financial difficulties due to losing a parent and simultaneously working through grief.</p> <p>HB 393 aims to remedy this issue by requiring that the perpetrator pay restitution to the victim's children until they reach the age of 18 or graduate high school, whichever is later. Under HB 393, the court must determine the amount of restitution owed by factoring in the child's financial needs, living standard, custody arrangements, and educational needs, as well as the financial resources of the defendant. Defendants deliver restitution payments to the agency responsible for accepting and forwarding the payments to the child's parent/guardian or DFPS if the child is under conservatorship. HB 393 dictates that if the defendant is incarcerated, they must begin making payments no later than one year after their release date and can arrange for a payment plan to address charges accumulated during their time incarcerated. HB 393 is enforceable by the Office of the Attorney General, or by the child's parent or guardian in the same manner a civil action is enforced, such as wage garnishment or property seizure.</p> <p>HB 393 has the potential to financially decimate an individual who has already completed their sentence and paid their dues to society through the justice system. 60% of formerly incarcerated people struggle to obtain employment, which can cause financial hardship to their families. However, it is up to a judge's</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Savannah Lee 281-900-4980 Savannah@texaslsg.org</p>

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			discretion to determine restitution amounts with the defendant's financial situation factoring into the decision.	
HB 242 By: Howard Johnson, Julie Slawson	Relating to liability for the donation and distribution of feminine hygiene products.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Safe and available menstrual products are essential for preventing infections and protecting health. A 2021 study by the Alliance for Period Supplies found that two in five people struggle to purchase menstrual products at some point in their lives. Certain menstrual products, including pads, tampons, cups, and period underwear, are classified as Class II medical devices and are subject to legal liability. As a result, some people and organizations may be hesitant to donate or distribute these essential health products. HB 242 exempts individuals, manufacturers, distributors, and nonprofit organizations from civil or criminal liability for donating or distributing feminine hygiene products in good faith, as long as the product meets quality and labeling standards. HB 242 also specifies that it does not exempt an individual, company, or organization from legal liability if a product is intentionally, or with gross negligence, donated or distributed and causes injury or death. Entities that donate food and household items made in good faith are already protected under the law, which has helped people have access in times of need. Allowing menstrual products to be donated in good faith can increase access for low-income Texans who need them the most. HB 242 allows companies and nonprofits to donate and distribute menstrual products without fear of legal repercussions.	Favorable Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512)672-8406 Drew@texaslsg.org
HB 1382 By: Hernandez	Relating to the public sale of real property taken in execution of a judgment.	County Affairs 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	County's Constable Offices conduct first Tuesday sales, which are auctions for property tax sales, resale properties, and private execution sales. Property tax sales are sales for foreclosed real properties due to nonpayment of property taxes. Resale properties are those not sold at the foreclosure auction. Private execution sales are court-ordered writs of execution that allow law enforcement to seize and sell real and personal property to satisfy a debt. Currently, property tax sales and resales may be offered via in-person, live-cry auction or via online bidding. Private execution sales, however, are only available through in-person, live-cry auctions, which are both inefficient and costly, as counties must pay for auction day costs, such as personnel needed to manage the event. HB 1382 permits county commissioners courts to allow private execution sales to be conducted online as an alternative to the current in-person requirement. HB 1382 would improve efficiency, increase participation, and save money for taxpayers.	Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org
HB 1748 By: Leach	Relating to the use of a facsimile signature on certain public securities and related certificates.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	HB 1748 codifies a waiver put in place by the governor during the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts to use facsimile signatures rather than physical signatures on public securities, certificates, and related documents. Public entities can issue public securities like bonds, notes, or certificates to raise funds for capital improvement projects such as parks and recreation centers. These public securities and certificates of securities must be reviewed by the Attorney General and then registered by the Comptroller of Public Accounts. Current statute requires the Comptroller or the Comptroller's designated deputy, to manually sign physical bond registration documents that runners and shipping services deliver. During the	Favorable Evaluated By: Jade Tucker (512) 730-0462 Jade@texaslsg.org

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			<p>COVID-19 pandemic, the governor temporarily waived the manual signature requirement and permitted facsimile signatures on bond documents signed by the Comptroller or designated staff to minimize contact in the interest of public health. This change made expediting document processing and delivery easier for the Comptroller’s staff.</p> <p>HB 1748 would modernize and streamline the registration process from paper to electronic, reducing the time for public entities such as schools to issue certificate obligations or bonds.</p>	
<p>HB 1488</p> <p>By: Rose Johnson, Ann Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to sickle cell disease health care improvement and the sickle cell task force.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Sickle cell disease (SCD) affects people of different races, but it is more common among Black Americans. People with SCD have a shorter lifespan and often experience pain, tiredness, and organ failure, and are more likely to get infections or have a stroke. Care can be expensive, costing about \$1.7 million over a person's lifetime.</p> <p>HB 1488 seeks to raise awareness among medical providers, medical schools, public schools, and the community about SCD to improve the quality of life and care for those with SCD. The bill requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to use existing data to find opportunities to improve SCD health outcomes by reducing hospitalization and connecting individuals with SCD to health home experts.</p> <p>HB 1488 requires the HHSC to work with medical specialty organizations, state agencies, and health-related institutions to develop or promote continuing education courses for Medicaid providers to enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and management of sickle cell disease, as well as improve the personal treatment of patients with the disease.</p> <p>HB 1488 requires medical schools and residency programs in certain medical specialties, to the extent possible, to include education on sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait in their curriculum. HHSC and the sickle cell task force must also collaborate to create recommendations for improving sickle cell disease education and awareness in public schools and report these findings to the Texas Education Agency (TEA).</p> <p>HB 1488 instructs the TEA to work with community-based organizations to provide information on sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait to public schools and staff to the extent possible.</p> <p>Finally, HB 1488 expands the Sickle Cell Disease Task Force, appointed by the executive commissioner, from seven to 13 members to include a person with SCD, a representative from HHSC and TEA, and a physician, researcher, and health care professional with experience helping people with SDC or sickle cell trait.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 Brian@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>In its yearly reports, the task force must include suggestions for improving sickle cell disease education for healthcare providers.</p> <p>HB 1488 aims to improve the quality of life for Texans with Sickle Cell Disease by providing better healthcare and ensuring healthcare providers are knowledgeable about the disease.</p>	
<p>HB 362</p> <p>By: Oliverson Howard Talarico Cole Leo-Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the use, possession, delivery, or manufacture of testing equipment that identifies the presence of fentanyl, alpha-methylfentanyl, or any other derivative of fentanyl.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>9 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Since 2019, fentanyl-related deaths among Texans have increased by more than 500%, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Fentanyl testing strips (FTS) provide an easy, reliable, and low-cost method to detect fentanyl in all kinds of drugs in various forms (pills, powders, injectables).</p> <p>However, under Texas law, FTS are considered drug paraphernalia, making it a crime to have or distribute them ranging from a Class C misdemeanor to a state jail felony, depending on past convictions and age conditions.</p> <p>HB 362 decriminalizes using, possessing, delivering, or manufacturing fentanyl testing strips (FTS). HB 362 exempts the use, possession, and delivery of FTS from drug paraphernalia-related offenses.</p> <p>To combat this crisis and reduce unnecessary overdoses, Texas needs to make life-saving harm-reduction tools more accessible. This could also reduce demands upon state and local correctional resources, as fewer individuals may be placed under community supervision or sentenced to jail time for possessing testing strips.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 Brian@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1789</p> <p>By: Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the application of nepotism prohibitions to a person appointed or employed by a school district as a bus driver.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas is facing a shortage of school bus drivers, which causes significant strain on schools, current school bus drivers, parents, and students. Currently, school bus driver appointments are subject to nepotism prohibitions unless the driver works in a district that is in or is mostly in a county with a population of less than 35,000. As the shortage has become statewide, there is a need to create an exemption that could apply to more counties.</p> <p>HB 1789 exempts nepotism prohibitions for a school bus driver approved by a board of trustees. This bill could help with the school bus driver shortage by removing a barrier prohibiting qualified individuals from entering a workforce in need.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 914</p> <p>By: Hefner</p>	<p>Relating to temporary vehicle tags and the offense of tampering with a governmental record.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>Temporary vehicle tags are paper license plates issued to drivers for short-term use before registering their vehicle or to dealers for loaner or demo vehicles. In recent years, individuals began exploiting a loophole in the Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) system that allowed them to register as licensed car dealers to acquire and sell fraudulent tags to those seeking to remain anonymous from law enforcement, bypass safety and emissions inspections, or skirt toll road and registration fees. Currently, law enforcement has few tools to enforce laws and regulations regarding the use of fraudulent tags.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Savannah Lee 281-900-4980 Savannah@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>HB 914 seeks to address this issue by including temporary tags in the definition of “government records,” which would allow law enforcement to issue a Class A Misdemeanor for the use of fraudulent tags. Additionally, HB 914 allows law enforcement the option of cite and release, providing them with an additional tool to tamper down on fake tags.</p> <p>Fraudulent temporary tags have become so pervasive that they cost local and state governments roughly \$220 million between 2018 and 2021. They also slow criminal investigations and allow potentially unsafe vehicles on Texas roads. Providing law enforcement with more options to address fake tags will help ensure they can be efficient and effective.</p>	
<p>HB 1088</p> <p>By: Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the representation of a community supervision and corrections department in cases in which a person under the supervision of that department challenges the fact or duration of the supervision.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>The Office of the Attorney General typically defends Community Supervision and Corrections Departments (CSCDs) in all suits filed against them, except for writs of habeas corpus. These writs generally occur when a person under community supervision challenges their supervision or its duration. If the applicable District or County Attorney refuses the habeas corpus case, CSCD employees must obtain and cover the cost of representation.</p> <p>HB 1088 addresses this by requiring that the Attorney General (AG), District Attorney, or County Attorney provide counsel for a CSCD or its employees if a writ of habeas corpus is filed against them. HB 1088 allows the AG to assist a District or County Attorney’s office when requested. Additionally, if the District or County Attorney is unable to defend a CSCD, the AG would be required to.</p> <p>HB 1088 provides consistency in the law by allowing the AG to represent a CSCD in these cases. Additionally, it provides stability for CSCDs and their employees by ensuring they will not have to cover the cost of counsel. It also gives them access to attorneys with expertise on the subject.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated By: Savannah Lee (281)900-4980 Savannah@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 879</p> <p>By: Cook Bell, Keith</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications required to hold the office of constable in certain counties.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 879 alters the eligibility requirements for constables in counties with a population of 200,000 or more to include law enforcement experience. A constable is elected every four years and serves as a licensed peace officer who performs various law enforcement functions, including issuing traffic citations, serving warrants, subpoenas, and temporary restraining orders, and acting as bailiff for a Justice of the Peace Court.</p> <p>Currently, the statute is written so that a person who files for the office of constable may only possess an associate’s degree with no law enforcement experience. HB 879 would make experience as a special investigator, active peace officer, or honorably retired peace officer or criminal investigator necessary to run for Constable, in addition to the current associate’s degree qualification.</p> <p>HB 879 helps ensure those who do serve as constables can bring their law enforcement expertise and knowledge.</p>	<p>Favorable</p> <p>Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>

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<p>HB 793 By: Noble Hull Campos Manuel Klick</p>	<p>Relating to the selection and reimbursement of certain persons providing services required under a service plan filed by the DFPS.</p>	<p>Human Services 8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 793 allows parents to choose their own service providers (not contracted through DFPS) to fulfill their service plan for family reunification and requires DFPS to reimburse the cost. Currently, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) requires parents to use its contracted service providers to complete their required, court-ordered services plan before they can reunite with their children. Limited or inaccessible state contractors may lead to long wait times for services. Issues with transportation, job conflicts, and inaccessible times also hinder parents from completing their service plan. HB 793 gives parents more options to choose a service provider to accommodate their needs.</p> <p>HB 793 allows parents with children under DFPS care to obtain services from qualified or licensed providers not contracted with DFPS to complete their DFPS service plan. Services by non-contracted providers must achieve the stated goals outlined in the service plan and may be provided through an electronic platform. Under HB 793, DFPS will reimburse the non-contracted service provider equal to what DFPS pays contracted providers in the same region. This provides more accessibility and autonomy to the parents to carry out their court-ordered duties, speeding up the reunification process with the child.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: La'Dereka Christian (512) 710-5627 Ladereka@texaslsg.org</p>
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