



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Wednesday, April 12, 2023

<p>HB 14 By: Harris, Cody</p>	<p>Relating to third-party review of plats and property development plans, permits, and similar documents, and the inspection of an improvement related to such a document.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has increased construction as the population grows, which may lead to delays in the building inspection and approval process. A six-month delay can lead to a 5-6% increase in construction costs; for every \$1,000 price increase, 22,000 fewer Texans can afford to buy a home.</p> <p>HB 14 seeks to address these concerns by requiring regulatory authorities, such as cities and counties, to approve or disapprove any property development documents, permits, or inspections within 15 days, or a person may use a third-party reviewer. Examples of third-party reviewers include a person employed by another local government to review building inspection and approval documents, a person certified to inspect buildings by the International Code Council, and a licensed engineer. Some cities are already using third-party reviews to streamline the permitting process.</p> <p>Under HB 14, regulatory authorities would be prohibited from charging a fee for third-party inspections or reviews of a development document. Additionally, they cannot ask applicants to waive any deadlines or procedures related to the review process. A person conducting a review or inspection must provide notice of the results to the regulatory authority within 15 days of completion.</p> <p>If someone disagrees with a decision made by a regulatory authority or a third party related to a development document or inspection, HB 14 allows them to appeal to the political subdivision's governing body. The appeal must be filed within 15 days of the decision being made. If the governing body does not affirm the decision by a majority vote within 60 days of the appeal being filed, the development document would be considered approved, or the inspection would be waived.</p> <p>Municipalities already use improved technology and processes to address delays and third-party reviewers in some situations. There are also some concerns about the lack of oversight of third-party reviewers as outlined in the bill. HB 14 does not clarify any differences between residential and commercial construction projects regarding property development documents or specify any rules regarding historical districts.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 brian@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 866</p>	<p>Relating to approval of certain land</p>	<p>Land & Resource</p>	<p>In the 86th Legislature, HB 3167 was passed intending to ensure land development applications were approved in a timely manner. Unfortunately, some counties and municipalities created new rules,</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By:</p>

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<p>By: Oliverson Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>development applications by a municipality or county.</p>	<p>Management 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>resulting in more delays and roadblocks. These extra hurdles can increase the costs of building homes and make it harder for Texans to buy affordable homes.</p> <p>HB 866 aims to simplify and standardize the process for submitting plat applications to counties or municipalities. It also clarifies the differences between "plan" and "plat," removing "general plan" from the plat definition to remove ambiguity.</p> <p>For municipalities, HB 866 expands the authority of the governing body to delegate the approval of plats to a designated person or a municipal planning commission. This includes the ability to approve plats with conditions or disapprove them altogether. For counties, HB 866 authorizes the county commissioners court or their designee to designate the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove a plat.</p> <p>If a county or municipality fails to complete a review within 15 days, applicants can have someone else with the appropriate authority conduct the review. This person has the same power as the municipality or county to approve, reject, or approve with conditions and must ensure that the plat meets all regulations. They also have to notify the municipality or county within 15 days, using the specified method, and cannot be charged extra fees. Applicants can also file an appeal if their plat is disapproved.</p> <p>HB 866 aims to remove ambiguity and provide an alternative review process when review deadlines are not met, creating more clarity and efficiency in the plat approval process. Some local governments raised concerns about the <u>third party review process, which reduces oversight by the elected officials in charge.</u></p>	<p>Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 brian@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1526 By: Harris, Cody</p>	<p>Relating to parkland dedication for multifamily, hotel, and motel property development by certain municipalities; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Land & Resource Management 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, cities require residential real estate developers to dedicate some land for public parks or pay a fee instead. This ensures that there are enough parks, recreation centers, pools, and trails for everyone to use. Individual cities have developed formulas to calculate how much land or what amount of fees are appropriate based on factors like population density. This allows each city to factor in the specific need of their community in the decision-making process. However, concerns have been raised due to the recent increases in parkland requirements, making it cost-prohibitive in some areas for multifamily housing developers to invest in projects.</p> <p>HB 1526 applies to municipalities with populations of at least 800,000. The bill grants property owners the right to ask the city how much parkland dedication is required for their planned development. If the city doesn't respond within 30 days, HB 1526 mandates that the city may not ask for parkland dedication. The city also can't force a landowner to dedicate more than 10% of their land to parks.</p> <p>Under HB 1526, if a parkland dedication fee is required for apartments, hotels, or motels, the city can only charge a fee based on the land used for these buildings. The most they can require is 10% of the total land</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u> Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 brian@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>area. If the fee is more than 2% of the median family income, the city must use specific methods to determine the fee. If the landowner disagrees with the city's determination, they can appeal to the municipal planning commission or governing body.</p> <p>HB 1526 would affect the five largest cities in Texas by replacing parkland dedication regulations with a one-size-fits-all approach that shifts the burden of park services expansion from future residents to current taxpayers. Opponents of the bill also raise concerns about undermining local control and locally elected officials to decide what's best for their communities.</p>	
LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 12, 2023				
<p>HB 1263 By: Thompson, Senfronia Walle Wu Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the ability of a local authority to designate school crossing zones and school crosswalks at high school campuses located in certain municipalities.</p>	<p>Public Education 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 6 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the City of Houston Public Works criteria for installing a school safety zone does not include high schools, leaving these areas occupied by adolescents without property safety features like crosswalks.</p> <p>HB 1263 seeks to increase safety measures for certain high schools by prohibiting local authorities in municipalities with a population of two million or more from enforcing rules that would prevent the installation of school crossing zones or school crosswalks.</p> <p>A lack of school crossing zones or school crosswalks limits available tools to mitigate unsafe driving near high schools. This bill would help ensure the streets around our high schools are safe places for our kids to walk.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1635 By: Burrows</p>	<p>Relating to the operation of political parties.</p>	<p>Elections 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Certain ways in which political parties exercise their power have caused concerns. For example, political parties can remove someone from the primary ballot if they disagree with the position or platform of the nominee, also known as “censuring.” A proposed response to these concerns involves clarifying the election code regarding the operation of political parties in Texas.</p> <p>HB 1635 seeks to ensure political parties do not have full autonomy to decide matters regarding nominees or candidates. HB 1635 amends the Election Code by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibiting party officials from barring affiliation of a person eligible to affiliate with the party • Removing parties’ ability to reject primary applications for any reason not specified under the code • Eliminating party primary committees; • Replacing county executive committees with a county chair to supervise the overall conduct of a primary election in their county, including the drawing; and • Prohibiting any rules adopted by political parties that are inconsistent with national party rules or rules adopted by the SOS. 	<p>Will of the House Evaluated by: La’Dereka Christian (512) 710-5627 ladereka@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>HB 1635 aims to provide clarification in instances where a political party desires to remove someone from the party. However, opponents of the bill believe it is not the state’s responsibility to police political parties and their selection process for candidates.</p>	
<p>HB 180 By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to requiring a court that sets an execution date to withdraw the execution date on the motion of the prosecuting attorney with jurisdiction over the underlying case.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the attorney representing the State may request the withdrawal of an execution date for an individual facing the death penalty, but only the presiding judge of the convicting court can issue the order to grant the request. A judge’s approval is seen as a formality, and they have generally honored such requests. However, recently there have been occurrences in which the State’s attorney and presiding judge have had conflicts, leading to delays or outright denials of withdrawals and an erosion of public confidence in the justice system.</p> <p>HB 180 seeks to address this issue by requiring the convicting court in a capital case to withdraw the order setting a date for execution at the request of the State’s attorney.</p> <p>HB 180 provides a simple solution to preserve Texans' trust in the justice system. The prosecuting attorney has the most relevant and current information regarding a capital case which the convicting court may not be privy to, so it is sensible that they should have the authority to withdraw an execution date.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Savannah Lee (281) 900-4980 savannah@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1615 By: Button Murr Talarico Raney Morales Shaw</p>	<p>Relating to strategies to increase the availability of child-care and prekindergarten programs.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>A lack of reliable child care, including preschool, costs the state around \$9.39 billion a year in lost income and tax revenue, according to a 2021 report by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The 86th Legislature passed HB 3, which required schools to provide full-day pre-K to 4-year-olds and half-day to 3-year-olds. However, some schools have struggled to provide pre-k due to limited resources. A jointly administered pre-k partnership program by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Texas Education Agency (TEA) aims to aid these schools in providing free pre-k. A pre-k partnership is a collaboration between a school district or charter school and one or more private childcare providers to administer high-quality care, education, and wraparound services to eligible children. However, many schools are not utilizing this option due to a lack of knowledge on setting up a partnership, which childcare providers qualify, and various other barriers.</p> <p>HB 1615 directs the TWC, using existing resources, to coordinate with the TEA to develop a strategy to increase utilization of pre-k partnerships and assist eligible private providers in partnering with districts and charter schools to provide free pre-K classes. HB 1615 also requires the commission to create a scholarship program for current and prospective child care workers to help them earn a Child Development Associate credential or a degree in early childhood education or help pay ancillary costs for a child care apprenticeship program. Finally, HB 1615 adds representatives from the child care workforce to local workforce development boards.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon Brian@texaslsg.org (281) 789-8955</p>

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			HB 1615 aims to increase the utilization of pre-k partnerships to offer more child-care and pre-k programs in Texas.	
HB 2314 By: Canales	Relating to filing death benefits claims under the workers' compensation system.	Business & Industry 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Most state employees, including first responders, are eligible for worker's compensation death benefits through the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). Currently, if a family member of a deceased state employee mistakenly files a claim with their insurance company and the insurance company denies the claim, the family may become ineligible for death benefits through TDI due to the one-year deadline to apply. HB 2314 allows eligible benefactors, such as spouses and parents, the option to file death benefit claims with their insurance carrier. HB 2314 requires the insurance carrier to create and maintain a record of receipt of the claim and provide written notice to TDI once a claim is filed. This will ensure that grieving family members do not miss the one-year deadline to file a claim because of a lack of information.	Favorable Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 laticia@texaslsg.org
HB 2015 By: Leach	Relating to the exemption from jury service for persons over a certain age.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	There are currently 10 optional exemptions for jury duty, including claiming a permanent exemption if an individual is age 70 or older. Judges and justices can serve until they are 75 years of age. HB 2015 changes the age to qualify for a permanent exemption for jury duty from age 70 or older to age 75 or older. HB 2015 would create age parity between judges, justices, and jurors in the courts and expand the pool of jury service applicants.	Favorable Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512) 672-8406 Drew@texaslsg.org
HB 699 By: Frank	Relating to determining the student enrollment of a public school that allows non-enrolled students to participate in University Interscholastic League activities for purposes of assigning a University Interscholastic League classification.	Public Education 10 Ayes, 2 Nays, 1 PNV, 0 Absent	The 87th Legislature passed HB 574 to allow home-schooled students to participate in University Interscholastic (UIL) Activities. In light of this, UIL adopted a rule for schools' UIL classification to account for potential homeschooler participation. The rule made it so schools that accepted homeschool students saw their enrollment classification increase, regardless of how many homeschool students actually participated. Ultimately vetoed by the Education commissioner, this rule would have discouraged schools from allowing homeschool participation to avoid moving up a classification and facing greater competition. HB 699 is a clean-up bill for HB 574, which had the unintended consequence of deterring schools from allowing homeschool participation. HB 699 seeks to prevent the districts from choosing to exclude home-schooled students from UIL activities by requiring the same enrollment formula to be used in all schools. Using the same formula for UIL classification regardless of homeschool participation promotes equality and inclusion for students who may have the desire to compete in activities but are unable to attend school due to personal needs as a student.	Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512) 766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 767 By: Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the entry into the Texas Crime Information Center of certain information regarding conditions of bond for stalking offenses.</p>	<p>Homeland Security & Public Safety 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>The 87th Legislature passed legislation that required the entry of bond conditions for certain violent offenses into the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) to notify crime victims when their perpetrator is released on bond. Stalking, characterized as a non-violent offense, was not included in this list of offenses, even though stalking may escalate to violent retaliation once the defendant is released on bond. Its inclusion would allow victims of stalking to be notified when a defendant is released on bond and can reduce potential violent retaliation against victims.</p> <p>HB 767 adds stalking to the list of offenses in which bond conditions must be entered into the TCIC so that victims are notified. HB 767 directs magistrates to notify sheriffs regarding defendants on bond for stalking within one business day, including the name and address of the victim or other parties. Sheriffs must then contact the victim within one business day of being notified.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Jade Tucker Jade@texaslsg.org (512) 730-0462</p>
<p>HB 166 By: González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment of an educational representative for certain students with disabilities.</p>	<p>Public Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>When a student with a disability turns eighteen, they inherit jurisdiction over their educational rights, making the student responsible for decisions that their parent or guardian previously made. Schools must provide services for students receiving special education services until age 21. Students with disabilities across all ages have varying degrees of needs and abilities. Some may not have the capacity to understand and process information, subsequently affecting decision-making and the ability to give informed consent regarding their educational rights.</p> <p>Under federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires a process for appointing representatives to special education students without a guardian. HB 166 would create such a system for Texas.</p> <p>Under HB 166, school districts must appoint educational representatives for students who meet the following criteria: 18 years or older, is certified as unable to provide informed consent regarding their educational program, and has not been determined to be incompetent.</p> <p>The educational representative must always consult with the student and look out for the student when making educational decisions, considering their interests, preferences, and goals. The student must be notified when informed consent was provided on their behalf by their educational representative.</p> <p>The lack of an appointment system impacts the lives of students with disabilities, such as post-secondary educational attainment or current ability to exercise legal challenges to their school district. These students are in a proverbial legal limbo as they aren't able to exercise their rights because of the nature of their disability, and their parents do not have legal recourse to help them advocate for themselves unless they obtain legal guardianship, which may not be appropriate if the student's disabilities do not warrant such measures. An educational representative would also be helpful if a student wants to bring a legal</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512)-766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>

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			<p>challenge to their school district regarding the provision of special services, such as therapy or modified curriculum.</p> <p>HB 166 provides a representative to students who don't need to be placed in guardianship but do need someone to represent them in determining their educational program.</p>	
<p>HB 659 By: Cook Troxclair</p>	<p>Relating to specialty license plates issued for recipients of the Commendation Medal.</p>	<p>Defense & Veterans' Affairs</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>State law exempts veterans with the Commendation Medal with Valor specialty license plates from payment of certain parking fees, but not veterans whose specialty plates have the Commendation Medal without the Valor distinction. HB 659 makes it so Commendation Medal recipients with specialty plates also receive certain parking fee exemptions.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Jade Tucker Jade@texaslsg.org (512) 730-0462</p>
<p>HB 697 By: Holland Longoria Lambert Frazier Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to seller's disclosures regarding fuel gas piping in residential real property.</p>	<p>Business & Industry</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, a residential home seller's disclosure form does not include gas piping and the type of piping used, even though housing inspectors are mandated to share this information with the buyer following a home inspection. This absence leaves buyers uninformed of potential risks associated with different pipe materials. For example, stainless steel corrugated piping is used more frequently due to its flexibility but it also carries a heightened fire hazard risk during an electrical event like a lightning storm. Buyers should be aware of associated risks before purchasing a property to make the best purchasing decision.</p> <p>HB will add gas piping and its specific material to the checklist of known property features. The listed materials include black iron pipe, copper, and corrugated stainless-steel tubing. These additions will allow buyers to be more informed about prospective purchases and consider all available options.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 laticia@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 567 By: Bowers Rose Reynolds Sherman, Sr. Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to discrimination on the basis of hair texture or protective hairstyle associated with race.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>10 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 567, or the Texas CROWN Act, protects Texans against race-based discrimination of hairstyles and hair textures in schools, workplaces, and housing entities.</p> <p>HB 567 amends the Education Code to prohibit school districts and higher education institutions from adopting dress or grooming policies that discriminate against a hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race. Under HB 567, protective hairstyles include braids, locks, and twists. It also amends the Labor Code to establish that unlawful employment discrimination based on race extends to a hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race. Subsequently, an employer or labor union that adopts a dress or grooming policy that discriminates against a hair texture or protective hairstyle is committing an unlawful labor practice. Lastly, HB 567 amends the Property Code to establish that discrimination based on race, referenced in the Texas Fair Housing Act, extends to a hair texture or protective hairstyle commonly or historically associated with race.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Nzingha Williams-Eugene (214) 631-9720 Nzingha@texaslsg.org</p>

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			Twenty state legislatures have already passed similar laws, including Louisiana and Virginia. HB 567 alleviates many Texans' pressure to conform to prevailing Eurocentric beauty standards to earn a living, receive an education, and secure housing. For many Texans, HB 567 formally recognizes that one's hair need not be straight to be considered professional, neatly groomed, or acceptable.	
HB 1955 By: Buckley	Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.	Public Education 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Following the recommendations from the Governor's Committee to Support the Military, HB 1955 extends the deadline for military families to provide proof of residence for school admission. When a student of a military family is assigned to Texas, the student can enroll in school before arrival. Once they arrive, they have ten days to provide proof of residence to the school where they registered. However, due to increased housing demand, military families may be in temporary housing outside the school's attendance zone, which could result in the child no longer being enrolled in the desired school. There is no guarantee that military families will secure housing before the ten-day deadline, placing significant strain on the family. HB 1955 modifies the current deadline from 10 to 90 days for students with an active-duty military parent or guardian assigned to Texas. HB 1955 could help alleviate the stress of finding housing and proving proof of residency in a narrow time frame while keeping their kids in the school where they are enrolled.	Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512) 766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org
HB 1730 By: Schaefer Cook	Relating to the punishment for the offense of indecent exposure; increasing a criminal penalty.	Criminal Jurisprudence 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent	Currently, an individual who exposes their genitalia in a sexual manner with the intent to arouse or gratify receives a Class B misdemeanor, no matter how many times they have committed the offense. This offense has lifelong implications for its victims and their feeling of safety in their communities. HB 1730 seeks to address repeat offenses of indecent exposure by increasing the penalty for each additional offense. Under HB 1730, an individual who commits the offense of indecent exposure twice would be charged with a Class A misdemeanor and a state jail felony for the third offense and beyond. Data shows that the rate of recidivism for this offense is quite high — 387 people are documented sex offenders because of indecent exposure in Texas, and 40% of them have gone on to commit the offense more than twice. The provisions of HB 1730 serve the interests of public safety.	Favorable Evaluated by: Savannah Lee (281) 900-4980 Savannah@texaslsg.org
HB 2138 By: Kacal Bailes	Relating to the sale of charitable raffle tickets by certain nonprofit wildlife conservation associations.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 9 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Currently, non-profit wildlife conservation associations are not permitted to sell raffle tickets online. HB 2138 authorizes non-profit wildlife conservation associations to sell or offer raffle tickets online to previously identified supporters. This will allow non-profit wildlife organizations more avenues for fundraising.	Favorable Evaluated By: La'Dereka Christian (512) 710-5627 Ladereka@texaslsg.org

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<p>HB 842 By: Patterson</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting the extension of the period of a driver's license suspension for certain driving while license invalid convictions.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Between 2003 and 2019, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) operated the Driver Responsibility Program. Under this program, their license would be suspended if an individual could not pay surcharges and fees related to certain offenses. This often results in license suspensions and subsequent tickets for Driving While License Invalid (DWLI) for individuals who are unable to pay the initial fee and tickets, thus continuing the cycle. This program ended in 2019, and DPS reinstated licenses suspended due to surcharge debts, but its ramifications are still being felt. Currently, if an individual pleads guilty to DWLI or pays their surcharge debts, their license is still suspended automatically. This has disincentivized people from paying their debts or pleading out because the outcome remains the same.</p> <p>HB 842 seeks to remedy this by prohibiting a person's driver's license from being suspended for DWLI, as well as prohibiting any current suspensions from being extended if the offense was committed before the Driver's Responsibility Program was dissolved, or if the individual was convicted after HB 842 would go into effect. Additionally, the individual would be required to pay the reissuance and reinstatement fees, as well as any associated fees required in the manner outlined by DPS. Fees would be paid into the Texas Mobility Fund.</p> <p>HB 842 is the next step in solving issues caused by the Driver's Responsibility Program. The individuals stuck in this cycle are trying to get to work, medical appointments, court, and the grocery store. Without the support from HB 842, this cycle will continue, leaving thousands stuck in an inefficient process that makes Texas communities less safe.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Savannah Lee (281) 900-4980 savannah@texaslsg</p>
<p>HB 1590 By: Burns</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the Texas Leadership Scholars Program to serve as a merit-based scholarship and leadership opportunity for high-achieving, emerging leaders with financial need.</p>	<p>Higher Education 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>There is a growing population of high-achieving Black, Latino, and rural students in Texas choosing to enroll in postsecondary education out-of-state. HB 1590 establishes the Texas Leadership Scholars Program, a merit-based scholarship, to incentivize these students to study and live in Texas.</p> <p>The Texas Leadership Scholars Program would be administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), providing merit-based scholarships and leadership opportunity programs to high-achieving, low-income high school students with financial need. A candidate must be a Texas high school graduate, pursuing a bachelor's program, economically disadvantaged as defined by the THECB, and receive automatic admission to a higher education institution or possess other academic distinctions as defined by THECB. THECB may collaborate with other institutions to provide participating students with support for academic progress, timely graduation, and leadership opportunities. HB 1590 permits the acceptance of gifts, donations, or grants to support the program. It requires THECB to adopt rules for the management of the program, including the amount and appropriate use of scholarships awarded.</p> <p>HB 1590 could retain local students from underserved communities by providing scholarships and grants, creating greater incentives for them to stay in Texas for their postsecondary educational endeavors.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Stefanie Page (512) 766-8477 Stefanie@texaslsg.org</p>