



# Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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**Desk:**

**LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS – Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

<p><b>HB 797</b></p> <p>By: Button   Cook   Bell, Keith</p>	<p>Relating to education requirements for an applicant to take the uniform CPA examination</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 797 aims to increase the number of CPAs in Texas by removing obstacles for CPA-seeking students and allowing them to sit for their exams sooner. According to the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, there is a need for more CPAs in Texas to support the increase in population and the number of new businesses moving to the state. However, excessive exam and certificate requirements lead many students to take the CPA exam in other states and not return to the Texas workforce.</p> <p>HB 797 would allow prospective CPAs to sit for the exam after completing 120 semester hours rather than 150. It would also permit prospective CPAs to have 24 semester hours of accounting-specific courses rather than an accounting concentration at the time of the test. CPA-seeking students will still be required to complete the current requirements of 150 semester hours and accounting concentration or equivalent courses to receive the certificate/licensure. HB 797 would also remove the eligibility requirement that a person has at least two years of work experience under the supervision of a certified public accountant to receive a certificate.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1955</b></p> <p>By: Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

<p><b>HB 1500</b></p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>	<p>HB 1500 is the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) sunset bill. In response to Winter Storm Uri in 2021, the legislature</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
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<p>By: Holland   Bell, Keith   Canales   Goldman   Clardy</p>	<p>functions of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and the functions of the independent organization certified for the ERCOT power region.</p>	<p>Vote: 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>accelerated the Sunset dates for PUC, ERCOT, and OPUC to implement and review changes made in the 87th legislature to improve electric reliability. Overall, the Sunset Commission primarily found that PUC is under-resourced given the totality of its responsibilities, needs more transparent formal processes in its oversight of ERCOT, should bolster its oversight of water and wastewater regulation, and improve public communication as well as data management.</p> <p>HB 1500 is the Sunset bill for PUC, OPUC, and ERCOT by extension. The provisions of HB 1500:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extend PUC, OPUC, and ERCOT operational existence for another 6 years through September 1st, 2029 before their next sunset review;</li> <li>● Mandate that the agencies are subject to abolishment but not their statutes or duties;</li> <li>● Clearly outline the training program required of PUC Commissioners before assuming their formal responsibilities;</li> <li>● Require the executive director of PUC to create a training manual and disseminate it to commissioners for their acknowledgment and signature;</li> <li>● Mandate agenda items for public meetings provide for public testimony on all matters except contested cases;</li> <li>● Expand biennial report to include oversight of water and wastewater regulation as well as an assessment of electric and telecommunication market competition;</li> <li>● Mandate PUC to develop an agency-wide strategic communication plan to improve communication with the public and other stakeholders that must be updated at least once every two years;</li> <li>● Add a nonvoting PUC Commissioner to the ERCOT Board of Directors;</li> <li>● Postpone the expiration of PUC’s authority to hire an independent organization certified by an ERCOT power region to complete specific tasks of which PUC has final decision-making authority;</li> <li>● Enable PUC to issue verbal directives to independent organizations to take official action in an emergency. In these circumstances, HB 1500 mandates PUC provide written documentation no more than 72 hours after the emergency situation ends;</li> <li>● Require PUC to establish the criteria and process for emergency verbal directives;</li> <li>● Require PUC to issue an electric industry report every odd-numbered year, in plain-language, that identifies transmission and distribution constraints as well as needs; and</li> <li>● Require an annual conflicts of interest report for PUC, ERCOT, and related entities for review by the legislature.</li> </ul> <p>HB 1500 clarifies operational expectations for PUC, OPUC, and ERCOT. In clearly outlining operational and reporting requirements, HB 1500 seeks to improve the effectiveness of each agency and by extension, electric reliability for Texans.</p>	
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<p><b>HB 1565</b></p> <p>By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the functions of the Texas Water Development Board and continuation and functions of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 5 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1565 is the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) sunset bill. The TWDB is responsible for a broad range of water planning, financing, and management activities in Texas. The Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed TWDB and determined that Texas benefits from TWDB’s role of funding water and wastewater projects and recommended continuing the office for 12 years, with some changes to its programs. The commission’s review informs HB 1565 and makes the following modifications.</p> <p>HB 1565 sets the next review period for 2035 and every twelfth year after that. HB 1565 updates the training requirements for new TWDB members before they are eligible to vote. Existing board members who have completed annual training before the enactment of this legislation must only complete training on subjects added. HB 1565 mandates the executive administrator create a new training manual and distribute a copy to each board member annually. HB 1565 requires the TWDB to develop and implement performance goals and metrics to review proposed projects. The board must collect and analyze data on those metrics and periodically assess its progress toward meeting those goals.</p> <p>HB 1565 enables the TWDB to adopt different review and approval standards for plans and specifications for sewage, treatment, and disposal systems based on risk-based considerations such as financial risk and public health concerns. The TWDB must require registered professional engineers to certify that plans and specifications comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards. The registered engineer must find that any deviation from the standards of the TCEQ is based on their best professional judgment.</p> <p>HB 1565 removes certain unnecessary reporting requirements on the TWDB, including reporting on approved projects when funds are unavailable and reporting on the financial impact of the water bond insurance program to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House. HB 1565 requires regional water planning groups to include information on large projects in their plans, including expenditures, permit applications, and construction status. Regional water planning groups may also plan for drought conditions worse than the drought of record.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2127</b></p> <p>By: Burrows   Meyer   King, Ken   Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to state preemption of certain municipal and county regulation.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>Vote: 8 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2127, also known as the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act, limits the authority of local governments to implement ordinances and regulations that meet the direct needs of local constituencies. To do so, HB 2127 preempts local regulations of Agriculture, Business &amp; Commerce, Finance, Insurance, Labor, Natural Resources, Local Government, Occupations, and Property codes. HB 2127 negates existing local ordinances that conflict with the provisions of HB 2127 unless expressly authorized in the bill.</p> <p><b><i>Broad Field Preemption</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>

			<p>HB 2127 amends the Agriculture, Business &amp; Commerce, Finance, Insurance, Labor, Natural Resources, Local Government, Occupations, and Property codes to prohibit a municipality from adopting, enforcing, or maintaining a local ordinance that violates or circumvents, directly or indirectly, state statute.</p> <p><b>Exceptions</b>          HB 2127 outlines some exceptions to the aforementioned broad preemption, regarding Finance, Labor, and Local Government codes.</p> <p>HB 2127 allows municipalities to enforce and maintain local ordinances that regulate credit services organizations or businesses, provided such measures were adopted before January 1, 2023 or would have been valid under Texas law before enactment of HB 2127 on September 1, 2023. The aim of this provision is to allow municipalities to continue enforcing local laws that restrict or prohibit predatory lending without contravening preemptive measures addressed in HB 2127 regarding the Finance Code. Nevertheless, it is unclear if this exception prohibits municipalities from strictly regulating payday lending practices, in function, given that municipalities generally do not consider matters under the Finance Code and there is no overarching state law to preempt the local ordinance or regulate predatory lending practices. By including the Finance Code in HB 2127, local prohibition of predatory lending practices is in jeopardy at best and prohibited at worst, despite the exception.</p> <p><b>Additional Stipulations</b>          Regarding the Labor Code, HB 2127 expressly prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances for employment leave, hiring practices, breaks, scheduling practices, and any other terms of employment that exceed or conflict with federal or state laws. This provision specifically targets municipalities, such as Dallas and Austin, where local government officials passed ordinances mandating employment practices regarding rest breaks and paid parental leave that surpass employee protections outlined in federal and state law.</p> <p>HB 2127 amends the Local Government Code to prohibit municipalities from expressly adopting ordinances that impedes licensed businesses and practitioners ability to operate or conduct business that involve breeding, care, treatment, or sale of animals and animal products. This provision specifically addresses local ordinances that impinge on veterinary practices and related businesses ability to operate within the guidelines allowed professionally within the bounds of federal and state law.</p> <p><b>Civil Liability &amp; Remedies</b>          The provisions of HB 2127 include broad civil liability for municipalities that implement and enforce local regulations that violate the provisions of HB 2127. HB 2127 allows individual claimants to pursue legal action</p>	
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			<p>against municipalities and provides a civil remedy for declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, and attorney’s fees.</p> <p><b>Impact</b> As written, HB 2127 broadly prohibits local governments from implementing and enforcing ordinances in the best interests of their constituents; local officials are uniquely positioned to know and respond to the needs and preferences of their constituents. This is underscored by a statewide voter survey conducted by Baselite &amp; Associates, in which 83% of respondents agreed “that local governments pass local ordinances that create strong local economies which contribute to a strong state economy” and 82% disapproved of state legislators passing laws that reduce the power of local governments to regulate businesses and protect workers. If passed, HB 2127 would increase litigation against municipalities by individuals and businesses that want to be held to the lowest statutory standards regarding their treatment of employees and others.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

<p><b>HJR 45</b>  By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county of a portion of the value of the residence homestead of a physician who provides health care services for which the physician agrees not to seek payment from any source, including the Medicaid program or otherwise from this state or the</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HJR 45 allows voters to decide whether or not they want to allow counties to provide property tax incentives to doctors who provide free services to low-income Texans or Medicaid recipients. HJR 45 specifies that this incentive would be in addition to any other tax exemptions and that the legislature can impose additional eligibility requirements for the exemption. Lastly, taxes can still be levied and collected to cover existing debt.</p> <p>HJR 45 is the enabling legislation for HB 596.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b></p>
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	federal government, to county residents who are indigent or who are Medicaid recipients.			
<b>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, April 18, 2023</b>				
<b>HB 3050</b> By: Bonnen	Relating to the creation of the Texas state buildings preservation endowment fund, including the transfer to the fund of the unencumbered balances of certain other funds.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>In previous years, the State Preservation Board has been required to repeatedly request funds to be appropriated to the board in order to manage and maintain specific projects of State buildings and grounds. HB 3050 establishes the Texas State Buildings Preservation Endowment Fund to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore the state buildings and grounds over which the board has jurisdiction, such as the Texas State Capitol and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.</p> <p>The fund would be composed of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature; money transferred from former Capital Renewal Trust Fund, Governor’s Mansion Renewal Trust Fund, and State Cemetery Preservation Trust Fund; certain gifts, grants, and donations; and returns received from investment of money in the fund.</p> <p>The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company would be responsible for holding, managing, and deciding the amount of distributions of funds. The State Preservation Board may request a distribution amount that must not exceed what the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company deems as available funds for the year.</p> <p>HB 3050 ensures the State Preservation Board’s access to funds for long-term state facility maintenance projects to preserve Texas History.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1646</b> By: King, Tracy	Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer.	Natural Resources  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA), established in 1993 by the 73 <sup>rd</sup> Legislature, is a groundwater conservation district with regulatory jurisdiction in several counties encompassing and surrounding San Antonio. The district must only use groundwater from the aquifer within the boundaries of the authority as outlined by the original legislation. The EAA seeks an exception to the export prohibition for certificates of convenience and necessity (CCN), which many groundwater conservation districts use. CCNs give a utility exclusive rights to water or sewer service in a specific area. In this case, some CCNs were once within EAA borders but are now outside due to jurisdictional changes.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			<p>HB 1646 aims to avoid expensive redesigns of a CCN holder's water infrastructure for separating aquifer water from other sources. It permits the use of water from the Edwards Aquifer within the area of a CCN, as long as any part of it was within the Edwards Aquifer Authority's boundaries when the authority started operating.</p> <p>The infrastructure is in place for the Edwards Aquifer Authority to fulfill the requirements of CCNs. HB 1646 could help the EAA provide more service to a growing region and focus more of its funding toward conservation rather than changing existing infrastructure.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1255</b> By: Smithee   Jetton</p>	<p>Relating to limitations periods in arbitration proceedings.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Arbitration is a process where parties can decide to have a private dispute decided by one or more arbitrators outside of court. It is currently unclear if the statute of limitations for court proceedings applies to arbitration proceedings.</p> <p>HB 1255 applies the same applicable limitations period for court proceedings to arbitration proceedings. Exceptions to this include if the party brought suit for the claim in court before the applicable limitations period expires or the parties to the claim agreed or were court ordered to arbitrate the claim after the applicable limitations period expires. This clarification allows for consistency in court and arbitration proceedings.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1704</b> By: Walle   Garcia   Rose   Raney</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the workforce housing capital investment fund program to fund the development of workforce housing in this state; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Working families are having a hard time purchasing homes. 49% of Texans are cost-burdened, meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, including rent or mortgage payments, utilities, and fees.</p> <p>HB 1704 establishes a workforce housing capital investment fund program to provide affordable housing to low-income Texans. This fund consists of donations received by the state, legislative appropriations, any fees or other sources of revenue dedicated to this fund, loan repayments, and interest earned on money deposited to this fund. The Texas Department of Housing &amp; Community Affairs (TDHCA) will contract with a nonprofit housing organization that meets certain qualifications, like Habitat for Humanity, to administer this program.</p> <p>HB 1704 permits the fund to disburse zero-interest loans to program recipients. Funds can only pay for costs associated with the development and construction of workforce, single-family housing projects primarily for households that earn between 30 and 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Program administrators may use interest earned on money deposited into the fund for program staffing, administrative costs, and training programs. The program administrator will be responsible for selecting applicants, charging application fees, and giving priority to those who partner with organizations that provide training opportunities to construction trade workforce members.</p> <p>HB 1704 requires the program administrator to submit an annual report detailing the program recipients that received a loan in the preceding year, a description of each workforce housing project funded by a program loan, and any other information the department requires. Independent financial audits must be conducted annually and provided to TDHCA, and any funds found to be misused may be required to be paid back. TDHCA is responsible for adopting rules to implement the program, including application procedures and requirements to</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>receive a loan, investment of money in the fund, and the fund's administration.</p> <p>HB 1704 would help low-income Texans access affordable housing and work towards owning their home. Under this program, these Texans could obtain and make payments on a zero-interest loan for their home. These revolving funds grant accessibility to the program and provide a sustainable option for affordable housing for low-income Texans.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1159</b></p> <p>By: Anderson   Plesa   Flores   Hull</p>	<p>Relating to county and municipal housing authority pet policies.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>6 Ayes 3 Nay 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Public housing authorities enact policies restricting residents from ownership of specific dog breeds. Should a resident bring a dog breed that is outlawed by the housing authority, it must be surrendered to a local shelter, which puts an additional tax burden on the shelter. This conflicts with state laws that allows municipalities and counties to have restrictions on dangerous dogs, so long as they are not restrict specific breeds .</p> <p>HB 1159 brings public housing authorities into compliance with state law by requiring housing authorities to adopt pet policies that align with current county and municipal restrictions on the ownership of dangerous dogs.</p> <p>Prohibiting public housing authorities from enacting their own subjective, arbitrary list of breed restrictions will help keep pets within their family homes and save the taxpayer money. It's unfair to make restrictions based on breed as it is not the breed itself that makes a dog harmful, but the environment in which it was raised. Concerns have been raised about the safety of children and the elderly around larger dogs. However, housing authorities may still restrict dogs based on weight, height, or size.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 821</b></p> <p>By: King, Ken</p>	<p>Relating to the placement of electric vehicle charging equipment on state property.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 821 aims to improve access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure throughout Texas and, in doing so, increase tourism, particularly at state parks which are often in remote areas that don't have EV charging stations nearby.</p> <p>HB 821 authorizes state agencies to enter into agreements with charging providers to install and operate charging equipment for electric and hybrid vehicles on state property. Under the provisions of HB 821, the charging provider (a person or entity that provides commercial EV charging equipment) is required to install and use metering devices to track the cost of transferred electricity.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 3478</b></p> <p>By: King, Tracy O.</p>	<p>Relating to mediation of certain fee disputes between towing companies and motor carriers.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, if a motor carrier believes there has been a discrepancy in an incident management tow with towing and recovery charges exceeding \$20,000, their only option is to file a civil action, which can be a lengthy and costly process. HB 3478 seeks to allow motor carriers to request mediation in a fee dispute with a towing company. This program would be regulated through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR).</p> <p>HB 3478 protects a motor carrier by allowing them to request mediation for a fee dispute on any non-consent tow exceeding \$20,000. Involved parties can select and compensate a mediator from TDLR's approved list, unless a written agreement is submitted allowing them to pick a non-TDLR mediator. Parties are allowed 30 days</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>



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			<p>to determine if an excessive amount was charged by a towing company (unless an extension is granted). HB 3478 makes it so a storage facility may not do this if given notice that mediation is occurring. If a party still decides to bring a civil action after the mediation, that party must notify the vehicle storage facility storing the vehicle, who may still collect fees, but cannot sell the vehicle until the conclusion of the civil action.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 3478 extends the timeline in which a vehicle is determined to be “abandoned” from ten days after a notice to collect the vehicle is sent to 31 days. The bill also directs vehicle storage facilities to hold a vehicle if mediation efforts are ongoing.</p> <p>HB 3478 aims to create a more convenient process for motor carriers through a mediation option before having to pursue civil action.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1922</b> By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to periodic reauthorization of municipal building permit fees.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texans often encounter varying permit fees for construction, renovation, or remodeling projects that don't accurately represent actual costs. These fees can hinder development within a municipality, redirecting growth to other areas and placing a significant burden on non-profit organizations.</p> <p>HB 1922 seeks to remedy this issue by abolishing the fees on their 10th anniversary after the date the fee is adopted or most recently reauthorized, and requiring a municipality’s governing body to have a public hearing and to vote for any reauthorization.</p> <p>Under HB 1922, Texans will see increased transparency and public involvement in permit fee decisions, fostering better development opportunities and alleviating the strain on non-profit organizations.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1925</b> By: Harless</p>	<p>relating to the continuation and operations of a healthcare provider participation program by the Harris County Hospital District.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>8 Ayes 1 Nay 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>The 87th Texas Legislature passed HB 3459, which authorized the creation of the Harris County’s Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF). The LPPF provides mechanisms to allow the Harris County Hospital District to draw down essential federal dollars to provide services. The program will sunset at the end of the year. HB 1925 continues Harris County’s LPPF by extending the sunset date for another two years to December 2025.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2556</b> By: Oliverson   Morales, Eddie   Harless</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of physician graduates and the authority of an insured to select a physician graduate</p>	<p>Health Care Reform, Select</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) reports a physician shortage in Texas, which is only expected to worsen with continued population growth. Each year, around 8,000 medical school graduates fail to match with a U.S. residency program, limiting their ability to practice and repay debts. Current Texas law requires completion of a twelve-month post-graduate program for medical license eligibility, but medical school graduates have more clinical experience than many nurse practitioners who can currently practice under supervision in the state.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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	<p>under the insured's health insurance policy; requiring an occupational license; authorizing fees.</p>		<p>States like Arkansas, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, and Utah have adopted limited licenses for unmatched medical school graduates with M.D. or D.O. degrees who have passed the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam, allowing them to train and practice under licensed physicians' supervision.</p> <p>HB 2556 would create a new category of medical professionals called "physician graduates," who can practice under a sponsoring physician's supervision with a limited license. HB 2556 outlines the qualifications for both parties and authorizes the Texas Medical Board to adopt rules for licensing, regulation, supervision, disciplinary procedures, and continuing education requirements for physician graduates.</p> <p>Physician graduates can only provide medical services in their sponsoring physician's specialty, cannot prescribe Schedule II controlled substances, and must disclose their status to patients. Sponsoring physicians are responsible for oversight and liable for medical acts performed or omitted by the physician graduate. HB 2556 also amends the Insurance Code to allow insured patients to select physician graduates for services within their scope of practice.</p> <p>HB 2556 aims to help alleviate physician shortages, particularly in rural areas, and provide unmatched graduates a paid path to continue learning, pursue residency, and serve Texas communities.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2802</b> By: Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the Medicaid application form and communication with Medicaid recipients.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>A recommendation from the Texas Association of Health Plans is to switch from the opt-in option to an opt-out system for Medicaid beneficiaries receiving electronic communications regarding important health information.</p> <p>HB 2802 requires the HHSC to allow Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) to communicate with Medicaid recipients electronically, including by telephone, text message, or email, regarding eligibility, enrollment, or other healthcare matters. HB 2802 would also make electronic communication the default method of communication by replacing the current opt-in system with having recipients opt out of electronic communication by telling the MCO or their health plan provider. Recipients would be asked to identify their preferred method of communication, and HB 2802 does not require MCOs to report this information to the HHSC. HB 2802 includes contact via telephone as a permitted method of communication between MCOs and recipients, and the HHSC executive commissioner is required to adopt guidelines for telephone communication. The HHSC executive commissioner is also required to adopt a new application form that conforms to the changes made by HB 2802. HB 2802 provides for delayed implementation should its provisions require federal waiver or authorization.</p> <p>HB 2802 will allow Medicaid members to easily receive important healthcare updates from their health plans using convenient means of communication.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 2016</b> By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility requirements for a license as a massage establishment, massage school, massage therapist, or massage therapy instructor.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures  10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) reported 162 reports of sexual misconduct and 39 reports of sexual assault by massage therapists in 2021. Current law states that a person is ineligible for obtaining licensure to open a massage establishment or school or become a therapist or therapy instructor if they have been convicted of, entered a plea of no contest or guilt to, or received deferred adjudication for certain offenses like human trafficking and prostitution.</p> <p>HB 2016 seeks to prevent those with a prior criminal history involving sexual assault from receiving massage-related licenses. HB 2016 would add sexual assault and aggravated sexual assault grounds for ineligibility for massage-related licensure if the person was found guilty of, pled no-contest or guilty to, or received deferred adjudication for such a charge.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1114</b> By: Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to the service area of the Blinn Junior College District.</p>	<p>Higher Education  Vote: 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1114 expands the service area of Blinn Junior College District to include portions of Waller Independent School District which is located in Harris County. This will allow Waller ISD high school students to participate in programs or courses offered by Blinn College.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1589</b> By: Cook   Murr</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for certain family violence assaults.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>In recent years, occurrences of interpersonal violence have increased by nearly 10%, and DPS responded to nearly 233,000 instances of family violence in 2021. Under current law, the charge for committing family violence is a Class A Misdemeanor, but this charge is enhanced to a third degree felony if the defendant has a prior conviction of committing family violence. When an individual is arrested for committing family violence, a protective order and bond conditions may be set while the case is pending. If that individual then commits a secondary act of family violence, that would violate bond conditions and the protective order. As the law stands, a conviction for these violations does not trigger a penalty enhancement in the way that a prior conviction of family violence does.</p> <p>HB 1589 seeks to address this by enhancing a Class A Misdemeanor to a third degree felony for an act of family violence, if it is shown during the trial that the defendant has been previously convicted of violating bond conditions or a protective order in relation to committing family violence. In addition, HB 1589 would enhance a third degree felony to a second degree felony if it is shown during the trial that in addition to violating bond conditions or a protective order, the assault was committed by “intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeding the person's breathing or blood circulation by applying pressure to the person's throat or neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth.”</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>An enhancement is already in place for prior family violence convictions. Therefore, it is sensible to add bond and protective order violations to current law. Additionally, strangulation is a leading indicator of escalating violence in a relationship and may cause long-term health effects. Allowing for these enhancements is one way to help ensure that victims of family violence are safe.</p> <p>HB 1589 would provide additional protections for Texans that are survivors of interpersonal violence.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1737</b>  By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to automatic orders of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain misdemeanor defendants following successful completion of a period of deferred adjudication community supervision.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In 2015, the Texas Legislature passed SB 1902, which automatically qualified some individuals, with certain misdemeanor charges who have completed the deferred adjudication process, for orders of non-disclosure of their criminal record. These non-disclosure orders seal a record or a portion of a record from the general public while leaving it available to certain fields, such as law enforcement agencies. Orders of non-disclosure can be incredibly helpful to those with criminal records, as a record acts as a barrier to employment, housing, education and more. Though SB 1902 was a step in the right direction, it left a gap in the non-disclosure process. While current law allows for orders of non-disclosure for qualifying individuals, it still requires that an individual seeking non-disclosure petition for this record clearing relief and pay a fee. There is no right to counsel for record clearing relief, leaving many Texans left to navigate this confusing process on their own. This has resulted in only 6.5% of qualifying individuals actually receiving the relief they're entitled to.</p> <p>HB 1737 seeks to address this by removing the requirement that a court make a determination of eligibility for the order of non-disclosure, automating the process instead. HB 1737 requires that the Department of Public Safety (DPS) identify anyone currently entitled to non-disclosure relief on a monthly basis. If an individual is found to be eligible, the court must grant the order as soon as practicable after the notice is received from DPS. Any individual who believes they are eligible for orders of non-disclosure but has not been identified by the above process is entitled under HB 1737 to present the applicable court with evidence to establish eligibility. The court may then make the determination on if the individual is eligible. If they are found to be so, the court must issue the non-disclosure order. In addition, the bill prohibits the applicable court from charging an individual a fee in order to receive relief. HB 1737 does not expand upon the definition of which individuals are eligible for orders of non-disclosure.</p> <p>HB 1737 aims to ensure that the process already decided upon by the legislature is used to its fullest extent. Ultimately, this will help Texans who are entitled to relief get back on their feet and begin to move forward.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 598</b> Shaheen   Bhojani</p>	<p>Relating to creating the criminal offense of possession of an animal by a person who has been previously convicted of an offense involving animal cruelty.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, there are no adequate statutes in Texas law preventing an individual who has been convicted of animal cruelty from possessing an animal. This leaves animals vulnerable to those who have proven to be a danger to them.</p> <p>HB 598 would create a Class C Misdemeanor offense for an individual who possesses, resides with, or has control over an animal within five years of a prior conviction for one or more of four types of animal abuse: dogfighting or cockfighting, attack on a service animal, cruelty to a non livestock animal, or offenses under federal law that are substantially similar to the above examples. HB 598 also enhances the penalty to a Class B Misdemeanor for subsequent convictions of the offense.</p> <p>HB 598 functions to protect vulnerable animals, while still allowing for a justice-involved individual to one day possess an animal following a reasonable waiting period.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 596</b> By: Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county of a portion of the value of the residence homestead of a physician who provides health care services for which the physician agrees not to seek payment from any source, including the Medicaid program or otherwise from this state or the federal government, to county residents who are indigent or who are Medicaid recipients.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has the highest rate of uninsured people in the country. Additionally, many doctors do not accept Medicaid due to low reimbursement rates and billing issues. This makes it difficult for low-income Texans to access healthcare.</p> <p>HB 596 is enabling legislation for HJR 45 and allows counties to provide an incentive to doctors who provide health care services to Texans who are indigent or receive Medicaid at no cost to the patient, the Medicaid program, the state, or the federal government. Licensed physicians who provide these services would be able to receive up to a 50% homestead exemption on their properties' appraised value from property taxes if their county adopts this incentive.</p> <p>Under HB 596, county commissioners courts must set the amount of county residents these physicians must provide free services to so they can qualify for the exemption. The commissioners court will also be required to submit a copy of the exemption to the chief appraiser, who is allowed to require a physician to submit additional information to qualify for the exemption. Commissioners courts are also allowed to repeal the exemption if needed using an established process for the county. There are concerns that the maximum homestead exemption of 50%, on top of current homestead exemptions, would constitute too high a tax break for physicians, who may not need it. Additionally, there are a host of other professions that offer free, essential services that are not eligible for the tax break.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 579</b></p> <p>By: Burns   Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to procedures for the alternative assessment of certain public school students that receive special education services and alternative accountability plans for certain campuses serving students that receive special education services.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>11 Ayes 1 Nay 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, parents and administrators report the Alt-STAAR, an alternative to the STAAR test for students with special needs, causes undue stress on students and is an inefficient use of time and resources.</p> <p>HB 579 seeks to address these concerns by allowing parents or guardians of students with significant cognitive disabilities to request an exemption from the Alt-STAAR. The student’s admission, review, and dismal (ARD) committee would determine if the student is better suited for the Alt-STAAR, a different alternative assessment, or complete exemption from all testing. The commissioner shall establish guidelines to assist the ARD committee's decision for the student.</p> <p>For each applicable subject, alternative assessment methods to the Alt-STAAR shall be developed by the commissioner in consultation with stakeholders and the student’s caregivers. The alternative method must include an assessment of progress on the goals identified in the student’s individualized education plan (IEP). Additionally, HB 579 authorizes special support campuses to develop alternative accountability plans specialized for each student based on guidelines from the commissioner. Once approved, these alternative accountability plans shall be monitored by the commissioner and a report on their efficacy shall be submitted to the legislature no later than December 1, 2026.</p> <p>Education and assessment are not one-size-fits-all and the unique needs of special needs students, especially those with significant cognitive disabilities, should be taken into consideration. There are other ways students’ progress can be measured without subjecting them to burdensome standardized testing.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 219</b></p> <p>By: Noble   Cook   Capriglione   Leo-Wilson   Frazier</p>	<p>Relating to the release of a deed of trust or other contract lien securing a home loan after payoff by mortgagor.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services</p> <p>7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas property owners may be stalled due to a mortgagee or mortgage servicer never releasing the property lien when the owner paid off the mortgage. A property lien is a legal claim against a property that can be used as collateral to repay a debt. Currently, no Texas state law requires mortgage servicers or holders to release a lien within a particular time frame. Property owners must go to court to prove their mortgage was paid in full, especially if they are still awaiting a response from the lender or mortgage servicers.</p> <p>HB 219 defines the “release of lien” as a release of a deed or trust or other lien securing a home loan. HB 219 requires the mortgage servicer or mortgagee to release a lien within 60 days after the mortgage is paid off the home loan, either by delivering the release of the lien for the home loan or filing the release of the lien with the county clerk’s office. A mortgage or homeowner may submit a written request to release the lien to the mortgagee or mortgage servicer before the 20th day of the paid loan. Within 30 days of the request’s date, the mortgage servicer or mortgagee must deliver the lien or file the release of the lien county clerk’s office.</p> <p>HB 219 seeks to prevent further delay in homeowners selling their properties. Many good lenders and title companies have already put this into practice. HB 219 creates a uniform standard and accountability between lenders and property owners.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 252</b></p> <p>By: Johnson, Ann   Thompson, Senfronia   Jones, Jolanda   Guillen   Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information of a criminal defendant who has successfully completed a specialty court program.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Specialty court programs include Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and Veterans Court. These programs attempt to divert participants from incarceration and prioritize providing solution-based interventions. Studies show that recidivism rates are lower for individuals who choose to participate in and complete a specialty court program. Currently, only some specialty courts allow an individual to request a nondisclosure petition two years after the successful completion of the program. HB 252 would allow individuals the opportunity to move forward by shielding their criminal record from potential employers after successfully completing specialty court programs.</p> <p>HB 252 amends the current law to mandate that all specialty court programs allow participants to request a petition for nondisclosure two years after program completion. HB 252 doesn't change the eligibility criteria for participation in specialty court programs; consequently, individuals charged with or convicted of violent felonies are largely excluded from participation. Additionally, a petition of nondisclosure would not prevent law enforcement from accessing individuals' full criminal history or apply to individuals whose participation in a specialty program is the result of a DWI conviction.</p> <p>HB 252 reduces barriers that impede individuals' ability to recover after engaging in the criminal justice system under certain circumstances.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 105</b></p> <p>By: Noble   Meyer   Lambert   Cook</p>	<p>Relating to excluding the furnishing of an academic transcript from the definition of "information service" for purposes of sales and use taxes.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Public university students and graduates do not have to pay sales and use taxes when requesting copies of their transcripts, as the universities are not required to charge sales and use taxes on transcript fees. However, private university students and graduates must pay these taxes when requesting their transcripts due to the issuance of their transcripts falling under the definition of an "information service."</p> <p>HB 105 amends the tax code to exempt academic transcripts from sales and use taxes by excluding academic transcripts from the definition of "information service." Private university students and graduates would then be able to obtain their academic transcripts by paying a tax free fee, making private and public institutions more equal.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1381</b></p> <p>By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to the public hearing requirement for a preliminary zoning report made by a zoning commission.</p>	<p>Land &amp; Resource Management</p> <p>8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Local authorities have raised concerns about the planning and zoning review process, which requires multiple public hearings before the requisite planning and zoning commission. This lengthy process can be inefficient and costly to taxpayers, contribute to a backlog of applications, and delay the development or rehabilitation of properties.</p> <p>HB 1381 requires a zoning commission to conduct at least one public hearing associated with a proposed change in zoning classification before submitting a report to the municipality's governing body.</p> <p>HB 1381 aims to streamline the planning and zoning review process by giving cities the option to host only one public hearing.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 1433</b></p> <p>By: Johnson, Ann   Thompson, Senfronia</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of massage therapy.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Commission of Licensing &amp; Regulation (TCLR) must deny or revoke a massage therapy license if an individual is accused of prostitution and enters a plea of no-contest or guilty, is found guilty of prostitution or another sexual offense, or if the Commission finds the person practices massage therapy at a sexually oriented business.</p> <p>HB 1433 would allow TCLR and the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing &amp; Regulation (TDLR) to have discretionary authority regarding disciplining a massage-related license holder. HB 1433 would allow TCLR or the TDLR executive commissioner to impose an administrative penalty as a disciplinary action. HB 1433 includes the attempt to obtain a license by fraud or misrepresentation as grounds for disciplinary action. HB 1433 changes the list of offenses that would render one ineligible for massage-related licensure or would result in license revocation. The offenses would be the trafficking of persons, promotion or online promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion or aggravated online promotion of prostitution, or other similar federal or state offenses.</p> <p>Under HB 1433, TCLR and the TDLR executive commissioner can consider instances of victims of human trafficking who are convicted of prostitution or trafficking. This allows victims' past experiences to be considered when granting or renewing licensure instead of automatic denial.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1429</b></p> <p>By: Campos   Garcia</p>	<p>Relating to the definitions of family violence and household member for purposes of crime victims' compensation.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In recent years, rates of interpersonal violence have increased by nearly ten percent, creating a greater need for services in Texas. One of the ways that the State of Texas combats family violence is through the Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) program.</p> <p>The CVC provides victims of crime with financial assistance related to their recovery, such as safe housing, and mental or physical healthcare. However, there is currently a gap in what types of interpersonal violence the CVC covers, as it only provides assistance to family members who are related to their abuser by blood or marriage. The CVC does not cover victims of dating violence, those who live with their partners but are not married or related to them. As dating violence is currently the most prevalent form of interpersonal violence, this places vulnerable Texans at risk.</p> <p>HB 1429 seeks to remedy this by updating the definition of family violence in the Criminal Code to match the current definition in the Family Code. This would allow for the expansion of CVC coverage to victims of dating violence, children in the home, and others who do not meet the current requirement. HB 1429 also amends the definition of household member, so that all who resided in the home during the crime are eligible for CVC coverage.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>



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			Expanding the applicability of the Crime Victims Compensation Program will aid in ensuring that more Texas families who have experienced interpersonal violence have access to the support and care.	
<b>HB 1106</b> By: Goodwin	Relating to the training of and the provision of acupuncture services by an acudetox specialist.	Public Health 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Studies show that acudetox, a form of acupuncture, can help treat addiction, trauma, stress, depression, and anxiety without drugs. It is safe, effective, and can be more affordable than other treatment options. Acudetox is also easily administered in a group setting and can help Texans without access to other mental health care.</p> <p>Currently, only certain mental health professionals can offer acudetox, and only for treating alcoholism, substance abuse, and chemical dependency.</p> <p>HB 1106 aims to expand the list of professionals who can provide acudetox and the range of conditions it can be used for, as approved by the Texas Medical Board. To offer acudetox, approved professionals must complete a training program in auricular acudetox that meets or exceeds the standards set by the medical board. They must also pay a certification fee, maintain continuing education requirements, obtain informed consent from clients, and keep records of their services.</p> <p>HB 1106 seeks to reduce barriers to the practice of acudetox in Texas and increase access to this treatment option for more people.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 3211</b> By: Harless	Relating to a campus of the Texas State Technical College System located in Denton County.	County Affairs 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The Texas State Technical College (TSTC) system operates campuses across ten counties in the state. HB 3211 establishes a Texas State Technical College campus in Denton, Texas.</p> <p>TSTC is in high demand among Texas employers and communities for the skill-building and training given to students and the opportunity for economic development in the state.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 3115</b> By: Morales, Eddie	Relating to the eligibility of certain retired or former district court judges for assignment as a visiting judge.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Certain retired or former judges are eligible to be assigned as visiting judges to a case in their specialty area. To be eligible, judges have to have never been publicly reprimanded or censured by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC). Changing eligibility requirements for visiting judges could help reduce high caseloads in regions on or along the border.</p> <p>HB 3115 seeks to expand the number of retired or former judges eligible to be visiting judges. HB 3115 would allow judges who have not been publicly reprimanded or censured by SCJC in the 15 years before their assignment to serve. HB 3115 also extends eligibility to judges who may or may not have resigned or retired from office after the SCJC conducted a full investigation as long as it did not result in the judge being publicly reprimanded or censured. Judges who resign or retire from office instead of being disciplined will not be eligible to serve as visiting judges under HB 3115.</p> <p>HB 3115 would allow more judges to qualify to serve as visiting judges, which may be helpful in areas with high</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			caseloads.	
<b>HB 4015</b> By: Thompson, Ed	Relating to the disposition of certain fees collected for the rail safety program.	Transportation  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) rail safety investigators perform significant safety oversight of railroad facilities and equipment. Currently, fees collected for the TxDOT Rail Safety Inspection Program are being deposited into the state’s general revenue (GR) fund, which can pose an issue as there is no guarantee that TxDOT will receive the full amount back to reinvest into the program. Money may not be available for the program when it’s needed because GR appropriation requests are competitive and influenced by statutory, constitutional, or policy constraints. HB 4015 seeks to ensure this money is returned to be exclusively used to fund the Rail Safety Inspection Program.</p> <p>HB 4015 redirects the rail safety fees from going to the GR fund to the state highway fund and clarifies that this money be used solely for the rail safety program.</p> <p>HB 4015 ensures that funding for our most vital railroad safety operations is available when needed and not threatened by shortages in general revenue.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 2183</b> Stucky	Relating to the temporary appointment of county jailers.	County Affairs  9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>Texas county jails are facing workforce shortages. Currently, a county jailer’s temporary appointment cannot be renewed to allow for additional time to complete preparatory training requirements. Additionally, jailers with a temporary appointment that leave and return to the position have to start the process of earning preparatory training requirements again. This prohibition creates issues with employee retention in county jails.</p> <p>HB 2183 seeks to address this issue by allowing sheriffs to petition the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) for an extension of a temporary appointment for a jailer for no longer than 6 months. Additionally, HB 2183 grants a temporary appointment renewal of up to one year for former county jailers who left due to incompleteness of training within a year or those that left during the course of their training by choice. This temporary renewal is contingent on the former employee being in good standing at the time they separated from the position.</p> <p>The extension of temporary appointments helps jail administrators find and retain quality jailers by giving them adequate time to do their job duties and complete required training. The reapplication for temporary license authority also ensures that quality applicants can quickly regain their license and get right back into the job.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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<p><b>HB 1142</b> By: Thierry</p>	<p>Relating to measures to assist students enrolled at public institutions of higher education who are homeless or who are or were in foster care.</p>	<p>Higher Education 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>According to a survey conducted by the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, homelessness affects 18% of those attending a two-year college and 14% of those attending four-year institutions. Currently, public institutions of higher education must provide liaison services to former foster care students. HB 1142 seeks to expand these services to students experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>HB 1142 defines students who are homeless as the federal law does to include students with school-provided housing during the semesters, but are otherwise homeless. HB 1142 requires institutions to designate at least one employee as a liaison officer for current and incoming homeless students. This person may be the same liaison officer for former foster care students. HB 1142 requires the institution to make best efforts to identify their homeless student population and provide all information of the students to the liaison officer. The liaison officer will work with the student to communicate support services, including financial aid, housing, food and meal programs, and counseling services available to the student. The institution shall make contact information of the liaison officer and any information regarding support services accessible to the public. Additionally, HB 1142 directs universities to prioritize access to student housing for students who are homeless.</p> <p>Students facing homelessness are 87% more likely to drop out than their peers who are not housing insecure. HB 1142 provides a practical and effective way to combat housing insecurity for driven students seeking higher education. It also works to improve enrollment, retention, and graduation rates for institutions.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
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