



# Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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## LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS UNTIL 9:30 AM – Tuesday, April 25, 2023

<b>HB 2664</b>  By: Tepper	Relating to the disclosure of customer information by government-operated utilities.	State Affairs  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	HB 2664 aims to ease the transition of Lubbock Power and Light's (LP&L) into the ERCOT retail market. HB 2664 enables government-operated utilities to disclose customers' personal information to ERCOT and other retail utilities for the express purpose of transitioning customers from municipally owned utilities (MOU) to retail electric providers.	<u><b>Favorable</b></u>
<b>HB 2681</b>  By: Frazier   Bumgarner   Kitzman	Relating to the authority of a fire department to remove certain personal property from a roadway or right-of-way.	Transportation  12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Only law enforcement and transit authorities can remove personal property from rights-of-way. Unsecured items on roadways have led to fatal secondary collisions involving emergency responders and workers.</p> <p>HB 2681 will authorize fire departments with permanent, full-time staff to remove personal property from a roadway or a right-of-way if it blocks the roadway or threatens public safety. The governing body of a political subdivision with a fire department must develop and implement a policy regarding the fire department consulting with law enforcement on the removal of personal property from a right-of-way or roadway.</p> <p>HB 2681 aims to allow fire departments to help keep Texans safe and prevent unnecessary accidents.</p>	<u><b>Favorable</b></u>
<b>HB 3125</b>  By: Gamez	Relating to the use of certain lighting equipment on authorized emergency vehicles.	Transportation  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	Only an authorized emergency vehicle may display a red, white, or blue beacon, flashing, or alternating light. It has become common practice for authorized emergency vehicles to use flashing white lights, but the current state statute does not explicitly permit using them for emergency vehicles. HB 3125 will codify this common practice of using these lights to avoid potential confusion. HB 3125 enables authorized emergency vehicles to be equipped with signal lamps that display alternating or flashing white lights, provided that they meet specific requirements outlined in the code.	<u><b>Favorable</b></u>

## LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS UNTIL 10:00 AM – Tuesday, April 25, 2023

<b>HB 1433</b>  By: Johnson,	Relating to the regulation of massage therapy.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	Currently, the Texas Commission of Licensing & Regulation (TCLR) must deny or revoke certain massage therapy licenses 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.	<u><b>Favorable</b></u>
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<p>Ann   Thompson, Senfronia</p>		<p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</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, compelling 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>HB 2639</b>  By: Clardy   Kuempel   Ashby   Cook   Isaac</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a new university in Nacogdoches, Texas, within The University of Texas System and the allocation of the annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education; abolishing Stephen F. Austin State University.</p>	<p>Higher Education  10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In the fall of 2022, after much deliberation and community input, Stephen F. Austin's (SFA) Board of Regents voted to join the University of Texas (UT) System. HB 2639 establishes SFA as part of the UT system.</p> <p>In establishing SFA as part of the UT system, HB 2639 grants governance of SFA to the UT System's board of regents, allowing them to oversee the organization, administration, and location of the university; courses and degrees offered; physical facilities, solicitation or acceptance of gifts and grants; and joint faculty appointments. The board may adopt any rules and regulations necessary to manage SFA as a university of the first class. The transition to the UT system will not impact tenured faculty members' status or the admission and transfer of credits for students. Similarly, employee benefits shall transfer accordingly.</p> <p>Additionally, by joining the UT system, SFA will transition out of the Higher Education Fund (HEF), and become eligible for the Permanent University Fund (PUF). SFA's previous HEF funding will be distributed to other HEF institution systems.</p> <p>HB 2639 keeps the community's input and requests in mind by ensuring the mascot, colors, and name of Stephen F. Austin remain. This decision was vital to the Stephen F. Austin students, faculty, and alumni as the namesake and traditions are central to the university and Nacogdoches, Texas.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1516</b>  By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the use of unmanned aircraft by the Texas military forces.</p>	<p>Defense &amp; Veterans' Affairs  9 Ayes, 0 Nays,</p>	<p>Unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, may be used to capture images for operations by the U.S. military. However, this is not the case for the Texas military. HB 1516 authorizes the Texas military forces to capture images using UAVs. UAV imaging can be used by the Texas military during natural disasters, for search and recovery, and border security.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

		0 PNV, 2 Absent		
<b>HB 1955</b> By: Buckley	Relating to establishing residency for purposes of admission into public schools.	Public Education  12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<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>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1159</b> By: Anderson   Plesa   Flores   Hull	Relating to county and municipal housing authority pet policies.	County Affairs  6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent,	<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 allow municipalities and counties to have restrictions on dangerous dogs, so long as they are not restricted to 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>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Tuesday, April 25, 2023</b>				
<b>HB 1535</b> By: Clardy   Holland   Canales	Relating to the San Antonio River Authority, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission;	Natural Resources  6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,	For over 80 years, the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) has managed the creeks and rivers within the San Antonio River basin, spanning Bexar, Goliad, Karnes, and Wilson counties. SARA has demonstrated adequate leadership and specialized knowledge in various water management areas in collaboration with its regional partners and stakeholders. Increased population growth within the basin has caused a surge in demand for SARA's services, making it essential for the organization to adapt rapidly.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

<p>Goldman   Bell, Keith</p>	<p>altering the terms of office of the members of the board of directors of the authority.</p>	<p>5 Absent</p>	<p>SARA underwent review with The Sunset Advisory Commission, and it suggested improvements to increase transparency and accountability in SARA's planning, project selection, and reserve fund management. The commission also recommended aligning nonprofit partnerships and contracts with industry best practices for consistency and transparency. The commission's recommendations inform HB 1535 and make the following improvements for SARA.</p> <p>HB 1535 amends the following according to the sunset recommendations: board member training, separation of the board's policy-making and staff's management responsibilities, public testimony at board meetings, and maintenance of complaint information. HB 1535 changes the biennial election date and commencement date for board members. HB 1535 allows the board to appoint any necessary assistance officers along with the existing executive positions.</p> <p>HB 1535 removes a provision that authorizes SARA bylaws to designate an executive committee to address policy decisions and other matters, removes property tax requirements to participate in the election of its board members, and removes outdated provisions relating to SARA's "Master Plan." HB 1535 changes the vote requirement for SARA to exercise its powers, rights, privileges, and functions to a majority vote of a presenting quorum of its total membership and revises the end of its fiscal year for annual state audits.</p> <p>HB 1535 authorizes SARA to contract or coordinate with nonprofit organizations, including affiliated nonprofit organizations. HB 1565 prohibits SARA's board members from constituting a majority of the organization's board of directors or governing body. HB 1565 requires the board to develop a policy regarding the fundraising activities for any nonprofit organization that partners with SARA.</p> <p>HB 1535 can help modernize and strengthen SARA's governance structure and operations, benefiting the environment and communities relying on the San Antonio River.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1555</b> By: Clardy   Holland   Canales   Goldman   Bell, Keith</p>	<p>Relating to the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, following the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; altering terms of the board of directors; specifying grounds for the removal of a</p>	<p>Natural Resources  6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 5 Absent</p>	<p>The Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) has managed the Guadalupe River and its streams in Kerr County for over 80 years. UGRA works to prevent and prepare for flooding, dirt and pollution, and unwanted plant or animal species in or around the authority's water. UGRA's small staff works well with its partners and stakeholders in Kerr County to enhance water quality. The Sunset Advisory Commission finds that the UGRA is operating satisfactorily, but a few critical improvements in governance practices could occur. The commission's review informs HB 1555 and helps the UGRA progress in those areas.</p> <p>HB 1555 decreases a UGRA board member's term length from six years to four. HB 1555 requires the governor to select the board's presiding officer. The UGRA board must appoint a general manager in addition to all necessary engineers, attorneys, auditors, and other employees that legislation requires. HB 1555 requires the board to develop and implement policies separating the responsibilities of the board, the general manager, and the district staff. HB 1555 revises the grounds for removing a board member, including not having or maintaining the</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

	<p>member of the board of directors.</p>		<p>required qualifications, missing more than half of regularly scheduled board meetings, or not executing their duties for a substantial part of their term due to illness or disability.</p> <p>HB 1555 requires the completion of mandatory training before an appointed board member can perform their duties and outlines all the training necessary one must complete. HB 1555 requires the UGRA general manager to create and distribute a training manual to board members annually, and members must submit verification affirming they received and reviewed the training manual. HB 1555 requires the UGRA to maintain a system to promptly and efficiently address filed complaints. HB 1555 requires the UGRA to maintain a system to promptly and efficiently address filed complaints. HB 1555 outlines the information it must maintain and requires the district to provide information describing its complaint investigation and resolution procedures. HB 1555 requires the board to develop and implement policies to allow the public to speak with the board about issues under the district's jurisdiction.</p> <p>HB 1555 can strengthen and improve UGRA's governance structure and operations, benefiting the environment and communities relying on the Upper Guadalupe River Authority.</p>	
<p><b>HB 18</b> By: Slawson   Patterson   González, Mary   Burrows   Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the protection of minors from harmful, deceptive, or unfair trade practices in connection with the use of certain digital services.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety</p> <p>5 Ayes, 1 Nays, 2 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Concerns have been raised regarding the use of digital service platforms by children. These platforms may expose children to content that affect their mental health, or put them at risk for self-harm or trafficking. In addition, there is a growing concern regarding what kind of data digital service providers are collecting from minors. 75% of American children aged 13-17 report having at least one social media profile. Simultaneously, many children report experiences on social media that have helped them build community, learn, and avoid isolation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many social media platforms will not allow users under the age of 13 to have an account without parental consent, and include controls that allow parents to limit content and screen time.</p> <p>There are federal regulations that prohibit collecting data on children under the age of 13, but no statutes that outright prohibit all collection of data from minors. Most social media companies do have policies that prohibit them from collecting data based on platform behavior.</p> <p>HB 18 seeks to regulate if and how a digital service provider (DSP) may enter into a contract with a minor, while also requiring certain disclosures from DSP regarding data collection and advertisements.</p> <p><b><i>Prohibitions on Agreements</i></b> HB 18 prohibits a DSP from entering into an agreement with a known minor, unless the minor's parent or guardian provides consent. A DSP may obtain consent by: providing a form for the parent to sign, providing a telephone number for the parent to call, coordinating a video conference call, allowing the parent to respond to an email with additional identity verification, or collecting information related to a parent's government issued ID.</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b></p>

			<p>HB 18 requires a DSP to provide a process for a minor’s parent or guardian to register with the DSP as a verified parent. A verified parent would then be allowed to give consent or perform other functions on behalf of the minor. DSP’s must provide parents with an option to permanently enable some settings, such as privacy settings, data collection restrictions, geolocation, disabling targeted advertisement, and purchase related actions before providing consent.</p> <p><b><i>Duty to Prevent Harm</i></b>          HB 18 requires a DSP to take “reasonable care” to prevent harm to known minors while using their service, including self-harm, substance abuse, bullying, sexual exploitation, unlawful advertising, and unfair marketing practices.</p> <p><b><i>Known Minor Data</i></b>          HB 18 requires a DSP to create a simple process that allows a parent to request and access any data related to their child’s use of the platform. Data must be organized by type and purpose and shall include any third parties the data was disclosed to, any source other than the minor for which the data was collected in association with the minor, the length of time the DSP will store the data, and any index or score assigned to the minor and how the DSP uses it. The DSP must provide an avenue for a parent to request the removal of or dispute the accuracy of the data. The DSP must respond to such a request within 45 days.</p> <p><b><i>Advertising and Marketing</i></b>          HB 18 requires a DSP to disclose information regarding advertisements made to minors on their platform at the time the advertisement is being viewed. This information includes the name of the product, the subject matter, if and why the advertisement was targeted to the minor, and how a minor's data was used to target them for the ad.</p> <p><b><i>Algorithms</i></b>          If a DSP uses algorithms to suggest, promote, or rank information to minors on their platform, HB 18 requires that a DSP must ensure that the algorithm does not interfere with the aforementioned duty to prevent harm. Additionally, the bill requires a DSP to clearly display in their terms of service the manner in which a DSP uses an algorithm to provide information.</p> <p><b><i>Prohibition on Discontinuing Digital Service</i></b>          HB 18 prohibits a DSP from limiting or discontinuing a service based on the nature of communications from the parent regarding enabling features.</p> <p><b><i>Enforcement</i></b></p>	
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			<p>Under HB 18, if a DSP violates any provision of the bill, it will be considered a deceptive trade practice and subject to the remedies provided under The Deceptive Trade Practices Consumer Protection Act.</p> <p><b>Impact</b>                  The provisions of HB 18 aim to prevent children from being taken advantage of by DSPs through their data, and protect them from the harm that may come to them as they navigate the internet. As concerns regarding use of DSP’s by minors continue to grow, it is important that the state prioritize their safety. Some people have contended that DSPs already have robust regulations regarding minors, and the vast provisions of the bill are unnecessary. HB 18 has the potential to create barriers to a myriad of vital information for youth, including information regarding healthcare resources like gender-affirming care and abortion. Additionally, there have been concerns raised about parents or guardians having access to data that could lead to the outing of an LGBTQchild. However, these issues are not specific to just LGBTQ children, but deal more so with the right to privacy in general. While the goal of this bill is to prevent the monitoring of minors, it could increase surveillance and censorship of youth by their guardians. Because HB 18 uses broad language, such as the provision regarding “algorithms”, this bill will be incredibly hard to enforce in practice, and may eliminate algorithms that seek to keep children safe. Overall, the bill increases government regulation regarding the data collection of minors, but puts vulnerable children at risk while impeding on the right to privacy.</p>	
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**LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Tuesday, April 25, 2023**

<b>HJR 47</b> By: Harris, Cody   Raymond	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.	Ways & Means 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	HJR 47 is the enabling legislation for HB 623. HJR 47 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the legislature to exempt animal feed from being considered as tangible personal property in ad valorem taxation if it is for sale.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HJR 79</b> By: Moody	Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the authority of	Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services	HJR 79 proposes a constitutional amendment adding El Paso County to the list of counties where preservation and reclamation districts can issue bonds paid by property taxes for the development and maintenance of recreational facilities and parks. HJR 79 is the enabling legislation for HB 4471.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

	the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.	8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent		
<b>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Tuesday, April 25, 2023</b>				
<b>HB 2460</b> By: King, Tracy	Relating to a requirement that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality obtain or develop updated water availability models for certain river basins.	Natural Resources 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>A water availability model is a computer tool that estimates the quantity and quality of available water resources by simulating water flow through a hydrological system. These models consider various physical, climatic, and environmental factors, such as rainfall, evaporation, soil moisture, topography, land use, and vegetation. They are crucial for assessing how different scenarios, such as climate change, land use change, and water management practices, can impact water availability and for developing sustainable water resource management strategies. During the last legislative session, the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requested updated water availability models for the Brazos, Neches, Red River, and Rio Grande River basins.</p> <p>HB 2460 authorizes TCEQ to update the water availability models for six more Texas river basins, including the Guadalupe, Lavaca, Nueces, San Antonio, San Jacinto, and Trinity Rivers. TCEQ may collect data from all jurisdictions that use the water from Texas rivers, including those outside of the state.</p> <p>These updated models will provide crucial information for Texas water authorities and the legislature to make informed decisions regarding conserving and managing the state's water resources.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 3447</b> By: Bonnen   Paul   Anderson	Relating to the establishment and administration of the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium and the Texas Space Commission.	State Affairs 11 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>HB 3447 establishes the Texas Space Commission, the Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund, and the Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium. HB 3447 aims to secure Texas' position as a leader in space operations and further integrate aerospace and space industries in the state's economy.</p> <p><b><i>Texas Space Commission</i></b> The commission would be overseen by a nine-member board of directors. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor would each select three appointees, and the three remaining members would be appointed by the governor from a list provided by the Speaker. Under HB 3447, the nine-member board, is responsible for:</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing financial services to support aerospace development and infrastructure in Texas;</li> <li>• Managing and implementing agreements with local and federal government agencies, nonprofits, and educational institutions;</li> <li>• Partnering with the consortium to create educational opportunities;</li> <li>• Developing projects that advance space-related economic development as a part of annual strategic planning; and</li> <li>• Establishing the Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund to award grants to eligible entities.</li> </ul> <p>The commission must submit an annual report to the legislature in December.</p> <p><b><i>Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund</i></b>  The Space Exploration and Aeronautics Research Fund would establish a trust fund outside of the state treasury, administered by the Commission in collaboration with the Comptroller. The fund will consist of donations, grants, and gifts provided to the commission as well as funding appropriated by the Legislature. HB 3447 specifies that the fund will support grants to eligible entities, including businesses, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and government entities involved in space exploration, research, or aeronautics industry. Grants awarded by the fund will support the development of emerging technologies, space exploration and flight research, and workforce training. HB 3447 requires the commission to develop administrative procedures that guide distribution of funding.</p> <p><b><i>Aerospace Research &amp; Space Economy Consortium</i></b>  The consortium will be a nine-member executive committee composed of representatives from Rice University, Texas A&amp;M University System, the University of Texas System, as well as appointees of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker. HB 3447 tasks the consortium with identifying research opportunities that promote space-related economic development in Texas. HB 447 requires the consortium to make recommendations to the commission.</p> <p>HB 3447 is an investment in science, technology, engineering, and math that enables the state to remain competitive in the growing space industry. The investments outlined in HB 3447 may result in more opportunities and well-paying jobs for all Texans.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2466</b>   By: Button   Capriglione   González, Mary   Ashby   Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas technology and innovation program.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>7 Ayes,  0 Nays,  0 PNV,  2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas is home to over three million small businesses that provide millions of Texans with jobs. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs, offers nearly \$4 billion annually in grants for technological innovation and product commercialization. These competitive federal grants come from 11 agencies, like the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and NASA. 29 other states have matching programs to support early-stage growth, and HB 2466 aims to create a similar program, the Texas Technology Innovation Program, in Texas.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

			<p>HB 2466 directs the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) to establish this program. Eligible businesses must be based in Texas or have most employees residing in the state. They must also meet federal funding requirements and not receive overlapping funding from another state program. The application process includes "phase zero," "phase one," and "phase two," each with specific requirements. TEDTO can award grants immediately upon businesses meeting the requirements for each phase, with a limit of one grant per fiscal year and a maximum of five grants per phase. HB 2466 also establishes the Texas Technology and Innovation Trust Fund outside the state treasury to fund these grants. The fund consists of gifts, grants, donations, and other designated sources, and the money in this fund can only be used for grants awarded under the program.</p> <p>HB 2466 aims to create a new funding pathway for Texas small businesses focused on technology and innovation projects, promoting job creation, economic growth, and ensuring maximum federal funds reach Texas.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2453</b> By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to the issuance of a digital occupational license by a state agency, county, or municipality.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, occupational licenses are issued through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) in a paper format. HB 2453 allows licensing authorities to issue digital licenses that are easily accessible by the license holder through a website or phone and easily accessible to the public via a website or QR code. It must also be in an easily verifiable format for vendors or authorities.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1708</b> By: Canales   Leach   Sherman, Sr.   Burrows   Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the temperature at which a facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is maintained.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>According to research conducted by Texas A&amp;M University, the number of 100-degree days has more than doubled over the last 40 years in Texas. Extreme heat can pose significant health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations such as incarcerated individuals. Local and county jails are required to maintain facility temperatures between 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. However, there is no such requirement for state prison and jail facilities.</p> <p>HB 1708 addresses this issue by establishing a temperature range between 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 85 degrees Fahrenheit that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) must maintain in state correctional facilities. TDCJ is not required to comply with this requirement until September 1, 2024.</p> <p>HB 1708 will help those who live at state facilities as well as those who work at them from extreme heat.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1621</b> By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and operations of a health care provider participation</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>In 2019, the 86th Legislation authorized the temporary establishment of a Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) in El Paso County. The program will sunset at the end of the year. LPPFs generate a source of non-federal funds for supplemental Medicaid payments.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

	program by the El Paso County Hospital District.	0 Absent	HB 1621 continues El Paso’s LPPF by extending the sunset date for another four years to December 2027. Additionally, HB 1621 allows the district to impose and collect interest and penalties on delinquent mandatory payments, so long as the amount is not larger than the maximum amount that can be charged for other delinquent payments owed to the district.	
<b>HB 1636</b> By: Canales	Relating to baccalaureate degree programs offered by certain public junior colleges.	Higher Education 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Child and family development occupations in the South Texas region have steadily increased and are projected to grow more in the coming year.  HB 1636 attempts to meet this workforce demand by allowing South Texas College to add a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Child and Family Development. HB 1636 raises the cap on how many degree programs South Texas College may offer from five to six and requires one of these programs to be a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Child and Family Development.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1603</b> By: Guillen	Relating to the procedures governing the prosecution of misdemeanor offenses in the jurisdiction of the justice and municipal courts.	Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Nays 0 Absent	Recently, the procedures for appointing an attorney pro tem, a temporary attorney, to represent the state in the prosecution of a misdemeanor case has caused confusion. This confusion was brought on by a change by the 86th Legislature that repealed the mandatory appointment of an attorney pro tem to represent the state in municipal and justice courts. Without needed clarity, the interest of the state cannot be thoroughly represented and some cases may come to a halt.  HB 1603 seeks to address this by authorizing a justice or judge of a justice to appoint any competent attorney as an attorney pro tem in order to represent the state if the state is not represented by counsel at the time of a misdemeanor trial. The bill establishes that an appointed pro tem attorney is qualified to perform the duties of the state’s attorney and may be paid a reasonable fee.  HB1603 aids in the efficiency of Texas courts.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1598</b> By: Darby	Relating to local government and other political subdivision regulation of certain solid waste facilities.	Environmental Regulation 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	HB 1598 aims to create uniformity in state regulation for essential municipal solid waste services while preserving some agency for local governments to control location.  HB 1598 removes receiving a permit to site, construct, or operate a municipal solid waste facility from a political subdivision as a prerequisite to obtaining a permit from the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) for solid waste management companies. HB 1598 prohibits political subdivisions from adopting rules, orders, or ordinances that conflict or are inconsistent with TCEQ requirements for municipal solid waste facilities as specified by TCEQ rules or permits. HB 1598 applies the current prohibition for political subdivision rules and ordinances for hazardous waste management facilities to orders of a political subdivision.	<b><u>Will of the House</u></b>

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			<p>HB 1598 still allows local governments to stop waste processing or disposal in specified areas under the previously granted authority. It permits local governments to create rules to stop development in areas prone to floods or mudslides under the authority of the National Flood Insurance Program.</p> <p>Those supporting HB 1598 state that waste management companies face inconsistency from local governments and political subdivisions for permitting requirements to operate a municipal solid waste facility. This is said to have caused confusion for waste management companies and inefficiency in obtaining permits and commencing municipal waste management operations.</p> <p>Opponents of HB 1598 state that it unnecessarily strips local control and operates under the false premise that this is a large-scale issue. There are many reasons local governments should be able to deny a permit based on siting beyond requirements established by the TCEQ, including considerations of landowners and homeowners, sensitive aquifer outcrop areas, and more environmental considerations like protected lands and endangered species.</p> <p>HB 1598 also appears to directly target the Guadalupe Groundwater Conservation District, currently in litigation with a waste management company over siting and permitting.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1902</b></p> <p>By: Smithee   Johnson, Julie   Morales Shaw</p>	<p>Relating to disclosure requirements for health care provider directories maintained by certain health benefit plan issuers.</p>	<p>Insurance</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1902 expands the definition of facility-based physicians and providers that health benefit plan issuers include in their provider directories. As a result, a wider range of healthcare providers, such as nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, surgical assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists and others, will be included in the required provider directory.</p> <p>HB 1902 offers patients better information about in-network healthcare providers, ensuring Texans can make informed healthcare decisions and access a wider range of providers.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1971</b></p> <p>By: Ashby</p>	<p>Relating to the procedures for acting on a permit or permit amendment application by a groundwater conservation district and the disqualification of board members of groundwater</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) do not have specific deadlines to decide on permit applications. This can cause delays, especially with increasing demand for groundwater.</p> <p>HB 1971 mandates GCD boards to provide written final decisions for permit applications or amendments. The board can choose to either approve the findings of fact and conclusions of law suggested by the administrative law judge or make revisions if needed. The board must release the final decision within 180 days of receiving the proposal unless all parties agree to an extension. In case of a motion for rehearing, the board must issue a final decision within 90 days of the original decision. If the board does not provide a final decision within 181 days, the proposal for the decision made by the administrative law judge is considered final, immediately appealable, and cannot be reheard. A majority vote of a board of 10 or more eligible directors is sufficient for making a decision on a permit or amendment application.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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	conservation districts.		<p>HB 1971 establishes a time limit for a hearing. Applicants in a hearing and a party appealing a board decision on a permit or amendment application must make a written request to the board within 20 days of the decision unless the board includes findings of fact and conclusions of law as part of the final decision. HB 1971 bars a GCD board director from attending a closed meeting and voting on a matter if the director is obligated to file an affidavit due to having an interest in a related business entity or real property unless a majority of directors are also required to file an affidavit related to a similar interest.</p> <p>HB 1971 expedites the groundwater permitting process by setting a deadline for GCDs to decide on permit applications. This helps ensure timely decisions and finality for all parties while allowing GCDs sufficient time to make comprehensive permit decisions.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2459</b> By: Vo</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of violations and administrative penalties of the Employment of Children.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) enforces the state's Child Labor laws. Upon identifying a violation and determining a penalty, TWC issues a preliminary notice to the employer. Employers have 21 days to appeal this determination with TWC. If an appeal is filed, a TWC hearing officer conducts a hearing and decides whether to enforce the violation. If the employer disagrees with the decision, they can either file a motion for rehearing with TWC within 14 days or seek judicial review by filing a lawsuit against TWC. However, the Child Labor Unit cannot appeal if they disagree with the TWC hearing officer's decision.</p> <p>HB 2459 aims to provide the Child Labor Unit with appeal rights and an additional level of appeal for both parties at the TWC. Specifically, HB 2549 repeals existing provisions and replaces them with the following:</p> <p><b>Penalty Assessment</b> HB 2459 permits child labor investigators, instead of the TWC, to assess penalties for child labor law violations. Sexually oriented businesses employing individuals under 21 years of age in violation of state law also face these penalties. HB 2459 maintains the \$10,000 penalty cap and the list of factors for determining the penalty amount.</p> <p><b>Preliminary Determination Order</b> Under HB 2459, child labor investigators will issue preliminary determination orders if they find a violation. These orders must state the facts, violation, penalty amount, and inform the accused of their right to a hearing. The investigator will send the order to the person's last known address in TWC records.</p> <p><b>Hearings</b> Under HB 2459, TWC will establish child labor appeal tribunals to hear and decide disputed preliminary determination orders. A person can request a hearing before a tribunal within 21 days of receiving the notice. They must pay the penalty if they do not request a hearing within the given period.</p> <p><b>Judicial Review</b></p>	<p><b>Favorable</b></p>

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			<p>HB 2459 allows a person to file a suit to appeal TWC's final order if they have exhausted all other administrative remedies. The suit must be filed within 30 days of receiving the final order, with TWC as the defendant. The judicial review follows the same process as an appeal under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act.</p> <p><b>Payment of Penalty</b>          HB 2459 requires a person to pay the penalty within 30 days of the final TWC order or, if appealing, send the amount to TWC for deposit in an interest-bearing escrow account. HB 2459 doesn't retain the alternative options provided by repealed provisions but keeps the reimbursement process for penalties that are reduced or not upheld by a court. Collected penalties are sent to the comptroller for deposit in the general revenue fund.</p> <p>HB 2459 provides a method for appeal for the Child Labor Unit if they disagree with the TWC hearing officer's decision, strengthening protections for workers and children and improving enforcement of child labor laws in Texas.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1394</b>  By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility to participate in certain drug court programs.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes  <input type="radio"/> Nays  <input type="radio"/> PNV  <input type="radio"/> Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, specialty courts provide the highest level of supervision for mild to moderate offenders that are at a high risk of violating their probation. These courts serve an incredibly important purpose by providing support such as substance use treatment, mental health counseling, and services for veterans. Specialty courts have a high rate of success, with the re-arrest rates for those who have completed programs around 30%, compared to the average, which is roughly 60%. Currently, there is a barrier in accessing these courts due to statutory limitations on what kinds of offenses make a person ineligible. If an individual uses a weapon or force in the offense, they are restricted from the program. This requirement has been removed only from veteran courts, resulting in more participation and better outcomes.</p> <p>HB 1394 seeks to widen eligibility for drug courts. In a case in which the use of alcohol or a controlled substance significantly contributed to an offense where an individual used a weapon, force, or caused death or serious bodily injury to another, HB 1394 allows the prosecuting attorney to consent to that individual's participation in a drug court program. Additionally, if a juvenile engages in conduct exhibiting the need for supervision and has committed an offense involving a dangerous weapon resulting in the death or bodily injury to another where alcohol or a controlled substance significantly contributed, the prosecuting attorney may consent to the individual participation in a drug court program.</p> <p>Durg courts assist high risk individuals with achieving long term sobriety and avoiding further contact with the justice system. By reducing recidivism, these programs subsequently save the state funding, as every \$1 invested in drug courts, \$3.36 is saved by taxpayers in criminal justice costs. Expanding eligibility will ensure that justice-involved juveniles have access to the resources they need while centering public safety.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 185</b></p> <p>By: González, Mary   Moody   VanDeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the inclusion of chronically absent students as students at risk of dropping out of school and the collection and reporting of data regarding those students.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>During the 2017 - 2018 academic school year, nearly 2,700 Texas schools had significant rates of chronic absence. The issue has only worsened in recent years – in the 2020-2021 academic school year, nearly 15% of students were chronically absent. Reasons why students may miss school are varied and nuanced, as some act as caretakers for their siblings, hold jobs, or don't have reliable transportation to and from school. Even though this issue is so pervasive, the term "chronically absent" is not defined in the Texas Education Code, nor does the Texas Education Agency (TEA) report chronic absences data. This lack of transparency and investment has served to further exacerbate an issue that is important to educators, children, community members, and parents.</p> <p>HB 185 seeks to address this in three ways. First, the bill defines a chronically absent student as "a student who is absent from school for more than 10 percent of the minutes of school operation time allocated for instruction within a school year or a six-week grade reporting period." HB 185 mandates that public school districts and open enrollment charter schools annually report through the Public Education Information Management System the number of chronically absent students. The data must be disaggregated by race, ethnicity and status, including the number of students with dyslexia, who are enrolled in special education, bilingual, or are educationally disadvantaged. Under HB 185, TEA is required to collect, report, and aggregate annual data, as well as make it publicly available.</p> <p>Problems cannot be solved unless there is a full and nuanced understanding of them. HB 185 aims to provide necessary data for the state to gain such an understanding, allowing them to move forward and provide solutions for families that need them.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 98</b></p> <p>By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of on-campus mental health services by a school district and reimbursement under Medicaid for certain services provided to eligible students.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety</p> <p>7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas school districts are authorized to contract with outside mental health entities to provide services to students. However, districts are unable to bill Medicaid for such services, and are not provided with much structure regarding the provision of services in a school setting. According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the student to counselor ratio at schools should be 250:1, but only 2% of districts meet this standard. A lack of access to mental healthcare disproportionately affects low-income and students of color.</p> <p>HB 98 aims to expand access to mental healthcare in schools through two provisions. First, the bill requires that the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) allow school districts to enroll as a provider under Medicaid for the provision of mental health services to students who are Medicaid recipients. Additionally, HB 98 authorizes a public school district to contract with local mental health authorities to provide mental health services on a school campus. If such an authority conducts a mental or behavioral health assessment on a student, the results of any assessment or subsequent services must be reported to the child's primary care provider at the request of the parent or guardian.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			With early intervention, individuals can avoid long-term health consequences that are associated with mental illness. HB 98 will help to provide Texas students with the support they need to thrive.	
<p><b>HB 87</b></p> <p>By: Murr   Smith   Jetton   Bucy   Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the presidential electors of this state.</p>	<p>Elections</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Several states have passed laws to prevent "faithless electors" from voting for someone other than the candidate for whom they were chosen to vote. Texas has no such law. In 2016, an abnormally high number of electors broke with their party and voted for a different presidential candidate. In Texas, for example, two Republican electors voted for candidates other than Donald Trump.</p> <p>HB 87 lays out procedures to replace electors who withdraw, die, or are declared ineligible and requires electors to swear by an oath that they will vote for the candidate for whom they were chosen to vote. The bill applies specifically to electors who cast a ballot for presidential and vice-presidential votes.</p> <p>HB 87 authorizes the electors nominated by the original candidate to name the political party's replacement nominee if the original candidate withdraws, dies, or becomes ineligible to serve after the 74th day before the election. The Texas Secretary of State (SOS) must inform the party of the candidate's certification status.</p> <p>HB 87 requires elector nominees to execute an oath swearing that, if selected as an elector, they will vote for the candidates that the party nominated. If an elector violates this oath and attempts to vote against the party's nominee, they must vacate the position and be replaced. The secretary of state would fill the vacancy with a substitute elector nominated in accordance with political party rules.</p> <p>HB 87 aims to ensure that electors do not attempt to thwart the popular vote and cast their vote for the state's choice rather than their own will.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 159</b></p> <p>By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the procedure by which a taxing unit is required to provide public notice of certain ad valorem tax-related information.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The existing tax code outlines the procedures for taxing units to provide public notice of ad valorem tax-related information. An ad valorem tax is based on an item's assessed value, such as real estate or personal property. There is a need for notice of this tax-related information to be clearer and more accessible to the public.</p> <p>HB 159 seeks to amend the current tax code to streamline the public notice process, particularly for taxing units in certain counties with specific population requirements. HB 159 requires a taxing unit's designated officer or employee to post information on the homepage of the taxing unit's website and publish a summary of the information and the website address in the county's general newspaper. The proposed requirements in HB 159 would not apply to a taxing unit if it is located wholly or partially in a county with a population of one million or more or if no part of the taxing unit is located in a county where a general newspaper is published.</p> <p>HB 159 aims to improve the availability of tax-related information to the public and consider the specific needs of different counties based on population and local resources. By making these adjustments, the general public will have easier access to ad valorem tax-related information in their county.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 1242</b> By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility for unemployment compensation of certain employees who leave the workplace to care for a minor child.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry  8 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 Pandemic, many parents struggled to find childcare, resulting in increased work absences or job disruptions to respond to their children’s needs. Due to these increased absences or disruptions, parents were involuntarily separated from their jobs. Currently, individuals qualify for unemployment benefits for certain cases of involuntary separation, but this does not include cases relating to unforeseeable or unexpected childcare-related events.</p> <p>HB 1242 includes leaving the workplace to care for one’s own minor child due to unexpected illness, accident, or other unforeseeable events among the types of involuntary separation that do not disqualify an individual from receiving unemployment benefits under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, if there was no reasonable alternative care available.</p> <p>HB 1242 provides a solution for parents that lose their income due to unpredictable childcare needs.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1393</b> By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to an optional service retirement annuity that provides an increasing annuity under the Employees Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments &amp; Financial Services  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>An annuity is an investment option to provide a guaranteed income during their retirement and provide specified payouts based on the investment strategy and amount invested. Currently, the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS) only has fixed annuity options which do not allow flexibility for cost of living increases. HB 1393 aims to provide eligible ERS members with an annuity option that is reduced initially but gradually grows over time.</p> <p>HB 1393 creates the option for ERS members eligible for service retirement annuity that is not reduced because of age to either select the standard service retirement annuity, an optional service retirement annuity, or a gradually increasing annuity. HB 1393 requires ERS to provide this option by reducing the member’s annuity for a period immediately after the member’s retirement and annually increasing the annuity amount by two percent or another percentage as determined by ERS. ERS is authorized to provide additional similar options with different increase percentages or different implementation periods. An ERS member could elect an option only once, the option may not be changed by a retiree, and members retiring under the proportionate retirement program are not eligible. HB 1393 requires ERS to notify members regarding the amount their annuity will be reduced and the length of the implementation period, and ERS must retain a signed copy of the notice. HB 1393 authorizes the ERS’ board of trustees to adopt rules for its implementation.</p> <p>This option is meant to be actuarially neutral and allow retirees to receive a reduced annuity at first while the remaining money continues to be invested. Once they are out of the implementation period, they are permitted to start receiving the increased amount based on the percentage of their plan. However, this option is not a specified cost-of-living option but is intended to be actuarially sound and neutral, so retirees do not experience a loss of their investment. HB 1393 provides additional options for retirement plans that can provide a cost of living relief.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 1607</b>  By: Vandeaver</p>	<p>Relating to the detachment and annexation of school district territory by petition.</p>	<p>Public Education  12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>There is currently a pending Texas Supreme Court case on a detachment and annexation issue between neighboring independent school districts; one district approved a petition requesting a detachment and annexation and the other district denied the petition and failed to vote. This district’s lack of action on the petition led the commissioner of education to hear the case and determine an outcome. His decision was upheld by a county district court; however, the court of appeals disagreed with his ruling, and a decision is now pending from the Texas Supreme Court. HB 1607 aims to serve as a preventative measure so these conflicts do not reoccur by adding clarifying language regarding the result of disapproval of the petition.</p> <p>HB 1607 sets a 10-day deadline upon petition receipt to give notice of the potential change to district territory and subsequent hearing, a 30-day deadline upon petition receipt for each relevant board of trustees to conduct a hearing, and a 15-day deadline post-hearing to adopt a resolution. HB 1607 also clarifies that should the boards fail to come to a decision regarding the petition within 45 days of when the petition is received, the petition is automatically considered disapproved.</p> <p>HB 1607 could help prevent future instances of prolonged judicial disputes by providing clear instructions t on the proceedings of conducting a petition requesting detachment and annexation of district territory, and what constitutes approval and disapproval of a petition.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 438</b>  By: Schofield</p>	<p>Relating to the annual base salary from the state of a district judge.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The annual base salary of a Texas district judge is currently \$140,000 by statute. Texas ranks 41st in judicial salaries compared to other states. The Legislature raises salaries infrequently, with the last raise occurring in 2013. Typically, by the time the Legislature raises salaries, inflation has decreased a judge’s purchasing power.</p> <p>HB 438 specifies that the annual base salary for district judges will be adjusted by the average percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), or a similar index if this is discontinued. HB 438 ensures that Texas district judge salaries adjust with inflation.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 290</b>  By: Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to multiple employer welfare arrangements.</p>	<p>Insurance  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 290 modifies existing statute to increase accessibility to Multiple employer welfare agreements (MEWAs) to make it easier for small businesses to secure health insurance for their employees.</p> <p>MEWAs are group health insurance plans that cover employees from multiple employers, allowing smaller businesses to negotiate better rates and health insurance options comparable to larger employer group plans.</p> <p>HB 290 eliminates certain restrictions that currently apply to MEWAs that exempt them from regulations governing health insurers and basic policy coverage mandates. Under HB 290, the main requirement for employers to enter into MEWAs is that most of its business must be in Texas. Small business owners are also</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			allowed to count themselves as both an employer and employee to initially qualify for a certificate of authority to enter a MEWA.	
<b>HB 299</b> By: Murr	Relating to the creation of a voluntary accreditation for recovery housing; authorizing fees.	Public Health 9 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Recovery houses provide a supportive environment for individuals recovering from substance use disorders, offering affordability, peer support, and easy access to family, friends, work, and school. However, the unclear nature of Texas' recovery house industry can lead to stigmas and negatively affect treatment success, property values, land use, and neighborhood safety.</p> <p>HB 299 addresses these issues by defining recovery houses, establishing a voluntary accreditation system, and outlining the roles of accrediting organizations and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Accreditation empowers consumer choice, provides reliable referral information, and offers an avenue for reporting concerns.</p> <p>Under HB 299, the HHSC will adopt minimum accreditation standards consistent with the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and Oxford House Incorporated. These two organizations will be the sole approved accrediting entities, responsible for developing accreditation requirements, procedures, fees, staff training, and a code of ethics and contributing to an annual report on accredited recovery houses. Starting September 1, 2025, unaccredited recovery houses will be ineligible for state funding.</p> <p>Certain facilities, like nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and hotels, cannot be accredited. HB 299 requires a designated responsible party for recovery houses accredited by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (but not Oxford Houses). This person must complete training and inform the accrediting organization of any changes in their role within 30 business days. HB 299 prohibits accredited recovery houses from offering or accepting payment for securing or soliciting patients and advertising false, misleading, or deceptive information, including accreditation status. Accrediting organizations can enforce rules through suspension, audits, and corrective action plans or revoking accreditation.</p> <p>HB 299 aims to clarify the recovery house industry and ensure that all Texans in recovery have safe and quality housing.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 527</b> By: Wu   Schofield   Longoria	Relating to exemption of certain civil actions from being subject to a motion to dismiss on the basis of involving the exercise of certain constitutional	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>In 2018, the Texas Supreme Court case <i>Youngkin v. Hines</i> held that the Citizens Participation Act provides for expedited dismissal procedures intended to protect the exercise of constitutional rights of free speech, freedom to petition, and the right of association. This act, also known as the anti-SLAPP law, unintentionally created a negative effect that could potentially allow attorneys to use anti-SLAPP protections as a defense against a malpractice claim; if an attorney commits malpractice, the client cannot sue the attorney for relief because the law protects the attorney's right to petition.</p> <p>HB 527 adds language that would ensure attorneys refrain from using the protections provided by the anti-SLAPP</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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	rights.		law as a defense against malpractice.	
<b>HB 623</b> By: Harris, Cody   Raymond	Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.	Ways & Means  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Currently, animal feed is exempt from taxation from the point of harvest to the day it is purchased, except for when it is part of a store’s inventory. Including animal feed as tangible personal property is harmful to animal feed stores, as they have to pay additional property taxes on their inventory. As a result, feed stores may choose to have less inventory in stock or lose a larger margin of their profits, which is harmful to ranchers and farmers who have animals to care for and harmful to feed stores who need to turn a profit to stay in business.  HB 623 would allow animal feed that is part of the store’s inventory to be exempt from the appraised value of tangible personal property if the feed is for sale. HB 623 ensures that retail stores are not taxed on animal feed inventory, allowing this feed to remain available and profitable for businesses who carry it.  HJR 47 is the enabling legislation for this bill.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 683</b> By: Cole   Guillen   Turner   Dutton   Howard	Relating to baccalaureate degree programs offered by certain public junior colleges.	Higher Education  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	In Texas, many paramedics also serve as firefighters, making them eligible to take certain emergency preparedness courses at public institutions for free. However, not all paramedics are recognized as firefighters and therefore don't receive this benefit. HB 683 aims to resolve this issue by extending the tuition exemption to all paramedics, regardless of their firefighter status.  HB 683 requires public colleges to exempt tuition and lab fees for paramedics enrolled in emergency medical courses. This exemption does not include certain deposits or any additional charges the institution poses on students, such as the cost to retake courses. The exemption applies to subsequent semesters if the student progresses toward a degree or certificate. The institution is not required to provide exemptions for online courses.  Under HB 683, The Texas Education Coordinating Board (THECB) must create a standard list of eligible degree programs and adopt rules for granting or denying tuition exemption. The rules must include which courses and certifications qualify for an exemption, student eligibility requirements, and criteria for excluding distance education courses.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 964</b> By: Jetton   Leo-Wilson   Cook	Relating to the applicability of sex offender registration requirements to the offense of improper relationship between educator and student.	Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Currently, requirements for the Sex Offender Registry do not include educators convicted of having engaged in an improper relationship with a student, leaving vulnerable minors at risk.  HB 964 seeks to address this by including the offense of improper relationship between an educator and student in the offenses for which a conviction or adjudication requires a person to register under the sex offender registration program.  HB 964 aims to prevent teachers who have engaged in inappropriate relationships with their students from moving to another school and continuing their behavior.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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<p><b>HB 2071</b></p> <p>By: Jetton   Harris, Cody   DeAyala   Cortez</p>	<p>Relating to certain public facilities used to provide affordable housing.</p>	<p>Urban Affairs</p> <p>8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Public facility corporations are nonprofit corporations created by a sponsoring governmental entity – such as a municipality, county, school district, housing authority, or special district – to finance, develop, and acquire public facilities. In 2015, Section 303.042 of the Local Government Code was amended at the 11th hour of the session to allow for a 100% property tax exemption for 75 to 99 years on leasehold interests granted by a public facility corporation to developers of multifamily housing developments in exchange for providing a minimum level of affordable housing. This “PFC exemption tool,” has exploded in use over the past few years, raising questions about the long-term impacts of this tool on public education and local government finances. The Houston Housing Authority alone has approved taking 80 apartment projects off the tax rolls in recent years, which will result in a loss of an estimated \$1.6 billion in property taxes over the next 20 years.</p> <p>The units in the PFC-exempt apartment developments are often rented at or close to market rate, allowing the owner to experience no reduction in revenue on those units, while paying no property taxes and also no sales taxes on construction materials. This tool is poorly calibrated and lacks restrictions, resulting in the failure to provide affordable housing to those who really need it, discrimination against voucher holders, and inadequate public benefits, as well as a host of other issues.</p> <p>HB 2071 seeks to address some of these issues, but does not address the core problems with the tool, including the following: (1) the bill does not guarantee the production of housing that is truly affordable to those who need it, and (2) the bill does not reign in the abuses with this tool being used to provide large subsidies to private developers without commiserate public benefits.</p> <p><b>Affordability</b></p> <p>Under the current law, many of the apartment developments receiving a 100% property tax exemption across the state – worth close to \$1 million a year and around \$600 per income-restricted unit – are providing little or no reductions in rents below market level rents (i.e., what an apartment unit would rent for without a property tax exemption). For example, the Houston Chronicle reported last month on several PFC projects recently approved by the Houston Housing Authority’s PFC, where the PFC’s rent restrictions on one-bedroom units at the acquired apartments will be \$1,262 (80% AMI) and \$1081 (60% AMI) – but the current market rents at the properties are more affordable at \$956 and \$1050.</p> <p>There is no mechanism in HB 2071 that would fix this issue. In other words, there is nothing in this bill that would ensure that a share of the tax benefit – or any of the tax benefit, for that matter – actually goes toward reducing rents at the PFC exempt property. HB 2071 does not provide for any deeper levels of affordable housing for new construction projects beyond what is required under current law (50% of the units at 80% AMI), which are market level or higher than market level rents in most of the state. The bill makes a minor adjustment to the affordability levels for new construction projects approved by a PFC board without a majority elected officials and</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b></p>
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that also lack city or county approval (e.g. public housing authorities). In these projects, 10% of the units must be affordable at 60% AMI and 40% at 80% AMI. HB 2071 provides for some deeper levels of affordable housing for acquisition projects compared to what is required under current law, by requiring that 20% of the units be affordable to families making 60% AMI and 30% of the units at 80% AMI if the project undergoes a rehabilitation of 15% of the gross cost of the existing development, or 50% at 60% AMI if there is no rehabilitation. But even then, there is no guarantee that the rents in the acquired project will be less than the market rents that would be charged without a property tax break.

HB 2071 adds some important guardrails that exist in other affordable housing programs, by adding rent restrictions on the income-restricted units, and adjusting the income restrictions by family size. The affordable units must be also distributed proportionately across each category of units in the development, based on number of bedrooms per unit, to help ensure that some of the two and three-bedroom units, if any are offered at the property, are affordable.

**Accountability**  
 HB 2071 requires new and existing PFC developments to publish on its website information on the development’s compliance with tax exemption requirements and policies regarding tenant participation in the housing choice voucher program. HB 2071 also requires that the public facility user submit a compliance audit report to the chief appraiser of the applicable appraisal district no later than June 1st each year. Audits must be completed at the user’s expense by an independent auditor or compliance expert with experience in housing compliance. Unfortunately, this allows PFCs to hire their own auditors, rather than allowing a state agency like TDHCA or another independent entity to provide the auditors, potentially leading to biased reports. Additionally, HB 2071 does not require the approval of PFC exempt projects by the impacted taxing entities, giving the taxing entities no voice in decision making about properties leaving their tax rolls.

**Transparency**  
 The public facility user must submit a report to TDHCA with specific information on their development before occupancy or no later than the 30th day after acquisition. TDHCA must post a copy of this report without tenant information on its website. HB 2071 also requires TDHCA to notify a public facility user in writing of an instance of noncompliance and gives the public facility user 60 days to remedy any violations.

**Limits Extra-Jurisdictional Use of the Tool**  
 HB 2071 specifies that PFCs that finance, own, or operate a multifamily residential development can only do so if the development is located inside the sponsor’s area of operation or boundaries. This removes the ability for PFCs to develop residential properties all over the state, stopping them from withholding property tax revenue from taxing entities that are not in their jurisdiction.

		<p><b>Discrimination</b>          HB 2071 attempts to address housing voucher discrimination but as written may not accomplish this. Essentially, although this bill aims to address discrimination, it leaves things as they have been where voucher holders can still be denied if their voucher does not cover or exceed the full amount of rent charged. Currently, the housing voucher program provides rental assistance that is not equal to the cost of rent, and tenants typically pay a portion of their rent out of pocket, meaning that the voucher will never cover the full cost of rent. As a result, this bill may not actually prevent housing voucher discrimination because landlords can still discriminate against housing voucher holders as they could before. The only positive provision related to voucher discrimination is that HB 2071 does require the public facility user to market available units directly to those participating in the housing choice voucher program and to notify local housing authorities of the development’s acceptance of tenants in that program.</p> <p><b>Tenant Protections</b>          HB 2071 protects tenants by prohibiting landlords from retaliating against them based on their attempt to participate in a tenant organization. Additionally, landlords must give 30 day notice if the lease will not be renewed and can only do this if the tenant is in material noncompliance, committed one or more substantial violations, failed to provide required eligibility information, or committed repeated minor violations of the lease that cause issues with livability, health and safety, quietness, management, or adverse financial effects. Tenants are also prohibited from waiving these lease protections. These protections are enhanced compared to non-subsidized rental units.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b>          HB 2071 is a step in the right direction for regulating the PFC exemption, but it does not resolve the core problems with this tool. It removes the ability of PFCs to remove apartment complexes from the tax rolls outside of their jurisdictional boundaries, tries to implement some accountability, adds some transparency, and ensures some enhanced tenant protections. However, HB 2071 does nothing to require or ensure that the 100% tax breaks that apartment developers are receiving through this tool are resulting in truly affordable housing for those who need it, nor does it ensure that a significant share of the tax benefit is actually being used to provide a public benefit. The biggest reforms that are missing from this bill are (1) a benefit test requiring that a significant share of the tax benefit received by the private developer is being used to reduce rents at the property; (2) deeper affordability requirements on new construction units; (3) a requirement for the exempt projects to receive approval from the impacted taxing entities; and (4) an audit requirement from a truly independent source. Additionally, HB 2071, as written, does not protect housing voucher recipients from discrimination.</p>	
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<p><b>HB 2194</b></p> <p>By: Ordaz   Button   King, Ken   Burrows   Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to establishing a "Made in Texas" labeling program; authorizing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2194 establishes a "Made in Texas" Labeling Program through Texas Economic Development. Having a standardized label to ensure product sourcing, this program will promote Texas manufacturers and artisans under an easily recognizable label.</p> <p>HB 2194 requires the program to create a logo, administer, and establish criteria for using the "Made In Texas" logo or equivalent phrasing. HB 2194 requires criteria including a requirement that all or all significant parts and processing of a product originating in Texas for the use of the label.</p> <p>HB 2194 makes using, reproducing, or distributing the logo without TEDTO's consent or violating a TEDTO rule under its provisions a violation. The attorney general must provide a notice to the violating individual identifying the violation, that the person may be civilly liable if they do not cure the violation within 30 days of receiving the notice, and the maximum potential civil penalty of \$1,000. A person is liable for a maximum of \$1,000 for each violation following its cure period. HB 2194 establishes that each day a violation continues, it can be considered a separate violation. The attorney general is authorized to bring an action to recover a civil penalty or to prohibit someone from committing a violation. Penalties collected are to be deposited into the general revenue fund. HB 2194 does not apply to the labeling of wine.</p> <p>HB 2194 will allow Texans to easily recognize and support Texas-produced or manufactured products.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1788</b></p> <p>By: Buckley   Burrows   González, Mary   Bailes   Kitzman</p>	<p>Relating to the labeling of analogue and cell-cultured products.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Producers of traditional protein sources like beef and chicken follow strict rules and invest in research to make high-quality products. As new alternative protein products enter the market, Texas must update labeling rules for fair competition and to help consumers know what they're buying.</p> <p>HB 1788 updates labeling for alternative proteins. Analogue products made from plants, insects, or fungi must use labels like "analogue," "meatless," or "plant-based." Cell-cultured products from animal cells grown in a lab need labels like "cell-cultured" or "lab-grown." These labels should be large and near the product name. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will create rules to implement these changes. HB 1788 also clarifies that terms like "egg," "fish," "meat," and "poultry" don't include analogue or cell-cultured products based on federal laws and regulations.</p> <p>HB 1788 helps Texas consumers and businesses by creating definitions and standards for clear labeling in an emerging market of alternative protein products.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1755</b></p> <p>By: Button   Hunter   Ordaz   Burrows  </p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund.</p>	<p>International Relations &amp; Economic Development</p> <p>8 Ayes,</p>	<p>As Texas transitions from an industrial economy to a knowledge-based, technology-enabled one, the state must invest in proven workforce development programs to address the skills gap and maintain a strong economy to continue attracting major employers.</p> <p>HB 1755 establishes the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund (LSWFF) to help develop a workforce tailored to high-demand occupations in Texas. HB 1755 creates a fund and advisory board to award grants to public junior</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group – An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

Longoria		<p>0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>colleges, public technical institutes, and nonprofit organizations offering performance-based workforce training in high-demand fields. Grants would provide funds for curriculum development, instructor fees, training materials, work-related expenses, work-based experience stipends, and participant support services.</p> <p>HB 1755 directs The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to implement and administer the LSWFF and grant program. TWC will manage the fund, supported by legislative appropriations, interest, and donations, with assistance from a six-member advisory board. The commission will establish a grant program for eligible institutions, awarding grants based on the advisory board's recommendations. Eligible entities must administer training programs, demonstrate successful outcomes, attract non-state funding, and collaborate with TWC, corporate and educational partners.</p> <p>Under HB 1755, TWC will also set performance benchmarks, including at least 50% successful job placement for participants. Entities must reimburse TWC for unmet benchmarks unless noncompliance is due to uncontrollable circumstances. Grant recipients must submit biannual progress reports to TWC. Grants are capped at \$15,000 per participant, with funds allocated to various training and support expenses.</p> <p>Investing in workforce development is crucial to sustaining Texas's economic competitiveness. HB 1755 is a common-sense, performance-based approach to encourage Texans to pursue jobs requiring specialized training and to enhance the state economy by promoting business competitiveness and recruitment.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1689</b> By: Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the use of county hotel occupancy tax revenue for an electronic tax administration system and the reimbursement of tax collection expenses.</p>	<p>Ways &amp; Means  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>In 2015, a law was enacted to allow cities to use their hotel occupancy tax (HOT) to support electronic tax administration systems. Counties, however, are not allowed to use HOT funds for this same purpose.</p> <p>HB 1689 allows counties to use no more than the lesser of 1% or \$75,000 of HOT revenue each year to pay for the creation, maintenance, operation, and administration of an electronic tax administration system that collects hotel occupancy taxes. HB 1689 also specifies HOT funds may not be used to conduct an audit. Counties can also contract with third parties to assist with electronic tax administration systems.</p> <p>HB 1689 allows counties to use HOT taxes to pay for electronic tax administration systems, granting cities and counties the same ability to use these funds.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1791</b> By: Davis</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications of experts in certain health care liability claims.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1791 ensures that chiropractors or physicians can serve as witnesses in chiropractic malpractice cases. Chiropractors are not currently included in the list of individuals who are allowed to serve as an expert witness in malpractice claims for chiropractic care.</p> <p>HB 1791 allows a chiropractor or physician to qualify as an expert witness in a suit with a health care liability claim against a chiropractor. The witness would be allowed to testify on the causal relationship between the care provided and the injury, harm, or damages claimed.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group — An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

<p><b>HB 1989</b> By: Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the fees assessed by a district clerk for copies of certain court documents.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>District clerks charge a fee when providing a copy of documents on file or of record. Criminal conviction data (at district clerks' disposal) helps with the prosecution of individuals who commit crimes across state lines. For this reason, fees for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services are already waived.</p> <p>HB 1989 prohibits district clerks from charging a fee to criminal justice agencies who request documents for a criminal justice purpose, including a request to determine an individual's ability to purchase a firearm. This helps other states more easily access criminal justice data and increases public safety. Counties have reported that any loss of revenue associated with these fees are meager in comparison to the time saved by county employees attempting to collect fees from out of state jurisdictions.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 3993</b> By: Paul</p>	<p>Relating to the automatic admission of students with a nontraditional secondary education to certain public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education  9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>In 2015, SB 1543 established a class ranking formula for homeschool graduates seeking college admission. This formula applied to voluntary class rank college admission policies but did not clearly apply provisions to homeschooled graduates for automatic admission to institutions if they graduated with a GPA in the top 10%. HB 3993 expands the eligibility of homeschooled students by including them in the same provisions given to public school graduates for automatic admissions.</p> <p>H.B. 3993 provides students who completed a "nontraditional secondary education," including a home school, for automatic admission to a higher education institution if they fulfill the same requirements as public or private school graduates. If the homeschooled student's education did not include the necessary high school graduating class ranking to qualify for application of automatic admission to institutions, HB 3993 requires the institution to determine applicants' eligibility by calculating their class ranking according to their standardized testing scores.</p> <p>Homeschooled students have vastly different requirements for curriculum and standardized testing. HB 3993 would be unfair to students who earn their class ranking from a level playing field.</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2871</b> By: González, Mary   Capriglione   Button   Bucy</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a program at the University of Texas at Austin to promote computer science education capacity in public schools.</p>	<p>Higher Education  9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Only 47% of Texas public high schools offer foundational computer science courses and only 5% of Texas high school students enroll in these courses when they are offered . The skills and information these classes offer are foundational for 21st-century students to function in society as technology continues to advance and establish itself in everyday life. One of the largest contributing factors to the lack of enrollment in these courses is the workforce shortage of certified computer science teachers, with less than one-third of Texas high schools having a teacher with a computer science (CS) certification. HB 2871 seeks to give teachers the opportunity to obtain a CS certification by establishing the computer science education capacity state program through the University of Texas at Austin.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group — *An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives***

			<p>HB 2871 requires the University of Texas at Austin to design, develop, and implement a computer science education capacity promotion program to support and streamline computer science education and professional development for teachers in Texas.</p> <p>The program must: provide schools and colleges access to evidence-based and accredited computer science professional development resources provided by other institutions, nonprofit organizations, or other accredited CS providers; recruit educators for the computer science field through continued professional development and certification stipends; and provide stipends to educators who successfully obtain certification in evidence-based computer science education. The program must also prioritize providing services to public schools lacking certified CS educators and other underserved geographic locations or communities.</p> <p>As technology adoption grows across Texas, educators are struggling to keep pace. HB 2871 creates a pathway to certify more Texas teachers in computer science to help prepare students for the growing technology industry.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3060</b> By: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of recycling and recycled products.</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3060 seeks to remove barriers to companies' widespread adoption of advanced recycling, the process of breaking down hard-to-recycle plastics and turning them into new products.</p> <p>HB 3060 updates provisions in HB 1953, passed by the 86th Legislature, that classified certain chemical recycling facilities as manufacturing facilities rather than solid waste facilities to operate outside solid waste facilities' regulatory and fee framework. HB 3060 classifies two new technologies for handling plastic waste as a manufacturing process: solvolysis and depolymerization. Currently, only pyrolysis and gasification facilities are classified as manufacturing facilities and are exempt from solid waste regulation and fees.</p> <p>HB 3060 encourages the expansion of advanced recycling in which companies recycle and sell those hard-to-breakdown plastics that would otherwise end up in landfills, rivers, or oceans. Environmental groups worry that advanced recycling will only work to encourage the use and production of plastics when using less plastic is the friendliest option for the environment.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 4018</b> By: Ashby   Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the use of Parks and Wildlife Department land for carbon sequestration or similar ecosystem services projects.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation, and Tourism</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Carbon sequestration is an available method of reducing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to reduce global climate change. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has the opportunity to facilitate carbon sequestration with public or private entities using nature-based solutions or similar ecosystem services projects.</p> <p>HB 4018 authorizes TPWD to enter into agreements with public or private entities to develop nature-based carbon sequestration or similar projects on TPWD land. HB 4018 requires TPWD to deposit money received from a project into specific accounts depending on the purpose of the land on which the project is located.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 4857</b> By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the cosmetology licensure compact.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4857 adds Texas to the list of member states participating in the Cosmetology Licensure Compact. The compact will allow licensed cosmetologists who move from one compact state to another to work without long wait times to receive a new state license.</p> <p>HB 4857 would allow cosmetology licensees to move freely between member states for employment. HB 4857 outlines eligibility requirements for states to have continuous participation in the compact, a multistate licensing program, and requirements for anyone moving to another member state. HB 4857 authorizes the Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission (CLCC) and a Member State’s Licensing Authority to regulate the cosmetology practice, including carrying out disciplinary measures.</p> <p>HB 4857 states that to utilize the compact, a cosmetologist must have a license in good standing in a member state. HB 4857 also creates a centralized database with information regarding licensure, investigations, and other pertinent information for all licensees in member states. Under HB 4857, all agreements between the CLCC and the member states are binding according to the terms. However, HB 4857 outlines provisions to amend the compact or allow a member state to withdraw.</p> <p>HB 4857 allows lawfully practicing cosmetologists in compact states to work quickly without a hiatus. This is especially helpful for military spouses or family members who may have to move every few years.</p> <p>This bill takes effect on the date the compact is enacted into law in the 10th member state.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 3656</b> By: King, Ken   Cook</p>	<p>Relating to operating agreements between holders of a distiller’s and rectifier’s permit and certain alcoholic beverage permit holders.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Current law allows wineries and breweries to share the costs of production with other respective businesses based inside and outside of Texas. However, distilleries are not able to engage similar cost sharing practices allowed for wineries and breweries, increasing their production costs and operational inefficiencies.</p> <p>HB 3656 addresses this by authorizing permitted distilleries to make agreements with Texas distilleries to use their facilities for certain activities outlined under contract and approved by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). Under HB 3656, both parties must detail the activities in the agreement, including manufacturing, refining, bottling, labeling, and selling. HB 3656 allows Texas distilleries to procure alcohol from non-Texas sellers for manufacturing purposes or industrial use.</p> <p>Hb 3656 reduces restrictions and enables Texas distilleries to scale their businesses, ultimately benefiting the industry and state economy.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

**Texas Legislative Study Group — An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives**

<p><b>HB 2891</b> By: Talarico</p>	<p>Relating to the use of prescription glucagon medication on public and private school campuses.</p>	<p>Public Education  13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Symptomatic hypoglycemia occurs when a person's glucose levels drop to life-threatening levels, and if untreated, the individual is at risk of experiencing seizures, unconsciousness, or death. Severe hypoglycemia can be treated with glucagon, a hormone that raises blood glucose levels. In a school setting, this emergency medication can be a matter of life or death; it is vital that schools have the authority to administer this medication to diabetic students in crises. Financial barriers and limitations in healthcare coverage can render families unable to provide their child's school with prescribed glucagon medication, and current law does not allow schools to store or administer undesignated glucagon to students in crises.</p> <p>HB 2891 authorizes all schools in Texas (public and private) to implement a policy for the maintenance, administration, and disposal of undesignated glucagon medication. The policy must allow a school nurse or unlicensed diabetes care assistant to carry and administer glucagon medication to a student exhibiting hypoglycemia with the appropriate treatment plan and individualized health plan with the school or district. The policy does not require schools to purchase or allot any funding for the maintenance and administration of glucagon medication that would create a negative fiscal impact. The medication must be stored in a secure location easily accessible to authorized medication administrators.</p> <p>If an open-enrollment charter or private school chooses to adopt the policy laid out by HB 2891, their policy may allow parents or guardians of diabetic students to submit a diabetes management and treatment plan, and the school may seek employees to serve as unlicensed diabetes care assistants, regardless of whether or not the individual is a health care professional. All schools must review the student's diabetes management and treatment plan and collaborate with the child's guardians and physician if possible to develop an individualized healthcare plan. The unlicensed diabetes care assistants must be under the supervision of the principal and school employees cannot receive disciplinary action for opting not to take on this role. The training for unlicensed diabetes care assistants must be in accordance with the Texas Diabetes Council. School employees cannot be held liable for any action taken in compliance with these provisions pertaining to the care of diabetic students.</p> <p>HB 2891 also states that professions given prescriptive medical authorities may prescribe a standing order of glucagon medication in the school's name. Additionally, pharmacies may dispense glucagon medication to the school without requiring any identifying information to be given related to the user.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2574</b> By: Lambert   Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to requirements for notice advertising the sale of property to enforce a self-service storage</p>	<p>Business &amp; Industry  9 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Currently, self-storage facility owners are subject to public notice requirements for tenants' liens due to unpaid or abandoned property. Texas law requires two newspaper notices of these sales to notify owners that time is running out before their personal property is sold by the facility owner. The public notices also serve as advertisements for the facility owner looking for bidders on the property.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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	facility lien	0 Absent	<p>HB 254 adds two alternatives to the public notice requirement: publishing the notice on a website that regularly advertises or conducts auctions of personal property, or giving notice in a “commercially reasonable manner.” This would allow lessors to publish the notice on their website, social media page, or any other place the lessor determines to have the most reach.</p> <p>Some have argued that newspapers are still the best method of providing public notice, especially in small communities. However, HB 2574 does not preclude a lessor from publishing in a local newspaper.</p>	
<b>HB 2544</b> By: Campos   Raymond	Relating to the physician assistant licensure compact; authorizing a fee.	Public Health  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Physician's Assistants (PAs) are important members of the healthcare workforce. PAs have to undergo a complicated process to get licensed in each state they want to work in.</p> <p>HB 2544 allows Texas to join the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, allowing licensed PAs who are in good standing in one state to work in another state within the compact without needing a new license. Texas already belongs to several other occupational licensure compacts, including physicians, nurses, physical therapists, psychologists, and emergency medical personnel.</p> <p>The compact includes rules on how states participate, how PAs can work under the compact, and how states can take action against PAs if needed. The PA Licensure Compact Commission oversees the compact and creates a system for sharing information on PAs across participating states. The compact sets standard requirements for states to follow, ensuring consistent quality among PAs, and covers dispute resolution, enforcement, and how states can change or leave the compact. In Texas, the Texas Physician Assistant Board would manage the compact and create necessary rules.</p> <p>To qualify, PAs must meet specific qualifications, such as graduating from an accredited program, holding a current certification from the National Commission on Certification of PAs, passing background checks and exams, and having no disqualifying history or restrictions in the past two years.</p> <p>HB 2544 simplifies working across state lines for PAs, increasing access to in-person and telehealth care and improving mobility, including during public health emergencies. Texas military families also benefit, as active-duty personnel and spouses can obtain privileges based on an unrestricted license from participating states.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 3053</b> By: Dean	Relating to the municipal disannexation of certain areas annexed during a certain period of time.	Land & Resource Management  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,	<p>In 2017, the 85th legislature, during the 1st called session, passed SB 6 to end involuntary annexation by large municipalities in Texas. Landowners have voiced concerns that certain municipalities annexed areas quickly to avoid the reforms between the time the legislation passed and its enactment. HB 3053 addresses these concerns by requiring municipalities with 500,000 or more residents that annexed areas between March 3, 2015, and December 1, 2017, to hold elections on disannexing the areas. Municipalities whose extraterritorial jurisdiction includes or is adjacent to active federal military installations in active use as of May 1, 2023, are exempt.</p>	<b><u>Will of the House</u></b>

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		0 Absent	<p>HB 3053 requires the election to be held on the first uniform election date following September 1, 2023, and municipalities cannot use public money for promotion or advocacy related to the election. The ballot must include information on the disannexation's effects on services, taxes, fees, and special districts. If the majority approves, the municipality must disannex the area, including residential and commercial properties, but they must retain ownership of infrastructure like water treatment facilities. Following disannexation, special districts can only be dissolved if their governing body agrees, and emergency services districts must continue providing services.</p> <p>Disannexation does not release the area from its share of municipal debt obligations. The municipality must continue imposing property taxes until the area has paid its share of the debt, which can only be used for the area's share of the debt and collection costs. Residents can pay their share in full at any time.</p> <p>HB 3053 would allow voters in areas annexed during a specific period to vote on disannexation and provide guidance on procedures if the majority approves disannexation.</p>	
<p><b>HB 63</b> By: Swanson   Noble   Hull   Oliverson   Klick</p>	<p>Relating to reports of child abuse or neglect and certain preliminary investigations of those reports.</p>	<p>Human Services 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Current law allows anonymous reporting of suspected abuse and neglect. Sometimes suspected cases are made out of spite towards the parent or legal guardian of the child, leading Child Protective Services (CPS) of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to waste resources and time on investigations. HB 63 seeks to change procedures for anonymous reporting and investigation processes for child abuse and neglect cases to protect the child and their parent or legal guardian.</p> <p>HB 63 requires a reporter to provide the facts that led them to believe the child has been abused or neglected. HB 63 also requires a reporter to provide their name, telephone number, and home address. If the reporter is a mandatory reporter, then they must include their business address and profession.</p> <p>If a reporter uses the DFPS toll-free line and is unwilling to provide their information, then the DFPS representative is required to inform the reporter they are not authorized to take anonymous reports, the reporter may report the abuse or neglect to 9-1-1 or a local or state law enforcement agency, and that the reporter's identity remains confidential and is only disclosed under applicable law or to the investigating law enforcement agency. HB 63 requires audio recording of oral reports, and the reporter is informed that they are being recorded and that making a false report is punishable by a state jail or third-degree felony.</p> <p>HB 63 authorizes certain DFPS employees to have access to a reporter's information. Permitted employees include those directly involved in the investigation, case, or other processes involving the child, parent, or legal guardian subject to the report, these employees' supervisors, or if the employee has a legitimate professional interest requiring them to know the reporter's identity.</p> <p>HB 63 aims to protect children while protecting parents or legal guardians from non-substantial claims and investigations. However, it compromises a valuable avenue for reporting child abuse, anonymous reporting.</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>

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			There are numerous reasons why someone may be uncomfortable revealing information when making a claim (they may be undocumented, facing charges, etc.). That doesn't mean we don't want them reporting abuse.	
<b>HB 833</b> By: Campos	Relating to an evaluation by the housing and health services coordination council of the 2-1-1 services provided by the Texas Information and Referral Network.	Human Services  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Texas 2-1-1 connects Texans with various services available, including services provided by local health and social service agencies. The United Way of Texas has reported Texas 2-1-1 lags behind other states in terms of efficiency, innovation, and system integration and requires critical adjustments.</p> <p>HB 833 intends to address this by requiring the Housing and Health Services Coordination Council (HHSCC) to complete and submit an annual evaluation of the Texas Information and Referral Network's 2-1-1 services to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). The evaluation will consider data from user calls and website visits, 2-1-1 Texas user interviews and recommendations regarding user satisfaction, outcome statistics of 2-1-1 users, and 2-1-1 Texas leadership interviews and recommendations regarding improving Texas 2-1-1. HB 833 authorizes TDHCA to use general revenue funds to secure contracts on HHSCC's behalf to complete their duties for the annual evaluation. HB 833 expands the council's biennial plan to include improving the delivery of community resource information and referrals using the evaluation's results.</p>	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 4140</b> By: Lujan   Canales   Lopez, Ray   Cortez   Guillen	Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation to provide department services on federal military property.	Transportation  12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Military installations are crucial assets for the state and the country, and ensuring they are properly maintained and functioning is important. Effective coordination and collaboration between the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and federal entities like the U.S. Department of Defense is essential to achieving this goal. However, TxDOT's authority is currently limited to road services, which restricts its ability to respond to the changing needs of Texas military installations.</p> <p>HB 4140 seeks to address this issue by expanding TxDOT's authority to provide any department services, including road maintenance, infrastructural improvement, equipment relocation, or utility extension services for military installations.</p> <p>HB 4140 expands TxDOT's ability to provide necessary services to better meet the changing needs of the military in Texas and support the defense and security of both the state and the nation.</p>	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 1275</b> By: Plesa   Shaheen   Lalani   Johnson, Jarvis	Relating to procedures for the issuance of personal identification certificates to certain persons 65 years of age or older whose driver's licenses are surrendered.	Homeland Security & Public Safety  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>Senior citizens require a form of personal identification for Medicare applications, personal banking, prescriptions, housing, and everyday responsibilities. Currently, when surrendering their driver's license, people 65 or older must make an in-person appointment with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Coming in person may be difficult for older individuals with disabilities or other ailments, making them homebound and reliant on caretakers.</p> <p>HB 1275 requires DPS to adopt procedures allowing persons 65 or older to apply for a personal identification certificate online or by phone if the person surrenders their driver's license as prescribed by DPS. The driver's license must be in compliance with the federal REAL ID program, the minimum standard for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. HB 1275 aids in easing a transitory process for older individuals.</p>	<b>Favorable</b>

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<p><b>HB 1542</b>  By: Thimesch</p>	<p>Relating to certain temporary sales by a mixed beverage permit holder.</p>	<p>Licensing &amp; Administrative Procedures  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The 86th Legislature passed HB 1545 which extended the sunset date of the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission (TABC), with some code and process changes for increased efficiency. This unintentionally repealed a provision allowing TABC to issue up to four temporary wine and beer retailer's permits per year to the Texas Motor Speedway in Denton County. Unintentionally through the repeal of other sections and chapters in the code, language relating to Texas Motor Speedway was removed. This language repealed the authorization of temporary sales by a mixed beverage permit holder at certain racing facilities.</p> <p>HB 1542 reinstates sales for wine and malt beverages at certain racing facilities, like Texas Motor Speedway. HB 1542 adds language allowing a mixed beverage permit holder to temporarily sell wine and malt beverages in a public facility with a 40,000 plus seating capacity, not usually covered by a license or permit during a motor vehicle racing event sponsored by a professional motor racing association.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
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