



# Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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**LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS UNTIL 9:00 AM – Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

<p><b>HB 3050</b> By: Bonnen</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas state buildings preservation endowment fund, including the transfer to the fund of the unencumbered balances of certain other funds.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>In previous years, the State Preservation Board has been required to repeatedly request funds to be appropriated to the board in order to manage and maintain specific projects of State buildings and grounds. HB 3050 establishes the Texas State Buildings Preservation Endowment Fund to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore the state buildings and grounds over which the board has jurisdiction, such as the Texas State Capitol and the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.</p> <p>The fund would be composed of money appropriated to the fund by the Legislature; money transferred from former Capital Renewal Trust Fund, Governor's Mansion Renewal Trust Fund, and State Cemetery Preservation Trust Fund; certain gifts, grants, and donations; and returns received from investment of money in the fund.</p> <p>The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company would be responsible for holding, managing, and deciding the amount of distributions of funds. The State Preservation Board may request a distribution amount that must not exceed what the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company deems as available funds for the year.</p> <p>HB 3050 ensures the State Preservation Board's access to funds for long-term state facility maintenance projects to preserve Texas History.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
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**LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

<p><b>HB 1000</b> By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the composition of districts for the election of members of the Texas House of Representatives.</p>	<p>Redistricting  9 Ayes, 4 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Constitution (Article 3, Section 28) requires legislative redistricting to be conducted by the legislature "at its first regular session after the publication of each United States decennial census." The 2020 census data needed to draw the new districts was not released until August 2021, after the regular session of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature had adjourned. Nonetheless, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> called session of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the House used the delayed census data to adopt a new redistricting plan that was used for the 2022 legislative elections. However, the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, is the first regular session following the publication of the 2020 federal census, and HB 1000 is intended to ensure that the legislature meets the constitutional requirement to conduct redistricting in the first regular session by "ratifying the Texas House of Representatives district maps passed in 2021."</p> <p><b><i>Voting Rights Concerns</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>
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			<p>As reported by the Redistricting Committee, HB 1000 is identical to the plan used in 2022 elections. When the current maps were adopted in 2021, serious concerns were expressed that the plan, as passed, ignored the fact that although 95% of the state’s population growth was driven by people of color, the plan actually reduced the opportunity for people of color to elect their candidates of choice in effective minority districts. These concerns are now the subject of litigation in federal court.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last decade, the state population increased at a 16% growth rate, and people of color are responsible for 95% of the state’s four-million-person population increase, especially in the rapid diversification of fast- growing suburban communities and major urban areas.</li> <li>• Over the last decade, the state’s Hispanic population increased by 20.9%, the Black population by 19.2%, and the Asian population by 64.4%.</li> <li>• By contrast, the “Non- Hispanic White ” (Anglo) population increased by only 1.6% - or 187,252 - barely enough people to make up one state House district.</li> <li>• Harris, Dallas, and Tarrant counties actually had a net loss of Anglo population, while many suburban counties have experienced a decrease in the percentage of population that is Anglo.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>HB 4559</b> By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the application of statutes that classify political subdivisions according to population.</p>	<p>State Affairs 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>When a statute refers to the population of a political subdivision, it is based on the most recent Federal Census. Many state statutes apply to political subdivisions based on population size; as population data changes with each census, it is necessary to review and update each population bracket in state statutes to ensure statutes continue to apply to the political subdivisions intended. This statutory update did not occur in the 87th regular legislative session due to federal delays regarding the administration and adoption of the 2020 Census.</p> <p>HB 4559 updates population brackets in accordance with the 2020 Census and revises the descriptions of the political subdivisions across roughly twenty codes. Additionally, HB 4559 specifies that changes are not intended to revive any law that was indirectly repealed by a law passed in the 87th Legislature, and any law passed in the 88th Legislature that conflicts with the provisions of HB 4559 supersedes this bill.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 9</b> By: Ashby   Hunter   Hernandez   Bonnen   Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the development and funding of broadband and telecommunications services; providing for transfers of money for funding.</p>	<p>State Affairs 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 9 aims to expand broadband access, particularly in unserved and underserved areas, closing the digital divide that exists for many Texans. HB 9 establishes the \$5 billion Broadband Infrastructure Fund enabled by HJR 125.</p> <p>The fund, overseen by the Comptroller, would be nested in the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and consist of legislative appropriations, money transferred or deposited to the credit of the fund, investment earnings, grants, and donations. HB 9 enables the Comptroller to combine the fund with other state assets for investment through the trust. This investment approach facilitates financial solvency and self-sufficiency of the fund despite economic fluctuations for the purpose of broadband expansion. HB 9 limits the use of the broadband infrastructure fund to specific purposes, namely:</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Statutory provisions governing the Broadband Development Office (BDO);</li> <li>● Funding the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF);</li> <li>● Funding 9-1-1 and upgrading 9-1-1 emergency response systems;</li> <li>● Supporting the Texas Broadband Pole Replacement Program;</li> <li>● Matching federal funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program;</li> <li>● Increasing digital connectivity for qualifying schools under the federal Schools and Libraries E-rate Program; and</li> <li>● Improving public safety telecommunications connectivity.</li> </ul> <p>At least 1.4 million Texas households lack high-speed internet, illustrating the need for broadband expansion to bridge the digital divide and ensure all Texans are able to participate in the digital economy. HB 9 is a significant step toward addressing this gap and ultimately improves the state economy, connectivity of underserved communities, and the lives of Texans.</p>	
<p><b>HB 11</b> By: Dutton   King, Ken   Harless   Buckley   Jones, Jolanda</p>	<p>Relating to the rights, certification, and compensation of public school educators, including financial and other assistance provided to public schools by the Texas Education Agency related to public school educators and to certain allotments under the Foundation School Program.</p>	<p>Public Education 10 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texas public schools are facing a teacher shortage that has impacted learning in our classrooms. HB 11 seeks to increase support for teachers by making significant changes in the recruitment, retention, and preparedness of Texas teachers.</p> <p><b>Teacher Incentive Allotment</b> HB 11 raises the minimum and maximum amount of the teacher incentive allotment under the Foundation School Program as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Master Teachers salary cap increases from \$32,000 to \$36,000;</li> <li>● The base amount for each exemplary teacher is increased from \$6,000 to \$9,000, and the cap is increased from \$18,000 to \$25,000;</li> <li>● The base amount for recognized teachers is increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 and the cap is increased from \$9,000 to \$15,000.</li> </ul> <p>“Acknowledged” teachers may receive a minimum base of \$3,000, or, if increased by the high needs and rural factor, up to \$9,000. HB 11 does not address concerns that standardized test results are overemphasized as a factor in incentive rewards.</p> <p><b>Data Collection on Teacher Vacancy</b> The Texas Education Agency (TEA) must collect data from school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the recruitment and retention of teachers. The data must include the classification, grade level, subject area, and duration of the vacant teaching positions in the district.</p> <p><b>Waiver of Certain Examination or Certification Fees</b></p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b></p>

The board must waive certification examination fees for first-time test takers as well as any application fee for obtaining teacher certification.

***Reading Instruction from Educator Preparations Program***

HB 11 prohibits educator preparation programs to teach educators the three-cueing method when teaching students how to read. Research suggests that the three cueing approach to reading is counterproductive for weaker students.

***Prohibited Sanctions for Teachers Leaving Employment***

HB 11 prohibits SBEC from imposing a sanction against a teacher who left the job under a probationary, continuing, or term contract, and left the job after the 45th day before the first day of the upcoming school year because leaving was caused by a serious illness, caring for a family member’s serious illness, the move was due to a partner’s job, or other family needs that necessitated their moving or quitting.

***Additions to the Teacher Designation System***

Currently, a school district or open-enrollment school may designate a teacher as a master, exemplary, or recognized teacher for five years based on an appraisal process and performance criteria. HB 11 expands the designation of a classroom teacher to include an “acknowledged” teacher for five years. HB11 replaces “recognized” for a teacher who holds a National Board Certification with the designation of “nationally board certified.” A grant system shall be established from funds appropriated to provide money and technical assistance to expand the implementation of the local designation system and increase the number of eligible teachers for designation.

***Employed Retiree Teacher Reimbursement Grant Program***

The commissioner must establish a grant program to award funds to reimburse schools that hire teachers who were retired before September 1, 2022. This grant program shall increase contributions to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) of Texas.

Modifications may be made on the amount appropriated by the legislature, including: providing a previous date or date range other than September 1, 2022, for when a teacher must have retired when hiring the teacher to be eligible for this program, or limiting eligibility to a school district hiring a retired teacher to those who hold special certifications.

***Teacher Quality Assistance***

The TEA must develop training and provide technical assistance to school districts regarding strategic compensation, staffing retention, scheduling efforts that improve the professional development of the teacher,

and programs that encourage students and community members to become teachers through teacher apprenticeship programs.

***Teacher Time Study***

The TEA shall maintain a technical assistance program to support schools by studying how schedules, required non-instructional duties for classrooms, and professional development requirements for educators affect the amount of time classroom teachers work each week; and refining the schedules to ensure teachers have sufficient time during work hours to fulfill all job duties and student’s needs.

***Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program***

HB 11 repeals the Texas Teacher Residency Program enacted by the 83rd Legislature and replaces it with a new program titled the Texas Teacher Residency Partnership Program. This program will enable qualified education preparation programs to form partnerships with schools to provide residency positions to partnership residents enrolled in these programs as a candidate for educator certification.

***Qualified Educator Preparation Programs***

The State Board for Educator Certifications (SBEC) must propose rules outlining the requirements for qualifications and approval of an educator preparation program. A qualified educator preparation program must use research-based best practices for recruitment and admittance of candidates. The commissioner shall oversee requirements for an educator preparation program until the SBEC adopts its own rules for program qualification. Participating districts and schools must adhere to several specific provisions to participate in this program that include:

- Working with a highly qualified cooperating teacher;
- Issuance of a residency educator certificate done through the SBEC and awarded to candidates who qualified.
- TEA must provide any technical and logistical support necessary for the schools and qualified EPP.

SBEC must appoint people to the negotiated rulemaking committee and may decide whether or not it is necessary to engage with stakeholders’ feedback when considering the implementation of rules, which could leave stakeholders out of the rulemaking process.

The participating district is entitled to an allotment of \$22,000 for each partnership resident who is employed in their residency position. This amount can be increased up to \$42,000 when considering the high needs and rural factors. A district may qualify for an additional \$2,000 for each partnership resident who works for special education and bilingual education certification.

***Eligibility for Tuition-Free Enrollment in Prekindergarten***

		<p>HB 11 expands eligibility for tuition-free enrollment in prekindergarten classes for children of public school teachers.</p> <p><b>Mentorship Program Allotment</b>  A school district is entitled to an allotment to fund a mentoring program and provide stipends for a mentor teacher. This allotment is contingent on the district’s implementation of a mentoring program for teachers and the teacher’s completion of a training program. The allotment is capped at 40 teachers per district during a school year unless appropriations are made to provide more allotments per district.</p> <p><b>Impact</b>  While HB 11 does include some potentially helpful provisions to increase teacher retention and recruitment, this legislation falls short in several ways to adequately compensate and support our teachers.</p> <p>As written, the HB11 provision repealing the elected State Board of Education’s (SBOE) authority to veto State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC)’s rules gives ultimate rulemaking authority to an appointed body and allows an SBEC negotiating committee to exclude stakeholders from negotiations.</p> <p>HB 11 expands the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) that was intended to “award” highly effective teachers. However, TIA tends to over-emphasize STAAR test results that are not the product of just one teacher’s work and inadequately emphasizes the differing needs and extenuating factors of students that are often a greater predictor of student outcomes. Only 179 school districts receive TIA funds and many teachers in those districts are not working in positions eligible for TIA.</p> <p>The HB 11 Teachers’ Time Study could offer insight into the profession, but such data is meaningless without the funding to provide teachers livable salaries and guaranteeing their compensation from allotment funding. The best way to retain teachers is giving them a salary that lets teaching be their only job instead of a 2nd or 3rd job if time allows it.</p> <p>Changes to the Mentorship Program Allotment and the Residency Partnership Allotment do not guarantee that teachers will receive additional compensation as no language in HB11 requires the primary allowable expense to be compensation of residency.</p> <p>The cap of 40 teachers per district allowed to participate in the Mentorship Program is 15 less than the current rule. Capping the number of teachers who can participate does not take into consideration the vastly different sizes and needs of districts across the state.</p>	
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			<p>HB 11 also lays the groundwork for the impacts of HB 100, as educators certified through the residency pathway would not have to take the same certification exams as other educators and would earn higher salaries. Every certified teacher should be required to take the state pedagogy exam and HB 11 is setting up the potential for the SBEC to not require a pedagogy test for certification.</p>	
<p><b>HB 100</b> By: King, Ken   VanDeaver   Dutton   Howard   Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the compensation of public school educators and to the public school finance system, including enrollment-based funding for certain allotments under the Foundation School Program.</p>	<p>Public Education  10 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The 2024-25 House budget bill earmarks \$5 billion for public education in Rider 82, contingent on actions of the 88th Legislature. Of this, HB 100 allocates \$4.4 billion to: tie some Foundation School Funding to enrollment; adjust the minimum salary schedule for teachers; raise the basic allotment; and create several new types of allotments. Additionally, HB 100 creates the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) Program and outcomes bonus and revises funding mechanisms for special education services.</p> <p><b><i>Adjusting School Employee Minimum Salaries</i></b> HB increases the Minimum Salary Schedule (MSS) of each teacher, librarian, counselor, and nurse by \$80 per month. Currently, school districts are required to allocate at least 30% of a basic allotment increase for employee compensation. HB 100 raises this allotment to 50%. Funds must be used on those already employed, and not for new teachers or staff. However, HB 100 applies the \$80 per month salary increase to an annual minimum salary, leaving teachers on 10-month contracts shortchanged.</p> <p>HB 100 also replaces the current formula and establishes two potential MMS – one if HB 11 is passed and another if it doesn't. The schedules are based on years of service and certification. The only difference between the schedules is the minimum salary requirement for a teacher who completes a residency partnership program, which would be established by HB 11. Completion of the program would entitle a teacher with less than 5 years experience and the residency educator certificate to a minimum salary of \$43,000. In contrast, a teacher with less than 5 years experience with a base certificate is only entitled to \$40,000. If both HB 100 and HB 11 pass out of the 88th Legislature, HB 100 shall prevail over any conflict between the two bills.</p> <p>School districts that increase the compensation of the aforementioned employees by at least \$8,000 than the preceding year for the 2023-2024 school year are considered to be in compliance with the bill's pay raise requirement. Should a district find the employee's performance unsatisfactory, the district is not required to pay the minimum salary the following school year. For districts that do not meet the requirements for the minimum salary schedule, a one-time bonus for 2024-2025 would also satisfy HB 100's pay raise. This amount of the bonus must be equal to what the employee would have received should the district have complied with compensation increase requirements.</p> <p><i>Salary Transition Allotment</i></p>	<p><b><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></b></p>

HB 100 establishes an annual salary transition allotment for three school years (2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 school years). This allotment covers any gap in funding between what the school entitlement was under ADA and what the school district would be entitled to for enrollment-based funding for certain programs, and the differences between the current MSS and what HB 100 would enact. The state would provide 100% of associated costs for the first year and will subsequently be reduced by one-third the following year and then two-thirds before sunsetting. The transition allotment would ease the salary adjustments for schools before sunsetting.

***Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) Program***

HB 100 requires the education commissioner to establish the R-PEP Program to incentivize and support multi-district, cross-sector, rural college, and career pathway partnerships to expand opportunities for underserved students in rural areas. Under the program, eligible school districts that lack economic scale partner with at least one other school district to offer a wider variety of college and career pathways. Each partnership must offer college and career pathways that align with regional labor market projections for high-wage, high-demand careers. The partnership would be managed by a “coordinating entity” whose employees would be eligible for Teacher Retirement System benefits. The commissioner would establish rules for the program.

The commissioner would also establish a grant program to assist the start of a partnership under the R-PEP program.

***R-PEP Allotment and Outcome Bonus***

HB 100 creates an allotment for the R-PEP program equal to the basic allotment, or the sum of the basic allotment and the small and mid-sized district allotment, multiplied by 1.15 if the student is educationally disadvantaged, or by 1.11 if the student is not educationally disadvantaged.

If a district exceeds minimum outcomes related to the number of graduates who display college, career, or military readiness, it is entitled to an annual outcome bonus of \$2,000 if the annual graduate is educationally disadvantaged or enrolled in a special education program, and \$1,000 if the annual graduate is not educationally disadvantaged.

***Basic Allotment Adjustments***

HB 100 increases the basic allotment from \$6,160 per school year to \$6,250 for the 2023-2024 school year and \$6,300 for the 2024-2025 school year. This is an increase of \$140. If the basic allotment were adjusted for inflation using the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index, it would be roughly \$7,325 per student today, roughly an extra \$1,165 per student. For the 2024-25 school year, the basic allotment would need to be \$7,506 for 2024 and \$7,671 for 2025 to account for inflation.

***Enrollment-Based Funding***

Currently, the majority of school formula funding is based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA). HB 100 requires the commissioner to establish a method to determine average enrollment to base certain programs on enrollment, rather than attendance. Enrollment-based funding would be tied to the following allotments:

- Instructional Facilities allotment
- Bilingual allotment
- Career and Technology allotment
- Public Education Grant allotment
- Gifted and Talented allotment
- Book Safety allotment (created by HB 100; a minimum of \$3 per student for the purchase of TEA-approved vendor materials)
- Dropout Recovery School and Residential Placement allotment

***Other Allotment Changes***

*Open-Enrollment Charter School Allotment*

HB 100 revises the formula for the allotment which a charter holder is entitled to receive for the open-enrollment charter school from \$125 to the difference between \$500 and the total amount of funding provided to certain districts under the small and mid-sized district allotment. This is in addition to funding under the foundation school program, per student in average daily attendance.

*Creation of an Advanced Mathematics Pathways and Certain Programs of Study Allotment*

HB 100 creates an advanced course allotment of \$10 per student for those participating in an advanced mathematics pathway; studying computer programming, software development, or cybersecurity; or studying in a specialized skilled trade, such as plumbing, electrical, or welding, and aviation maintenance or applied agricultural engineering. These advanced mathematics pathways and certain technical skill programs may be conducted in-person, remotely, or hybrid. HB 100 allows districts who do not offer these courses to receive the allotment they provide transportation for a student to participate in another high school (that has equal or better campus rating) in the same or neighboring district. An additional allotment equal to 0.1 and the small and mid-sized district allotment is provided for applicable districts receiving the mathematics pathways and programs of study allotment. Charter schools are not eligible for the additional allotment.

*Creation of a Fine Arts Allotment*

For each 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student in ADA enrolled in fine arts education courses approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), a school district is entitled to an annual allotment equal to the basic allotment, or the sum of the basic allotment and the small and mid-sized district allotment to which the district is entitled, multiplied by .008. Fine Arts courses that qualify for approval must be authorized by the State Board of Education (SBOE),

		<p>provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success, and require a student in full-time attendance to receive at least 225 minutes of weekly fine arts instruction. The TEA shall publish a list of approved fine arts courses each year.</p> <p><i>Increased Transportation Allotment</i>          HB 100 raises the transportation allotment from \$1.28 per mile to \$1.54 for districts and counties that provide transportation for eligible special education students.</p> <p><i>Special-Education Full Individual and Initial Evaluation Allotment</i>          A minimum of \$500 is given to school districts for each student who received a full individual and initial evaluation by the district.</p> <p><i>Fast-Growth Allotment and District Tax Rate</i>          HB 100 strikes the current \$320 million cap on the Fast Growth Allotment. HB 100 increases the rate per \$100 of taxable value from \$0.05 - \$0.06 in calculating the voter-approved tax rate of a district. This would allow districts to vote to access the sixth Golden Penny, which provides tax revenue not subject to recapture by the state.</p> <p><i>Compensatory Education (Comp Ed) Allotment</i>          HB 100 increases the Compensatory Education (Comp Ed) Allotment weight from 0.275 to 0.2755 for a student who is educationally disadvantaged.</p> <p><b><i>Special Education Programs</i></b>          HB 100 redefines “special services” to incorporate both “special education” and “related services” as defined by the federal Individuals with Disability Act. The basic allotment of a student enrolled in a district with special services is adjusted by the intensity of service and designated by the commissioner ruling. The special education grant program shall expire on September 1, 2026.</p> <p>HB 100 strikes through the language “self-contained classrooms” which is found throughout Section 29.022 of the Education Code and replaces the language with “special education classrooms.” These classrooms are defined as a classroom primarily used for the delivery of special education services to students who spend on average less than 40% of the day in a general education classroom. HB 100 expands video camera placement by requiring that all areas of special education classrooms be covered by video surveillance with audio. Additionally, HB 100 clarifies that the annual report on the language acquisition of children eight or younger who are deaf or hard of hearing must give the percentage of the instruction day the child spends on average in a general education setting.</p>	
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***Service Group Allotment and Special Education Transition Funding***

Every six weeks a student receives eligible services in a special education program, a school district is entitled to funding from the Service Group Allotment. The amount for the Service Group Allotment is set by the legislature but shall come from the Special Education Transition Funding for the 2024-25 through 2026-27 school years. Funding shall be determined by four levels of service groups established by the commissioner, which consider the differing levels of needs to teach these students. A district may receive an allotment for each service group in which the student is eligible. At least 55% of the allotment must be used towards a special education program.

HB 100 creates the Special Education Transition Provisions for the 2024-25 through 2025-26 school years, in which the commissioner is authorized to determine the weights or amounts. For the 2026-2027 school year, the commissioner may adjust the weights or amounts provided in the Appropriations Act. The amount for this biennium may not exceed what would have been provided by the current Special Education Allotment plus any additional amount provided in the Appropriations bill. These transition funds expire on September 1, 2028. Once this transition funding expires, the commissioner shall define seven tiers of the intensity of service for funding. The commissioner must submit proposed allotment weights for the tiers of the intensity of service to the Legislative Budget Board by December 1st of every even-numbered year.

These changes are desperately needed and long overdue. School districts are currently spending as much as \$2 billion above what is provided for by state funding for special education services. This bill would allow the commissioner time to develop and implement a funding system based on the intensity of need and the cost of appropriate services. However, the funding for the biennium is limited to the funding current formulas provide plus any additional amount. Currently, none of the \$5 billion set aside in HB 1 for public education has been designated for the purpose of increasing special education funding, which leaves these programs at the current, severely inadequate level of funding.

***Hold Harmless and District Transition Allotments***

Under the Texas school finance system, the wealthiest districts already have significant advantages in collecting Maintenance & Operations (M&O) taxes, even after recapture payments are collected. The difference between the wealthiest and most disadvantaged districts would continue to grow under the various hold harmless and transition allotment proposals in HB 100.

When the 86th Legislature passed HB 3 – the session’s omnibus school funding bill – Formula Transition Grants (FTGs) were instituted to ensure districts were guaranteed the lesser of either:

- a 3% increase of the district’s total M&O revenue per ADA the district would have received for the biennium under prior law; or

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 128% of the statewide average amount of M&amp;O revenue per ADA the district would have received for the biennium under prior law.</li> </ul> <p>This provision was designed to help school districts transition to the new funding levels under House Bill 3, and was set to sunset after the 2023-2024 school year. This program was intended to help higher wealth school districts ease into a more equitable model. Because FTGs are statutorily capped at \$400 million per school year, HB 100’s decision to continue this program for another 5 years comes at a high cost to the state.</p> <p>HB 100 also allows districts to access a sixth Golden Penny without a tax ratification election. This increases the amount of tax collection a district is able to access and protect from recapture without voter approval. An increase in access to golden pennies raises concerns because students in property wealthy areas will have access to far more resources based on local wealth, rather than the taxing effort of the district. Again, this provision deepens the inequities in the education system.</p> <p>Finally, HB 100 creates a brand new hold harmless provision for a very specific subset of districts that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• received a formula transition grant funding in the 2023-2024 school year;</li> <li>• adopted an M&amp;O tax rate for the 2022-2023 school year equal to the district’s maximum compressed rate plus five cents; and</li> <li>• is subject to recapture.</li> </ul> <p>This is an additional hold harmless provision that advantages wealthier districts, and establishes a permanent floor of revenue per student only in these very specific areas. Schools in these districts will always receive at least the amount of revenue realized during the 2023-2024 school year. It is unclear which specific school districts would fall into this category. However, it is also concerning that this new hold harmless provision does not have a sunset date, and is an additional level of funding protection for specific schools on top of the continuation of the FTG funding advantage.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The mission of free public education is to ensure that all children, regardless of zip code or socioeconomic background, have access to a quality education that enables them to achieve their potential. HB 100 makes some important changes to our education system that particularly will help our rural schools. It also is likely the best chance this session for any kind of increase to the basic allotment – which is long overdue.</p> <p>However, there are concerns with the bill’s continuation of hold harmless funding and creation of a new transition allotment to protect our most affluent districts, thereby deepening the inequities in the system. If the provisions in the bill advantaging the wealthiest school districts were struck, Texas could put several hundred more dollars per student into the basic allotment.</p>	
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			The quality of the education a child receives should not depend on their zip code. However, HB 100 includes some critical provisions that should improve outcomes for educators, students and families in our neighborhood schools.	
<b>LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Wednesday, April 26, 2023</b>				
<b>HJR 125</b> By: Ashby	Proposing a constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of broadband and telecommunications services projects in the state.	State Affairs  12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	HJR 125 amends the constitution to establish a Broadband Infrastructure Fund. HJR is enabling legislation for HB 9.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HJR 107</b> By: Price   Thompson, Senfronia   Murr   Vasut	Proposing a constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Current law requires a mandatory retirement for Texas judges and justices at the age of 75. Experienced and competent judges are being forced to step away from the bench for no reason other than they are of a certain age. HJR 107 would amend the Texas Constitution to increase the maximum retirement age of every justice and judge from 75 to 79 years of age and the minimum retirement age from 70 to 75 years of age.  HJR 107 modernizes the retirement standard and ensures that experienced, respected judges are not forced to retire too early.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HJR 132</b> By: Hefner	Proposing a constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from imposing a tax on the net worth of individuals or businesses.	Ways & Means  8 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Several states have considered introducing a wealth or net worth tax for their residents. However, in Texas, there is currently no evidence suggesting any significant interest in pursuing this policy.  HJR 132 proposes a constitutional amendment that would prohibit lawmakers from imposing a tax on a person's or business's net worth, which is calculated by subtracting their liabilities from their assets. HJR 132 specifies that this does not prohibit an ad valorem tax on property or a general business tax measured by business activity.  HJR 132 is a solution in search of a problem. Texans have not indicated support, one way or the other, for the application of a wealth or net worth tax. This joint resolution requires voters to indicate if they want to indefinitely ban the Legislature from imposing a wealth tax. If this joint resolution passes and voters want to implement this tax in the future, there will be extra steps and barriers to implementing it. As the pandemic has shown, there is no predicting the state's future economic or political landscape. The state should not tie its hands	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>

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			on any tax revenue options. HJR 132 is unnecessary, and future generations should be able to decide if this is something they want to implement without additional barriers.	
<b>LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 26, 2023</b>				
<b>HB 1300</b> By: Geren	Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.	Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	In Texas, tampering with almost any type of evidence is a third degree felony. This can sometimes create disproportionate sentencing, as an individual may have committed a Class B Misdemeanor, like driving while intoxicated, but will be charged with a felony should that individual throw the beer can out of the window. These penalties can be incredibly harsh, especially when the initial offense is minor comparatively.  HB 1300 seeks to remedy this by decreasing the penalty for tampering with or fabricating physical evidence from a third degree felony to a Class A Misdemeanor if the item altered, destroyed, or concealed could be used as evidence for an offense punishable as a misdemeanor. The bill does not apply to felony level cases.  HB 1300 is a sensible adjustment that ensures the state’s sentencing guidelines are fair and proportionate.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1554</b> By: Raymond	Relating to disclosure of a beneficiary to a funeral director under a life insurance policy.	Insurance  7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	HB 1554 aims to make it easier for funeral directors to plan end-of-life celebrations without unduly burdening a decedent’s loved ones.  HB 1554 requires life insurance companies to disclose beneficiary information to funeral directors provided funeral directors make a formal request with the written permission of the decedent’s legal representative. The written permission must include information about the person giving consent, how they know the deceased, and why they believe there is a life insurance policy. Under HB 1554, life insurance companies must provide beneficiary information within five days of a validated request. If the deceased is not the policyholder, the insurance company cannot disclose the information without written permission from the policy owner; however, the insurance can inform the funeral director that the deceased is not the policyholder.  HB 1554 does not require a life insurance company to disclose information without written permission from the policyholder or legal representative, establish a right for funeral directors to receive benefits from life insurance policies unless designated by a beneficiary or policyholder for end-of-life services, or determine whether or not benefits are payable under the terms of a life insurance policy.  HB 1554 is limited in nature, only applying to circumstances in which the policy benefit does not exceed \$15,000, and funeral directors have been given reasonable information from a family member or representative.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 1302</b> By:	Relating to inspections and examinations by the	Energy Resources	The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) has the authority to use an unmanned aircraft to take photos in the case of a hazardous spill, so long as they obtain the landowner’s approval. However, the RRC pipeline and surface inspectors don’t have clear permission under the law to use unmanned aircraft for inspections.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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Geren	Railroad Commission of Texas of certain sites and facilities conducted using unmanned aircraft.	8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>HB 1302 authorizes RRC or an RRC agent, servant, or employee to use unmanned aircraft to take pictures during inspections of oil and gas sites, such as wells, tanks, pipelines, and surface mining sites. HB 1302 amends the requirement that the RRC have access to oil property of all persons at all times for inspection and examination to include inspection and examination by unmanned aircraft.</p> <p>HB 1302 enables the RRC to obtain aerial views of complex sites and enhances efficiency during inspections and examinations.</p>	
<b>HB 1709</b>  By: Canales	Relating to a special bill of review to reform a final judgment of forfeiture of a bail bond.	Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Current law limits the time frame for bail bondsmen to recover bond money, removing the financial incentive for a bail bondsman to return a defendant to court after two years. HB 1709 seeks to increase the incentive for a bail bondsman by extending the bill of review filing period from two to four years.</p> <p>HB 1709 extends the deadline by which a surety on a bond may file a special bill of review with a court from two years following the final judgment in a bond forfeiture proceeding to four years following that date.</p>	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 2012</b>  By: Oliverson   Metcalf   Longoria   Harris, Cody   Harrison	Relating to the display of the national motto in public schools and institutions of higher education classrooms.	Public Education  13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The national motto, “In God, We Trust,” was established in 1956 by Dwight D. Eisenhower. During the 87th Legislature, SB 797 was passed, which required that donated memorabilia with the national motto must be displayed in the public area of the school where it was gifted. HB 2012 seeks to expand this provision by allowing a teacher to display the national motto in their classroom.</p> <p>Those in favor of HB 2012 believe that the displaying of the national motto serves as a reminder of the values and principles that are foundational to this country.</p> <p>Opponents contest that it may exclude those who do not ascribe to “God” or any religious affiliation, and they question whether or not the display of a poster showing affiliation to the Christian God is a violation of the First Amendment’s separation of church and state. Opponents also pointed out the hypocrisy in the way the display of a pride poster would be perceived, in contrast to a poster with a clear religious affiliation.</p> <p>While opponents' concerns are valid, <i>Aronow v. United States</i> of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rules that the motto does not violate the First Amendment to the Constitution. Further, HB 2012 does not require the display of the national motto but simply doesn’t allow the prohibition from displaying it in the classroom should the teachers desire.</p>	<b>Favorable</b>

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<p><b>HB 927</b> By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of a commission to review certain laws of this state that restrict the rights or activities of persons convicted of a felony offense and to make certain recommendations regarding those laws.</p>	<p>Corrections 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 927 establishes a commission to review statutes restricting the rights or activities of individuals convicted of felonies, namely enfranchisement, jury service, and eligibility for certain occupational licenses. Upon review of applicable statutes, the nine-member commission will make recommendations to the Legislature. HB 927 mandates that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, House Speaker, and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals presiding judge each appoint two commission members, while the Texas Supreme Court chief justice appoints one. HB 927 specifies that members should be appointed within 60 days of the bill’s enactment and abolishes the commission in December 2024.</p> <p>HB 927 aims to identify collateral consequences for people who have served their time to ultimately remove barriers to reentry and self-sufficiency.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 906</b> By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of information regarding mental health and suicide prevention services to entering students at public institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, only certain colleges provide full-time students with information on mental health services, suicide prevention services, and the appropriate intervention to help.</p> <p>HB 906 requires that all higher education institutions, including technical schools and junior colleges, share this information with all students, whether they are full- or part-time students.</p> <p>Requiring all students of higher education institutions to receive this vital information could bring greater awareness to mental health on college campuses, give those struggling the resources to reach out, and potentially save students' lives.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1008</b> By: Turner</p>	<p>Relating to suspending the employment of certain persons who provide care to individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability and who are alleged to have engaged in reportable conduct.</p>	<p>Human Services 7 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Paul Taylor was a 28-year-old man with autism who received care in a group home in North Texas. The caregiver in this home did not provide adequate supervision resulting in Paul being stabbed nearly 100 times by another resident. The caregiver was found guilty of neglect but was allowed to continue in his position while he appealed his case. If a caregiver is found guilty of misconduct, they are barred from caring for individuals. However, this goes into effect once the final decision is made and the appeals process is completed. The investigation and the appeals process can take months to over a year, allowing individuals credibly accused of misconduct to continue working with a vulnerable population.</p> <p>HB 1008 requires Medicaid providers and HHSC-licensed facilities to suspend the employment or contract of a residential caregiver who the HHSC found had engaged in certain conduct against an individual with IDD under the individual’s care and is actively appealing the HHSC’s finding. HB 1008 outlines the conduct and residential caregivers that apply to its provisions. This suspension would continue while the individual exhausts any applicable appeals process, and a provider is prohibited from reinstating the individual’s employment or contract at any point during the appeals process.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>The HHSC is required to disenroll Medicaid providers from Medicaid if they violate the suspension and reinstatement provisions of the bill. The HHSC executive commissioner is required to adopt rules to implement this. HB 1008 allows for delayed implementation if a federal waiver or authorization is required.</p> <p>HB 1008 aims to protect a vulnerable population by ensuring that caregivers who have participated in the misconduct of IDD individuals are not allowed to continue to work with them in the future.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1158</b>  By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to advanced clean energy projects and certain other projects that reduce or eliminate emissions of carbon dioxide or other pollutants.</p>	<p>Energy Resources  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>In Texas, emerging technologies are being developed to help reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. These include carbon capture, utilization, storage, and direct air capture. These technologies are used in different industries, such as chemical production, hydrogen production, natural gas processing, fertilizer production, and power generation. HB 1158 is designed to help fund projects that use these technologies to reduce carbon emissions by making them eligible for grant funding under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP). The proposal for utilizing TERP funds under HB 1158 and its low sequestration standards is concerning.</p> <p>HB 1158 removes the timeframe for which an application must be received by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for an advanced clean energy project standard permit.</p> <p>HB 1158 amends emission rate requirements for a project designed to use one or more combustion turbines that burn natural gas. The project must achieve an annual average emission rate of two parts per million by volume for nitrogen oxides or an emission rate that meets the best available control technology requirements determined by TCEQ. This could mean that TCEQ could establish a less stringent emission rate for these projects, resulting in more than two parts per million. HB 1158 updates the standard to 75% from 50% for carbon dioxide capture from the emissions stream for a facility that sequesters captured carbon dioxide by geologic storage or other means.</p> <p>HB 1158 expands access to TERP funds for projects that capture, store, and transport carbon dioxide emissions from petrochemical plants or power generation facilities, including those powered by coal, natural gas, hydrogen, or ammonia. The purpose of this is to decrease carbon dioxide from entering or remaining in the atmosphere, thus reducing the environmental impact of these facilities.</p> <p>HB 1158 expands access to TERP funds for projects that use renewable energy to produce hydrogen fuel, which can be used in transportation, agricultural, or industrial processes. This aims to reduce the pollutants entering the atmosphere while promoting the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>HB 1158 modifies tax exemptions for tangible personal property components used in clean energy projects. The changes broaden the list of exempt components to encompass those used by carbon capture facilities and those associated with carbon dioxide capture and transportation. The bill also replaces the condition to sequester</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>carbon dioxide at a rate of 99% for 1,000 years with a mandate to prevent it from entering or lingering in the atmosphere through various carbon capture methods.</p> <p><b>Concerns</b>                  Those opposing HB 1158 state it is approaching carbon capture and storage incorrectly. Low-sequestration leniency incentivizes poor-performing operations rather than pushing the industry to be more environmentally responsible with highly effective technology. Removing the condition for tax exemptions of a reasonable expectation of 99% sequestration for 1,000 years is unwise. Additionally, environmental advocates want TERP funds to remain focused on reducing flaring and nitrogen oxide emissions. High ozone levels in Texas urban areas are a public health crisis, and TERP is not yet hitting its targets for reducing emissions of ozone precursors. Carbon capture is not the right activity for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, and funding should be identified elsewhere.</p>	
<p><b>HB 250</b>                   By:                  González,                  Mary                    Goldman                    Cook                    Collier</p>	<p>Relating to crime victims' compensation.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>8 Ayes,                  0 Nays,                  0 PNV,                  1 Absent</p>	<p>Various survivors of crime in Texas have raised concerns regarding the Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) program, its eligibility requirements, the scope of care that it provides, and the amount of funding available for those who need it. The CVC was created to provide financial assistance for victims of a crime who may need access to safe relocation, healthcare, and mental healthcare, but many are unable to access such support because of stringent guardrails. HB 250 seeks to address this by making changes to the CVC that will provide more support to grieving families and allow more access to individuals.</p> <p>HB 250 expands qualifications for the CVC by removing language that limits eligibility only to immediate family and to household members who are related by blood or marriage, as well as including in coverage any act that is considered family violence by the Family Violence Code related to protective orders and family violence.</p> <p>Regarding relocation and housing services for victims who experienced certain crimes at their residence, a victim of stalking, family violence, or trafficking, HB 250 removes the \$2,000 cap that may be paid out to victims for relocation services, as well as the \$1,800 cap for rental assistance and instead constitutes these numbers as the minimum. The bill also allows the attorney general to limit the amount of the award the victim may receive. HB 250 includes funding for temporary lodging, and extends authorization to receive coverage to other victims that are not currently eligible, including dependents, family members, and household members of victims.</p> <p>HB 250 establishes that in the event of criminally injurious behavior, for each household application, only one victim and one claimant may be awarded compensation, unless the victim is deceased. In that case, two claimants may be awarded.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>Regarding lost wages, HB 250 removes the \$1,000 cap that may be awarded, and instead establishes that \$1,000 or ten days' lost wages, whichever is less, shall be the minimum. The bill authorizes the attorney general to establish a limitation.</p> <p>Regarding financial losses as a result of personal injury or death, HB 250 removes language regarding a one night cap on lodging currently in place for an individual traveling to or from an execution in order to witness the execution. It also removes the 10 day limit on bereavement for a family or household member of a deceased victim.</p> <p>Victims of crime deserve to know that they can grieve and work through their losses without the fear of financial ruin. HB 250 takes an incredibly comprehensive approach to adjusting the CVC that centers the voices of the communities who need it most, and ensures that they can safely move forward.</p>	
<p><b>HB 218</b></p> <p>By: Moody   Dutton   Geren   Anchía   Cain</p>	<p>Relating to the criminal and licensing consequences of certain marihuana possession, drug paraphernalia possession, and tetrahydrocannabinol possession offenses; imposing a fee.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 218 reduces the penalties for low-level marihuana charges, which can have long lasting effects on the lives of individuals who are not a risk to public safety. Marihuana has been reportedly used by roughly a fifth of Americans. Currently, the penalty for possessing less than two ounces of marihuana a Class B Misdemeanor. These arrests are not rare, as 22,537 occurred in Texas in 2021. A criminal record can block access to housing and jobs, as well as create an increased risk for further contact with the justice system. Additionally, possession of THC in any other form (oils, salts, etc) is a felony. Individuals who use marajuana, many of whom use it to treat chronic illness, are vulnerable to contact with the justice system .</p> <p>HB 218 seeks to remedy this in several ways. First, the bill creates a new penalty group under the Controlled Substances Act, Penalty Group 2-B. Substances that include tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), synthetic derivatives, resinous extractives of cannibals and other substances that are pharmacologically comparable, will be moved from Penalty Group 2 to Group 2-B. Some provisions that govern Group 2 will be extended to Group 2-B, including the offenses for the manufacture or delivery of a substance in Penalty Group 2 or 2-A and for possession of a substance in Penalty Group 2-A.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 218 reduces the penalty for possessing one ounce or less of marihuana or a substance in Penalty Group 2-A from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class C misdemeanor. The bill also establishes new guardrails regarding arrest and expunction for substances as Penalty Group 2-B and 2-A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a person may only receive a citation for such an offense;</li> <li>• if the charge was dismissed or the defendant was acquitted, their record must be expunged; and</li> <li>• if an individual pleads guilty or no contest, and hasn't previously received a deferral for the offense within the past 12 months, the judge must defer further proceedings without entering an adjudication of guilt</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>and place the defendant on probation.</p> <p>Lastly, HB 218 will allow individuals convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision (DACS) for a Class B misdemeanor offense for possessing a substance in Penalty Group 2-A or 2-B to petition for an order of nondisclosure if they committed the offense as a victim of trafficking. Additionally, the bill excludes substances in Group 2-A and 2-B from the definition of "dangerous drug" under the Texas Pharmacy Act.</p> <p>HB 218 may help solve a myriad of issues that stem from how the state has handled substance use in the past, the first being the generational impact of over incarceration. Black and brown individuals are four times more likely to be jailed due to marijuana possession, and households including a previously incarcerated individual earn roughly 50% less than their counterparts. Additionally, HB 218 may begin to assist in tackling the issue of backlogs and overpopulated jails in the justice system, which continues to put pressure on Texas counties and costs millions of dollars. Harris County has recently had to spend \$35 million to move people into private facilities in an attempt to curb crowding. Incarcerating Texans because of low level marijuana possession has proved to be expensive, inefficient, and ineffective. HB 218 is a step toward a more fair justice system that seeks to keep Texans safe.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2464</b> By: Price</p>	<p>Relating to optional annuity increases for certain retirees and beneficiaries of the Texas Municipal Retirement System.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, &amp; Financial Services</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas families are feeling the effects of inflation as the cost of goods and services increases, and wages remain stagnant. This is especially challenging for retirees that live on fixed incomes. Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) on a retired individual's fixed income (annuity) are much needed as the cost of goods and services increases. HB 2464 allows participating cities of the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) to opt into repeating COLA annuities.</p> <p>HB 2464 adds an optional COLA annuity for cities participating in TMRS. TMRS participating cities would be allowed to adopt a new COLA and would not be subject to the retroactive catch-up feature. Cities would have until December 31, 2024, to adopt the new COLA and to provide it to TMRS. HB 2464 provides the specifications of how the COLA is calculated and the parameters for the COLA annuity increases.</p> <p>Allowing municipalities the discretion to adopt new COLA annuity options permits them to cater to their specific circumstances.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2727</b> By: Price   Thompson, Senfronia   Oliverson   Jetton  </p>	<p>Relating to the provision of home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Public Health</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine and telehealth services gained popularity, enabling Texans to access care through video and audio due to limited access to in-person care. Although remote patient monitoring (telemonitoring) is allowed within Medicaid in certain cases, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) could further leverage its benefits, especially for high-risk pregnancies. HB 2727 aims to broaden telemonitoring services in Medicaid for high-risk pregnancies and other medical conditions.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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Guerra			<p>HB 2727 changes the requirement for Medicaid reimbursement for home telemonitoring services from "cost-effective and feasible" to "clinically effective." HB 2727 also expands the list of medical conditions eligible for telemonitoring services and adjusts the criteria for eligibility. Additionally, it ensures that clinical information is shared with the patient's physician and provides telemonitoring equipment for patients with high-risk pregnancies.</p> <p>Lastly, HB 2727 mandates the executive commissioner of HHSC to establish rules for offering telemonitoring equipment to patients with high-risk pregnancies. It also removes the cost-effectiveness consideration for Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) when deciding on reimbursement for telemonitoring services. Instead, reimbursement authorization relies on HHSC's determination of cost-effectiveness and clinical effectiveness per state and federal requirements.</p> <p>HB 2727 expands access to telemonitoring services under Medicaid, improving health outcomes for many Texans, including women experiencing high-risk pregnancies and patients in rural areas.</p>	
<p><b>HB 3156</b> By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to liability of professional firms performing construction monitoring and inspection services for the Texas Department of Transportation.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) often hires professional firms for construction, engineering, and inspection (CEI) oversight services. CEI firms only provide observation and reporting services on behalf of TxDOT and do not design projects or control construction or maintenance methods. However, some CEI firms have been named in lawsuits relating to projects they oversee, leading to higher insurance costs. TxDOT, which has sovereign immunity, can review and terminate CEI firms without liability, and CEI firms must follow TxDOT's standards since they act on TxDOT's behalf.</p> <p>HB 3156 aims to protect CEI firms, officers, and employees from liability for personal injury, property damage, or death as long as their actions are to ensure a project meets TxDOT's plans, specifications, and contract provisions and they do not engage in gross negligence or willful misconduct. This protection only applies to firms, officers, or employees that provide monitoring and inspection services for TxDOT, not those involved in a transportation construction or maintenance project design or construction.</p> <p>HB 3156, as written, would exclude those who inspect or monitor TxDOT projects from liability, even in circumstances where they should be held liable due to the broad language in the bill. If the inspector or monitor of a construction project does cause harm in their role, they should be liable for it. An amendment to narrow down this language would achieve the intent of the bill, which is to protect CEI firms from liability in circumstances where they are not liable for damages.</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 3049</b></p> <p>By: Anderson   Oliverson   Rogers   Stucky   Buckley</p>	<p>Relating to the dismissal of a baseless or unfounded complaint filed with the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.</p>	<p>Agriculture &amp; Livestock</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) must follow the same process for every complaint, which can take approximately 180 days per review. TBVME has no authority to dismiss frivolous complaints that do not state the facts to support if a violation of the Veterinary Licensing Act or TBVME’s rules occurred. HB 3049 would allow the TBVME to dismiss baseless or unfounded complaints.</p> <p>HB 3049 requires TBVME to dismiss a complaint if they determine it is baseless or unfounded, and TBVME would provide a statement in the complaint’s record reflecting the determination. TBVME must establish criteria to determine if a complaint is baseless or unfounded.</p> <p>HB 3049 seeks to allow the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners more time to focus on more serious complaint cases.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 3574</b></p> <p>By: Lambert</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of state banks.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Banking has identified several updates and corrections in current statutes to address some concerns of bad actors or bank insiders conducting illegal and suspicious activity.</p> <p>HB 3574 is a clean-up bill that aims to fix these corrections by amending the Finance Code in eight sections. It updates the statutory references and replaces “other entities” known as banks with “federally insured” to prevent fintech providers from misleading customers. HB 3574 also authorizes the banking commissioner to remove a person from their position if they refuse to comply with a subpoena. HB 3574 revises exemptions for the acquisition of voting securities in any class or series by a controlling person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was previously a controlling person in a state before the application was approved by the commissioner;</li> <li>• Has held the power of 25 percent or more of any class of the state bank’s voting securities since the date of receipt approval; or</li> <li>• Has been considered a continuous controlling person of the state bank since the date of receipt of approval.</li> </ul> <p>HB 3574 eliminates the need for a post-transaction controlling person to comply and obtain prior approval as an exemption. It also allows the banking commissioner to issue cease and desist orders to current or former officers, employees, or directors of state banks based on specific violations or actions that require enforcement.</p> <p>HB 3574 prohibits banks under supervision from engaging in any activity that the banking commissioner believes threatens the safety and soundness of the bank without the commissioner’s approval. HB 3574 also enables banking commissioners to access records related to suspected financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.</p> <p>HB 3754 provides clarification and updates on regulation for the state banks by the Department of Banking.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 653</b> By: Allison</p>	<p>Relating to guardianships of the person of wards with profound intellectual disabilities who are minors or were minors when their guardianship proceedings commenced.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>When individuals with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who need guardianship turn 18, they undergo a guardianship proceeding to determine who can act as their legal guardian. The court reviews each guardianship case annually to determine if the guardianship should be continued, modified, or terminated. While caregivers find the process costly and burdensome, many advocates and professionals argue that it safeguards the rights of those with severe IDD and prevents abuse and neglect.</p> <p>HB 653 (Caleb’s Law) aims to allow caregiver parents of individuals with profound IDD to bypass the standard guardianship proceedings by creating an independent guardianship. To qualify, caregivers must provide the court with a sworn affidavit specifying that they have been the individual’s primary caregiver for all or most of their life, have never been the subject of substantial allegations, complaints, or investigations, and are not disqualified from serving as a guardian. Caregivers must also submit a written letter or certificate regarding the individual's incapacity or IDD and a request for the court to appoint the guardian without investigation. Under HB 653, the court only has to review the guardianship every five years to determine if it should be continued, modified, or terminated, unless the guardian is also responsible for the ward's estate, in which case annual reviews are still required. If the court determines guardianship is necessary after reviewing these documents, the caregiver will be appointed as the guardian without further court investigation or the continued appointment of an attorney ad litem. HB 653 does not specify whether the Bill of Rights for Wards applies to individuals with independent guardians.</p> <p>Guardians will also no longer be required to file an annual report on the well-being of the individual with profound IDD unless the court believes it is in the individual’s best interest. The court can review and act on claims that guardianship is no longer in the individual’s best interests. HB 653 only applies to guardianships that are pending or commenced after the effective date of the bill; however, existing guardians can petition the court to receive the same process.</p> <p>While guardianship proceedings may inconvenience some families who properly care for individuals with severe IDD, HB 653 would undermine self-determination and put individuals with IDD at risk for continued or potential abuse and neglect. HB 653 removes the rights of individuals with IDD to an initial hearing, attorney ad litem, or court investigator. HB 653 also reduces court oversight by limiting annual reporting and reviews and limiting the court’s ability to assess alternatives to guardianship. It is important to consider other avenues to alleviate these burdens without infringing on the rights of those with IDD.</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 55</b> By: Johnson, Julie  </p>	<p>Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of indecent assault; increasing a criminal</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays,</p>	<p>Currently, there is no felony enhancement for any non-penetrative indecent assault offenses, even if the individual who committed the crime has a repeated history of doing so, or is a trusted healthcare professional.</p> <p>HB 55 seeks to remedy this by enhancing the penalty for indecent assault from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony if it is shown during the trial that the individual who committed the crime has previously been</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p>Morales, Christina   Rogers   Leach   Cook</p>	<p>penalty.</p>	<p>o PNV, o Absent</p>	<p>convicted of the offense, or is a health care or mental healthcare service provider and committed the offense during the scope of the treatment. If both are found to be applicable, the penalty is enhanced to a third degree felony.</p> <p>There have been several cases of trusted medical professionals committing non-penetrative sexual assault in Texas, breaking public trust and creating further barriers to healthcare. The survivors of these offenses have to contend with life-long consequences, and the state should do all that it can to keep such individuals safe. HB 55 is one step towards guaranteeing that safety.</p>	
<p><b>HB 357</b>  By: Bucy   Smith   Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to the requirements to access the online tracker of an application for a ballot to be voted by mail.</p>	<p>Elections  7 Ayes, o Nays, o PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The 87th Legislature passed HB 1382 to create a statewide online tracker to allow voters to track the progress of their mail-in ballot application and mail-in ballot to ensure timely delivery and casting of their vote. Currently, the tracker requires the voter to provide their name, voter registration address, last four digits of their social security number, and driver's license number or personal identification card issued by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). It has also been reported that some voters have struggled to access the site due to the particular manner that address information be entered — with the Address Number, Pre Direction, Street Name, Post Direction, and Street Type, as separate fields.</p> <p>HB 357 modifies the information required for Texas voters to access the statewide tracking tool by: adding the voter's date of birth; removing the voter's registration address; and allowing voters to choose whether they provide the last four digits of their social security number, their driver's license number, or their personal identification card number.</p> <p>HB 357 seeks to streamline access to the statewide mail-ballot tracker for voters.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2014</b>  By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to reimbursement for jury service.</p>	<p>Judiciary &amp; Civil Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, o Nays, o PNV, o Absent</p>	<p>Current law reimburses jurors for serving on a jury. This is set at \$6 per day for the first day and \$40 per day every day thereafter. The state reimburses counties up to \$34 per day for these juror reimbursements. The current reimbursement amount for jurors is insufficient to cover the costs to serve on the jury as well as the potential loss of income due to missing work.</p> <p>HB 2014 increases the minimum reimbursement amount for a person who reports for jury duty to \$20 for the first or fraction of the first day and then \$58 for each day or fraction of the day following. HB 2014 increases the state reimbursement to a county to \$52 per day following the first day of the person's jury duty.</p> <p>HB 2014 would give Texans an opportunity to serve their state and provide improved compensation for this service.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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<p><b>HB 479</b></p> <p>By: Hinojosa   Hayes   Kacal</p>	<p>Relating to the period for transporting a criminal defendant who is found incompetent to stand trial to a facility for competency restoration services and to the compensation to the county for the costs of confinement occurring after that period.</p>	<p>Corrections</p> <p>7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Outpatient Competency Restoration and Jail-based Competency Restoration services are designed to help individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial due to a mental health disorder or co-occurring psychiatric and substance use disorders. The programs aim to restore an individual’s competency so they can fully participate in legal proceedings related to their case. However, justice-involved individuals’ ability to access these services is limited due to staffing shortage-related capacity reductions. As a result, the current average wait time for these programs for non-maximum security individuals is 272 days, and 621 days for maximum security individuals.</p> <p>HB 479 seeks to address this issue by requiring the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to transfer a justice-involved individual to a mental health facility operated or contracted by HHSC within 21 days of a court order committing an individual to a mental health facility for competency restoration services. If HHSC fails to take custody of eligible individuals within the 21-day timeframe, HB 479 mandates that HHSC conduct weekly health evaluations until transfer to an appropriate mental health facility. HHSC would also compensate the county for confinement costs incurred each day an eligible individual remains in county jail beyond the designated time frame. The provisions of HB 479 are retroactive.</p> <p>HB 479 provides structured requirements to HHSC that incentivize the timely transfer of eligible justice-involved individuals to competency restoration facilities. This measure facilitates access to healthcare needed for individuals to fully engage in both the legal system and rehabilitation.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 409</b></p> <p>By: Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the governance and administration of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and to certain disclosures made in relation to the provision of funding for indigent defense services.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) is an agency tasked with ensuring that indigent individuals have access to quality legal counsel. It is currently overseen by a board that consists of judges, a defense lawyer, and a chief public defender. There is not, however, a board member from a managed assigned counsel (MAC) program. MACs appoint private attorneys to represent indigent clients, and manage the quality of their representation. MAC attorneys have a crucial perspective when it comes to indigent defense, as they work one on one with these clients and understand their needs and barriers to counsel.</p> <p>HB 409 would require that the board that oversees TIDC include a member that is a director of a MAC program. If the program the member directs is one that applies for funds from TIDC, the bill requires that before a vote by the board regarding an allocation of funds to that program, that the member disclose the information and is prohibited from voting. If the member fails to disclose this information, the board is prohibited from awarding any funds to the program. To ensure that the board remains odd numbered, the bill also increases the number of members from 5 to 7, and adds an additional member who is a justice of the peace, municipal court judge, or appointed magistrate.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			Because MAC programs have an important perspective regarding indigent defense, it is sensible that such perspectives are brought to the table. HB 409 will help ensure that the constitutional right to counsel for all Texans is not only maintained, but well executed, accessible, and fair.	
<b>HB 1182</b> By: Harless	Relating to judicial statistics and other pertinent information gathered by the Texas Judicial Council and certain populous counties.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The Office of Court Administration (OCA) collects judicial data for all Texas courts. However, the information collected by justice and municipal courts is more extensive than criminal courts, leaving much of this information hidden from the public.  HB 1182 specifies that the statistics gathered by the Texas Judicial Council (TJC) must include monthly court activity statistics for each trial court in Texas. OCA would be required to publish these reports on its website in a searchable format. Additionally, in counties with populations over one million, court officials would be required to submit a copy of the monthly report to the appropriate county official. These counties must publish the reports on the county website.  HB 1182 promotes transparency in the Texas Judiciary, providing public access to statistics reflecting the performance of elected judges.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 1238</b> By: VanDeaver	Relating to the school health and related services, including parental consent for program services, the establishment of a school health and related services program advisory council, and the publication of the School Health and Related Services (SHARS) Handbook portion of the Texas Medicaid Provider Procedures Manual.	Human Services  7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Medicaid services provided by Texas school districts to Medicaid-eligible students are known as School Health and Related Services (SHARS). This program allows Texas schools to receive Medicaid reimbursements for special education students with certain individualized education plan (IEP) services. SHARS is overseen by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Health Human Services Commission (HHSC). Parents and educators have requested more cooperation between TEA and HHSC.  HB 1238 establishes the school health and related services program advisory council to advise the TEA and the HHSC. The council will advise the TEA and the HHSC about implementing and administering the school health and related services program, incorporating changes to federal law governing the program, and publishing and amending the SHARS handbook portion of the Texas Medicaid provider procedures manual.  The council’s membership will comprise one TEA employee appointed by the TEA commissioner and nine other members appointed by the HHSC executive commissioner, including superintendents from school districts of varying sizes, parents with children in SHARS, a special education provider, and a member of an advocacy group for children with special needs. HB 1238 provides for appointing the council’s chair, filling vacancies, and term lengths.  HB 1238 requires HHSC to provide administrative support for the council and to fund the council’s administrative and operational expenses with money appropriated for that purpose by the legislature. HB 1238 requires that HHSC make annual updates to the SHARS handbook portion of the Texas Medicaid Provider	<b>Favorable</b>

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			<p>Procedures Manual. HB 1238 requires the HHSC executive commissioner to establish a procedure to allow public feedback on proposed changes to the SHARS handbook and requires the HHSC to consult with the council regarding any proposed changes.</p> <p>HB 1238 requires public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools with SHARS-qualified students to obtain written parental consent for disclosure of personally identifiable information to the district or charter school, TEA, or HHSC as required to administer the program. The disclosure form must comply with federal requirements, and be kept within TEA and HHSC's records.</p> <p>HB 1238 aims to improve the SHARS program, which can increase the overall well-being of program participants. This bill will take effect immediately if it receives a <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> vote in each chamber or on September 1.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1826</b> By: Turner   Raney</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of an organized retail theft task force.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>During the interim, the House Committee on Business &amp; Industry identified organized retail theft as a growing problem in Texas, with businesses losing up to \$1 billion a year in sales. This issue becomes harder to tackle when thieves operate across jurisdictions. Retailers, law enforcement, and online marketplaces agreed that a task force would be an effective solution.</p> <p>HB 1826 instructs the Comptroller to establish a statewide retail theft task force to study and recommend prevention measures. The task force will consist of representatives from both physical and online retailers as well as local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. They will meet quarterly, with virtual meetings as an option.</p> <p>HB 1826 directs the task force to study organized retail theft in Texas, review relevant laws, analyze the impact on sales tax and the economy, and assess various approaches to reduce this crime. Based on their findings, they will recommend outreach and prevention programs, as well as training for law enforcement and prosecutors.</p> <p>The task force can consult with any organization or individual they deem necessary and share information about active investigations. They will submit a biennial report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Comptroller, and relevant legislative committees, outlining recommendations for improving transparency, security, consumer protections, theft prevention, and addressing the economic impact.</p> <p>HB 1826 creates an avenue for the state to further investigate and address organized retail theft in Texas.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 1950</b> By: King, Ken</p>	<p>Relating to the major events reimbursement program, including event funding</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism</p> <p>8 Ayes,</p>	<p>Tourism has been essential in generating jobs and creating revenue that stimulates economic development and growth throughout Texas. The Major Events Reimbursement Program (MERP) and the Event Trust Funds Program (ETFP) were created to continue the development and growth of tourism in Texas by creating incentives for various events to be held in Texas.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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	<p>eligibility, site selection organizations, and single event and single year classifications.</p>	<p>0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1950 makes the following events eligible for funding under the major events reimbursement program: the Bassmaster Classic, a Federation Equestre Internationale World Cup Final, a Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM) World Supercross Championship race, Formula One United States Grand Prix, and the Professional Bull Riders World Finals. HB 1950 makes the following site selection organizations eligible for funding under the major events reimbursement program: Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, LLC, the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), Professional Bull Riders, LLC, and ASX Global. HB 1950 extends program funding eligibility for all National Reined Cow Horse Association Championship Series events. HB 1950 classifies each series of games for the World Cup soccer tournament held in a designated market area as a separate, single event for funding eligibility purposes. HB 1950 establishes that a sporting event is considered to be held one time a year if the event is only held once during an annual season of the sport.</p> <p>Overall, HB 1950 would expand eligible organizations and events for the Major Events Reimbursement Program and the Event Trust Funds Program funds, ultimately providing a positive economic impact and increasing entertainment opportunities for all Texans.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1626</b> By: Allen   Johnson, Ann   Thompson, Senfronia   Wu   Hull</p>	<p>Relating to a public school student's transition from an alternative education program to a regular educational environment, including parental rights related to that transition, and the admission of certain students with a criminal or disciplinary history.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texans students returning to their local school districts after completing an alternative education program such as a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) have struggled to re-enroll on time, transfer credits, and transition into a less structured environment. DAEP students are at risk for disproportionately negative outcomes compared to their peers who have had an uninterrupted education process and require support to transition back into their school districts and thrive.</p> <p>HB 1626 seeks to provide that support in several ways. First, HB 1626 prohibits the board of trustees of a public school from refusing to re-enroll a student based on their criminal, juvenile, or disciplinary background. Under HB 1626, a district would be required to promptly re-enroll a student returning from an alternative education program, unless the student is otherwise ineligible under already existing provisions, such as sexual assault conduct.</p> <p>HB 1626 also requires that the recommendations for the best educational placement, as a part of the personalized transition plan, of a student recently released from a DAEP be based on factors such as their previous coursework, test results, and educational record. This also must include a calculation of course credits the student has earned and courses needed to move forward.</p> <p>HB 1626 removes the requirement of a discretionary regular review of the student's progress towards their academic goals and replaces it with a requirement that an administrator conduct reviews at the beginning of each semester and the end of the school year. The bill also requires that the campus administrator develop a policy that, to the best of their ability, transfers any credits accrued at a DAEP over to fulfill credits required for high school graduation. Additionally, HB 1626 requires that a campus administrator hold a meeting within five</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>days of a student's release from a DEAP to coordinate the student's transition. The transition process must require input from a student's guardian, administrators overseeing the student's educational program, and an appointed court liaison if the child is justice-involved.</p> <p>Before finalizing a personalized transition plan, HB 1626 requires a campus administrator to provide the guardian of the transitioning student with a list of those who will be assisting in the student's transition and an opportunity to meet all persons involved. Upon completion of the plan, the administrator must provide the guardian with an electronic or written copy of the transition plan.</p> <p>HB 1626 is an incredibly comprehensive approach to address current concerns with the DAEP transition process. This bill takes into account the perspective of parents, students, and districts, and will help ensure that all transitioning students have the opportunity to thrive.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2199</b> By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to imposing an additional fee for the registration of an electric vehicle.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>As more Texans choose electric vehicles, the state's gasoline and diesel fuel tax revenue, which funds transportation projects, decreases. Electric vehicle drivers also use the roads and should contribute to infrastructure funding.</p> <p>HB 2199 aims to address this issue by imposing additional registration fees on electric vehicles in Texas. The bill defines an "electric vehicle" (EV) as a motor vehicle weighing 10,000 pounds or less, using electricity as its sole power source, excluding autocycles, mopeds, motorcycles, and neighborhood electric vehicles.</p> <p>HB 2199 authorizes the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to charge an additional \$400 fee for EVs requiring the initial two-year initial inspection and a \$200 fee for annual renewals. Fees collected would be deposited into the state highway fund.</p> <p>Charging EV owners fees to support the highway fund is reasonable, but HB 2199 establishes a disproportionate fee scale, penalizing Texans transitioning to cleaner vehicles. Consumer Reports indicates that gas-powered vehicle drivers pay an average of \$71 per year in gasoline taxes, significantly less than the proposed fees for EV owners. If these fees are meant to replicate the purposes of fuel taxes, fees should be closer to that amount. .</p>	<p><b><u>Will of the House</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2066</b> By: Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the diversion of certain foster youth from the juvenile justice system, including through emergency behavior</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Many foster children who have experienced the trauma of being removed from their homes and placed into a new environment later exhibit trauma-related behaviors that result in referrals to the juvenile justice system by general residential operations (GRO). GROs are meant to provide a stable living environment and services to children who may need more extensive care, but advocates have raised concerns regarding children facing criminal charges for exhibiting the very behaviors that a GRO took them in for.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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	<p>intervention by certain persons providing foster care services.</p>		<p>HB 2066 seeks to remedy this by requiring that any juvenile court case which involves a child under the care of a GRO be referred to a community juvenile service provider if (1) a referral to a prosecuting attorney is not necessary, (2) the child is eligible for deferred prosecution, and (3) an investigation ascertains that there is probable cause to believe that the child engaged in conduct that signals the need for supervision.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 2066 requires that staff members who work directly with children at residential care facilities receive training that includes crisis response for emergency behavior intervention with the goal of limiting interaction with law enforcement. HB 2066 also requires a juvenile board to establish policies that prioritize the diversion of children residing in a GRO and presumes detention to be a last resort for children residing in a GRO or an unregulated setting who receive supervision from a Department of Family Services caseworker. To monitor the success of such policies, HB 2066 mandates that the board collect relevant data regarding children referred to them and reside in a GRO. This data must include information on which specific GRO the child resides in and the number of children who receive deferred prosecution or are referred to the juvenile probation department.</p> <p>Children who interact with the foster care system are at a higher risk of incarceration as they grow into adulthood. HB 2066 seeks to break that cycle and ensure vulnerable children receive the care they need to build a full life.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2300</b> By: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of certain criminal defendants for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information.</p>	<p>Corrections 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Non-disclosure orders shield justice-involved individuals’ criminal history, allowing them to access stable housing, employment opportunities, and higher education without discrimination. Orders of non-disclosure help lower recidivism, as individuals are better equipped to build a life after incarceration without the barriers associated with a criminal history. However, the individuals statutorily entitled to petition for non-disclosure orders are currently limited. HB 2300, the Clean Slate–New Wings Act, expands the pool of justice-involved individuals eligible to petition for non-disclosure.</p> <p><b><i>Deferred Adjudication</i></b> HB 2300 enables individuals placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for felony offenses to request nondisclosure for state jail felonies one year after case dismissal and two years for other felonies. Individuals receiving deferred adjudication for misdemeanor offenses can petition for nondisclosure upon case dismissal.</p> <p><b><i>Community Supervision</i></b> HB 2300 removes the eligibility requirement that an individual must not have been previously convicted of or placed on community supervision for another offense (other than a fine-only traffic offense) to petition for non-disclosure. Instead, it expands eligibility to allow individuals convicted of any offense, except a DUI, who have served their time and paid applicable fees and restitution, to apply for nondisclosure. As such, HB 2300</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>enables individuals convicted of a felony, including organized crime, to petition for nondisclosure upon completion of community supervision after 2 years for state jail felonies, 5 years for third-degree felonies, 7 years for second-degree felonies, and 10 years for first-degree felonies. Additionally, the bill repeals the prohibition against the issuance of a non-disclosure order if the offense for which the order is sought was violent or sexual in nature.</p> <p><b>Convictions Without Supervision</b>                  HB 2300 allows individuals convicted of a felony who have served their time without being placed on supervision to apply for nondisclosure after 1 year for serious misdemeanors, 5 years for state jail felonies, 7 years for third degrees felonies, 10 years for second-degree felonies, and 12 years for first degree felonies.</p> <p>HB 2300 allows justice-involved individuals to move forward without the accompanying stigmatization of a criminal record. Combined, the measures of HB 2300 have the capacity to reduce the strain on correctional facilities and reduce recidivism.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2638</b></p> <p>By: Johnson, Ann   Thompson, Senfronia   Lozano   Price   Rose</p>	<p>Relating to Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for multisystemic therapy services.</p>	<p>Youth Health &amp; Safety, Select</p> <p>7 Ayes,                  1 Nay,                  0 PNV,                  1 Absent</p>	<p>The U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention emphasizes multisystemic interventions like Multisystemic Therapy (MST) are more effective for treating delinquent youth than the juvenile justice system. Currently, MST is only funded by state, local, or foundation sources, limiting access for all at-risk youth in need.</p> <p>HB 2638 aims to provide Medicaid reimbursement for MST services. It requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure Medicaid reimbursement for providers offering MST services and mandates the executive commissioner to establish a separate provider type for MST providers.</p> <p>By making MST a covered service, HB 2638 improves access to quality services in areas like West Texas, where maintaining a provider network is challenging due to inconsistent funding. It also strengthens the behavioral health services network, increasing the number and quality of providers serving Texas youth and families.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2518</b></p> <p>By: Bell, Keith   Raymond   Guillen   Bell, Cecil</p>	<p>Relating to required lease terms for public property leased to a nongovernmental entity; creating a criminal offense.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>12 Ayes,                  0 Nays,                  0 PNV,                  1 Absent</p>	<p>Publicly owned land cannot be subjected to a mechanics or materialman’s lien; as a result, subcontractors and suppliers are left without any protection against non-payment for labor performed or materials provided unless a payment bond is in place. HB 2518 seeks to bridge this gap by adding more clarification to leasing terms.</p> <p>HB 2518 adds leasing terms that must be included in a contract by a governmental entity to a private entity. HB 2518 requires that each contract have a payment and performance bond. The performance bond has to be equal to the amount of the contract to protect the governmental entity, and conditional upon the contractor’s performance. HB 2518 also requires that a commencement notice detailing the expected construction work be given to the governmental entity at least 90 days before any work begins on the leased property. Under HB 2518, on or before the 10th day after the date a governmental entity receives an incomplete commencement notice</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			<p>without required copies of the payment and performance bonds, the governmental entity is authorized to notify the leaseholder that they are discontinuing the process. Additionally, if a governmental entity does not receive a payment bond or does not include a lease in the contract, they are not deemed liable if the leaser failed to submit the commencement notice. HB 2518 also adds a Class A misdemeanor for anyone who misrepresents information within a commencement notice.</p> <p>HB 2518 aims to add more requirements in the lease of public land to a private entity to protect both parties involved.</p>	
<p><b>HB 2795</b> By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the amendment of an existing comprehensive development agreement for a portion of State Highway 130.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>8 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has been experiencing significant population growth, increasing roadway congestion. HB 2795 authorizes a new toll-free connector highway between State Highway 130 and I-35 to address traffic delays in Central Texas. A private partner will bear the construction cost. This new road will improve connectivity and provide alternate routes for drivers during delays.</p> <p>HB 2795 requires the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to extend a comprehensive development agreement for State Highway 130 for up to 20 additional years. This applies to a comprehensive development agreement entered into on or before March 22, 2007, for specific highway segments. The amended agreement requires a private entity to provide funds to TxDOT by December 31, 2024, for the design, financing, and construction of a non-tolled connector between Interstate Highway 35 and State Highway 130. TxDOT is required to own the connector.</p> <p>HB 2795 aims to proactively invest in infrastructure to address current and future transportation needs.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>
<p><b>HB 2774</b> By: Thompson, Ed</p>	<p>Relating to the treatment of income tax expenses in rate proceedings for water and sewer utilities.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2774 aims to change how water and sewer utilities calculate income tax expenses during rate proceedings. Currently, these utilities use a lower tax rate of either a standalone or their parent company's tax rate. This bill would require water and sewer utilities to calculate their tax expenses independently, similar to how electric utilities calculate them.</p> <p>Calculating taxes independently means that the tax calculation is based solely on the income and expenses of the individual utility without considering the income or expenses of any other utilities in the same corporation or group. This will enable water and sewer utilities to use deferred taxes to lower the cost of service and customer rates.</p> <p>HB 2774 requires water and sewer utilities to include income tax benefits in their rate calculations only if the related expenses or investments are also included in the rate calculations. Conversely, if an expense or investment is not included, then the related income tax benefit cannot be included.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			From a consumer standpoint, the bill is viewed positively since it ensures that the savings from the tax returns of water utilities are passed on to them rather than being kept by utility companies. From a utility company standpoint, this decreases time, administrative fees for auditing, and it's the right thing to do for their consumers. The change to an independent tax calculation basis will create consistency in the tax calculation process between water and sewer utilities and electric utilities.	
<b>HB 2983</b> By: Oliverson   Rose   Raymond   Manuel   Thierry	Relating to a pilot project to provide medical nutrition assistance to certain Medicaid recipients in this state.	Human Services  6 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>According to the Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC), mothers with diet-related chronic diseases during pregnancy are at increased risk for various complications and poor birth outcomes. Diseases related to some of these mothers' diets could be prevented by providing more nutrition assistance; however, one huge barrier to healthy foods is accessibility.</p> <p>HB 2983 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) executive commissioner to apply for a Section 1115 waiver to develop and implement the Healthy Food is Good Medicine pilot program for pregnant and postpartum Medicaid recipients. The five-year pilot project is to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness and improved health outcomes for Medicaid recipients during pregnancy and postpartum periods who receive medical nutrition assistance from community-based organizations, Medicaid providers, and federally qualified health centers (FQHCs). HB 2983 provides the parameters of the Medicaid service areas where the program will take place and identifies the entities HHSC must collaborate and contract with to administer the program. HB 2983 requires the HHSC executive commissioner to establish the criteria for recipients to participate in the program.</p> <p>HB 2983 requires the HHSC, to the extent allowed by the Section 1115 waiver, to establish a payment methodology, including payment rates, for Medicaid providers, FQHCs, and community-based organizations that provide certain services related to the pilot program. HB 2983 requires the HHSC to submit reports of the pilot project results to the legislature at particular intervals. The reports are to include the number of pilot participants, de-identified information about participant and infant medical outcomes, cost savings or increased expenditures resulting from the pilot, and an HHSC recommendation if the pilot should be terminated, continued, or expanded. HB 2983 allows for delayed implementation until the Section 1115 waiver is granted.</p> <p>HB 2983 aims to reduce negative health outcomes in pregnant and postpartum women on Medicaid.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 2908</b> By: Murr	Relating to the authority of an appraisal district to purchase, finance the purchase of, or lease real property or construct or finance the construction of	Ways & Means  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Texas Appraisal Districts are political subdivisions governed by a board of directors. This includes the manner in which they are authorized to finance property acquisitions. The 70th Legislature passed SB 312, which authorized districts to purchase or lease property for their administrative operations, but the statute did not clarify whether they could incur debt to finance the construction of new property or improvements to existing buildings. HB 2908 grants districts this authority.</p> <p>HB 2908 eliminates the need for districts to establish nonprofit holding corporations to finance transactions, which provides greater transparency and saves appraisal districts and taxpayer dollars needed to create these</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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	improvements to real property.		corporations.	
<b>HB 2404</b> By: Johnson, Ann   Thompson, Senfronia   Lozano   Price   Rose	Relating to Medicaid coverage and reimbursement for functional family therapy services.	Youth Health & Safety, Select  8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	At-risk youth in danger of involvement with child welfare, criminal justice, or juvenile justice systems can benefit from family-based interventions like Functional Family Therapy (FFT). FFT is a short-term, intensive program designed to improve family dynamics, communication, and support by addressing dysfunctional behavior patterns, reducing negativity, and improving parenting skills. The U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention states that FFT is more effective for addressing issues in at-risk youth than the juvenile justice system. While private insurance covers these therapies, not all at-risk youth can access them.  HB 2404 aims to resolve this by enabling Medicaid reimbursement for FFT for at-risk youth in Texas. FFT implementation has resulted in cost savings for other states, such as Florida. HB 2404 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to ensure Medicaid reimbursement for FFT providers. HB 2404 allows for delayed implementation if a federal authorization or waiver is required.  HB 2404 seeks to improve access to quality services for at-risk youth by covering FFT under Medicaid, and can aid in strengthening the Texas behavioral health services network.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 2195</b> By: Noble	Relating to wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured license plates; increasing a criminal penalty.	Transportation  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	License plates are required to be visible, but this is frequently ignored. The improper display of vehicle license plates can make it difficult for law enforcement and toll authorities to identify them. HB 2195 aims to strengthen this regulation by increasing the fine for the first offense and imposing steeper penalties for repeat offenses.  HB 2195 expands the definition of displaying a wrong, fictitious, altered, or obscured vehicle license plate to include any substance or material that covers or alters the plate's letters, numbers, or colors. HB 2195 increases the penalty for this offense to a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$300. For individuals with a prior conviction, one would receive a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum \$600 fine, and is increased to a Class B misdemeanor for two or more prior convictions.  HB 2195 is necessary to ensure that license plates are easily identifiable and fulfill their purpose for authorities monitoring Texas roadways.	<b>Favorable</b>
<b>HB 3651</b> By: Bailes	Relating to motor fuel taxes.	Ways & Means  11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	The Comptroller of Public Accounts' Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is responsible for enforcing tax laws in Texas. This includes ensuring tax is paid on motor fuel transactions and investigating potential tax fraud. Texas law lacks clear definitions and specificity for effectively prosecuting individuals involved in illegal or fraudulent motor fuel acquisition. This ambiguity allows for the development of fraudulent schemes and discourages prosecutors from pursuing these cases due to the low chances of obtaining a conviction. Moreover, motor fuel theft schemes often involve stolen credit card data. State law also lacks provisions tying motor fuel tax crimes to the unauthorized use of credit cards or money.  HB 3651 makes the following changes:	<b>Favorable</b>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminates “mounted” from the definition of “cargo tank” to ensure that transferring fuel into any cargo tank qualifies as a taxable transaction, regardless of whether the tank is affixed to a vehicle used to transfer the fuel;</li> <li>• Defines “container” as any receptacle for storing motor fuel;</li> <li>• Defines “delivery” to cover all fuel transfers;</li> <li>• Expands the definition of “motor fuel” to include any motor fuel capable of use for a motor vehicle licensed public highways, including alternative fuels like compressed or liquified natural gas;</li> <li>• Classifies individuals who illegally acquire and transport motor fuel as “motor fuels transporters” and penalizes them for not obtaining proper licenses;</li> <li>• Broadens the definition of “transport vehicles” to include any vehicle used to carry motor fuel, such as modified cars, vans, box trucks or pickup trucks that fall outside the current definition;</li> <li>• Adds the act of “receiving” motor fuel to ensure taxes are due on each subsequent sale, even if the individual only intends to sell or resell for profit;</li> <li>• Links counterfeit credit card use for unlawful purchase of bulk loads of motor fuel for resale to motor fuels regulations and subjects them to associated penalties.</li> </ul> <p>HB 3651 provides a clear route for prosecuting motor vehicle tax fraud in Texas, potentially increasing revenue collections deposited to the Available School Fund and the State Highway Fund.</p>	
<p><b>HB 1239</b> By: Oliverson   Paul   Harris, Cody</p>	<p>Relating to consideration by insurers of certain prohibited criteria for ratemaking and coverage decisions and the use of disparate impact analysis regarding certain insurance practices.</p>	<p>Insurance 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Environment, social, and governance (ESG) criteria are non-financial metrics used to assess a company’s business practices and performance on various sustainability and ethical issues. This framework is increasingly being adopted by investors and insurers to measure business risks and opportunities. Mutualizing and managing risk is a core function of insurance, and insurance companies use a variety of metrics to understand the impact various factors have on their balance sheets.</p> <p>HB 1239 would prohibit insurance companies from using ESG factors to inform ratemaking or coverage decisions. HB 1239 prohibits the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) from adopting ESG practices set forth by the federal government and requiring insurers engage in a “disparate impact analysis” to evaluate whether a policy or practice that appears to be neutral may disproportionately impact a legally protected group. Additionally, HB 1239 expressly prohibits insurers from increasing rates or restricting business relationships with companies in the fossil fuel, mining, agriculture, timber, and firearms industries, unless the decision is based solely on actuarial underwriting principles of financial solvency.</p> <p>A report by McKinsey &amp; Company found ESG policies create value in five ways: (1) facilitating top-line growth, (2) reducing costs, (3) minimizing regulatory and legal interventions, (4) increasing employee productivity, and (5) optimizing investment and capital expenditures. This illustrates ESG practices are not only good for the environment and social justice but business as well. The core function of the insurance industry is to assess and</p>	<p><b><u>Unfavorable</u></b></p>

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			determine how to manage life, health, property, and liability risks. As a result, the provisions of HB 1239 are contradictory and undermine insurers ability to conduct business given that the ESG framework is a metric to evaluate risk that has a direct fiduciary or actuarial impact. HB 1239 mandates insurers only evaluate risk based on actuarial measures and ignores ESG factors that are inherently embedded.	
<b>HB 1446</b> By: Cortez	Relating to procedures governing declared disasters for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.	Corrections 5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>HB 1446 addresses issues and lessons learned during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic regarding the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) emergency response. COVID-19 exposed a need for more explicit guidance and TDCJ authority to respond quickly and adeptly during emergencies such as epidemics and natural disasters.</p> <p>HB 1446 seeks to provide guidance by establishing an advisory board that assists TDCJ in developing an emergency response plan for state and federal disaster declarations. The advisory board will include various stakeholders, including formerly incarcerated individuals, correctional officers, and the public health commissioner. The emergency plan must outline operating procedures — evacuations, employee safety protocols, lockdown provisions, and medical care — that go into effect at state correctional facilities during a declared disaster.</p> <p>HB 1446 will help ensure correctional employees and justice-involved individuals are healthy and safe while minimizing restrictive and isolating practices.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 772</b> By: Allen	Relating to corporal punishment in public schools.	Youth Health and Safety 5 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>Currently, the use of corporal punishment is legal in Texas schools. There is an incredibly large body of evidence that outlines the negative repercussions of using corporal punishment, ranging from increased risk of depression and anxiety, escalating violent behaviors in children, to impaired socio-emotional learning capabilities. Nonetheless, 13,000 Texas has continued to use this form of punishment, with 13,000 students subjected to it in the 2017-2018 school year.</p> <p>HB 772 explicitly prohibits the use of corporal punishment in schools by any employee, volunteer, or contractor of the district. Corporal punishment is defined in the bill as “hitting, spanking, paddling, or deliberately inflicting physical pain by any means on the whole or any part of a student’s body as a penalty or punishment for the student’s behavior on or off campus.” If an individual were to use corporal punishment, they would be unable to claim civil liability or justify their actions during a legal proceeding. HB 772 does not apply to off campus corporal punishment by a student’s parent. HB 772 does authorize the use of “reasonable and necessary” restraint by district employees in certain circumstances.</p> <p>As the state continues to focus on the mental wellbeing of students, it would be counter intuitive to allow a practice that has detrimental effects on a child’s wellbeing. HB 772 codifies a value that many Texans and experts</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			on the issue have, that the use of corporal punishment has absolutely no place in our schools. HB 772 would protect children and ensure that school is a place for learning and growth.	
<b>HB 1905</b> By: Talarico	Relating to allowing school districts to make available certain school safety training courses to employees of certain private schools, child-care facilities, or organizations providing out-of-school-time care.	Youth Health and Safety  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>As the state continues to focus on school safety, many Texas school districts are requiring that their employees attend school safety training courses approved by the Texas School Safety Center. These courses teach staff protocol for active shooter training and school safety, among other things. These trainings function to keep students and staff safe, but are often not available to underfunded after school programs. This leaves many school organizations vulnerable.</p> <p>HB 1905 seeks to address this by authorizing public school districts to make approved school safety training courses available at no cost to employees of private schools, childcare facilities, and other organizations that provide school-aged child care. Districts may fund this using money that is already available for the purposes of school safety. The bill authorizes the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to solicit funding for this purpose through grants, donations, and other means.</p> <p>Because mass shootings do not just occur in public schools, it is important that training for crisis situations is extended to other areas where children interact. HB 1905 will give organizations outside of school campuses the resources needed to keep staff and children safe.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 238</b> By: Bernal   Romero, Jr.	Relating to the regulation of migrant labor housing facilities; changing the amount of a civil penalty.	Urban Affairs  9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Migrant agricultural workers in Texas are often subject to inhumane living conditions. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) oversees migrant labor housing facility regulations. The current penalty for noncompliance with facility standards is not working, as the TDHCA has not penalized a facility operator since 2005. The current statute lacks accountability and enforcement to address noncompliance with facility standards, especially for repeat offenders. Migrant workers also fear retaliation for reporting violations, making them less likely to make reports.</p> <p>HB 238 allows the TDHCA, the county attorney for the county where the violation occurred, or the attorney general, at the request of the TDHCA, to collect civil penalties. Migrant agricultural workers who live in a migrant labor housing facility and are not under an H2-A visa can also bring an action by submitting a complaint to the TDHCA. H2-A visa holders are excluded due to protections they receive under Federal standards. Migrant workers are also protected from retaliation by the person the complaint is filed against as long as the complaint was made in good faith. HB 238 also prohibits duplicate actions from being filed for the same violation if the operator of the migrant housing facility is waiting for an inspection to confirm remediation or if the migrant farmworkers have been relocated.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			<p>HB 238 changes the civil penalty from \$200 each day the violation occurs to at least \$50 per occupant for each day the violation occurs. The TDHCA has five days to notify the migrant labor housing operator of a complaint. Penalties begin accruing seven days after receiving notice if the issue is not remedied. The TDHCA must establish a method for an operator to demonstrate compliance through visual evidence and a sworn affidavit and, if notified by mail, the operator must be inspected in person as soon as possible after the seven-day remedy period. Under HB 238, the TDHCA must adopt a penalty schedule with escalating fines for repeat violations. Collected penalties will be allocated to TDHCA's general revenue fund for enforcement purposes.</p> <p>Violations that pose an imminent threat or hazard to the health and safety of occupants of the facility, including sanitation violations, have different rules. The operator must resolve the complaint no later than 30 days after receiving notice. If the complaint cannot be resolved within 30 days, the operator must relocate occupants to another housing facility that meets occupancy standards, is in the same vicinity as the vacated facility, and does not require rent that exceeds the rent charged for the vacated facility. The TDHCA may refer these complaints to local authorities for immediate inspection.</p> <p>HB 238 requires the TDHCA to establish a process for submitting complaints, determining validity, investigating, resolving, or dismissing a complaint, and confirming remediation. Under HB 238, the TDHCA may also collaborate with other state agencies that interact with migrant housing facilities to identify and locate those that are unlicensed. Any information provided to the TDHCA can only be used to locate unlicensed facilities and must be confidential and free of identification information.</p> <p>HB 238 holds migrant labor facility operators accountable for unsafe and unsanitary living conditions by strengthening civil penalties and enforcement, ensuring safe housing for migrant workers.</p>	
<p><b>HB 484</b> By: Meza</p>	<p>Relating to suicide prevention in municipal jails.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>6 Ayes, 2 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>23% of deaths in Texas jails and prisons are due to suicide. Measures may be taken to mitigate these tragedies.</p> <p>HB 484 would require municipal jails to provide 2 hours of suicide prevention training to jailers, or employees supervising inmates, should the jail not already require such training for employment. This training must include the protocol for identifying, documenting, and handling inmates with suicidal ideation and mental illness.</p> <p>HB 484 also requires municipal jails to conduct mental health screenings during the intake, regularly check on inmates identified as potentially suicidal, and install cameras in the halls outside of their cells. Any incidences involving the attempt or completion of suicide by a person confined in the jail must be reported to the Attorney General within 48 hours.</p>	<p><b><u>Favorable</u></b></p>

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			Studies have shown that a multi-competent method of suicide prevention in jails is effective at reducing suicide, specifically screening inmates and staff training. By establishing these preventative measures for suicide in jails, HB 484 could help to save the lives of incarcerated people.	
<b>HB 4256</b> By: Murr	Relating to the establishment of a grant program to plug leaking water wells in certain counties; making an appropriation.	Natural Resources  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>When P-13 and orphan water wells leak, contaminated water, hydrogen sulfide, and radioactive materials threaten human and animal life. This has caused significant concern for West Texas landowners and ranchers with cattle. Toxic water can also spread to other bodies of water, increasing exposure to pathogens and pollutants. HB 4256 seeks to prevent this infrastructure failure and resulting environmental crisis by making the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) responsible for creating a program to provide funding for plugging leaking wells before they harm livestock, wildlife and contaminate groundwater or surface water sources.</p> <p>HB 4256 addresses this issue by creating the leaking water wells fund, which will be a state treasury fund outside the general revenue fund. HB 4256 requires TCEQ to establish and administer the leaking water wells program to plug leaking water wells. HB 4256 specifies that the bill’s provisions apply only to a water district in a county with 16,000 residents or less and is adjacent to seven counties with less than 15,000 residents. HB 4256 authorizes applicable water districts to apply and receive grants under this program for projects to plug leaking water wells. TCEQ is required to provide grants to eligible projects. Applying districts must demonstrate their project meets the eligibility requirements outlined in the bill via TCEQ’s application process.</p> <p>HB 4256 requires contractor or subcontractor contracts used for grant-awarded projects to be with approved well pluggers as identified by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC). TCEQ, in consultation with RRC, must establish criteria to ensure that a well is permanently plugged. HB 4256 restricts the use of grant money for the costs associated with the project for which it was awarded and prohibits using the money to cover administrative costs for the project. Any money leftover following a project’s completion is to be returned to TCEQ to be deposited back into the fund. HB 4256 provides that \$40 million of the general revenue fund will be appropriated into the fund, and it will be eligible for further funding from the legislature, gifts or grants, and interest earned. The fund can only be used to support the leaking water wells program.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 2481</b> By: Garcia	Relating to a counseling and crisis management program for relative or other designated caregivers and children in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family	Youth Health and Safety  7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	When a Texas child is removed from their home, close family often step up to provide care. Kinship placements are incredibly beneficial to children, resulting in better permanency outcomes and an increased ability to stay close to family. Kinship caregivers, however, do not receive the resources typically provided to foster families, with most only receiving less than half of what is typically provided to foster parents. This lack of support extends to mental healthcare, which is deeply needed by children who are going through the grief of being uprooted and losing what is familiar to them.	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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	and Protective Services.		<p>HB 2481 seeks to address this by requiring the Department of Family Services (DFPS) to provide access to a counseling and crisis management program that provides mental and behavioral telehealth services and mobile mental and behavioral health intervention services available 24 hours a day to all members of the family. Providers that are authorized to provide these services are limited by HB 2481 and must be a licensed psychologist, a licensed marriage and family therapist, a licensed professional counselor, a licensed clinical social worker, or any similarly qualified mental health professional.</p> <p>HB 2481 strengthens the ability of children to find placement with close family and will aid those families in providing the support that children in crisis desperately need.</p>	
<b>HB 2757</b> By: Tepper	Relating to funding and activities of the Texas Produced Water Consortium.	Natural Resources  8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>The 87th Legislature passed the legislation creating the Texas Produced Water Consortium, housed at Texas Tech University, to study the economics and technologies related to beneficial uses of produced water (wastewater from oil and gas operations). The Consortium has already recommended next steps to the Legislature to deal with 250,000 acre-feet per year of recoverable new water supply. However, the Consortium is statutorily prohibited from receiving state money through a direct appropriation.</p> <p>HB 2757 repeals this prohibition, and requires the Consortium to select a new project or program to take on if funds are appropriated by the Legislature. The bill instructs the Consortium to submit to the Legislature a status report by October 1, 2024 with any suggested policy, regulatory, or legislative changes based on the project.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 3756</b> By: Flores   Bumgarner   Plesa   Leach   Anderson	Relating to civil liability for removing certain individuals or animals from a motor vehicle.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence  5 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that hundreds of animals die yearly in hot cars. Many people are unaware that temperatures inside a vehicle can rise by 20 degrees in as little as 10 minutes. Even when the temperature is as low as 70 degrees, the interior of a parked car can reach 104 degrees in just half an hour. This can be avoided by allowing individuals to rescue domestic animals trapped in hot cars without fear of being sued.</p> <p>HB 3756 grants a person immunity from civil liability from damages to a motor vehicle resulting from entry or removal if they, by force or otherwise, enter a motor vehicle to remove a domesticated animal that can be kept as a house pet. HB 3765 outlines the specific conditions for this immunity to apply, including if the vehicle was locked and there was no other reasonable method for the animal to exit the vehicle without assistance, and the person had good faith and reason to believe that entry into the vehicle was necessary. A person must not use more force than necessary to enter the vehicle and remove the animal. If the person is not law enforcement or a first responder, before entering the vehicle, the person must ensure law enforcement is notified or 9-1-1 has been called. Once the animal is removed, the person must remain with the animal in a safe location near the vehicle until law enforcement or first responders arrive. HB 3756 clarifies that this immunity does not apply to livestock or if the person was advised to not enter into the vehicle by law enforcement.</p> <p>HB 3765 seeks to prevent hundreds of animal deaths that occur each year when pets are left unattended in</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			vehicles and protect individuals who choose to intervene.	
<b>HB 3803</b> By: Cunningham	Relating to allowing parents and guardians to elect for a student to repeat or retake a course or grade.	Public Education  13 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>The nature of the school curriculum to build on itself often means that success in later grades is contingent on the mastery of subjects from the years prior. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic learning loss, kids are struggling more than ever to comprehend the foundational concepts of education that carry them successfully through their secondary education. The 87th Legislature passed SB 1697, which gave parents the authority to have their child repeat a high school course or an entire grade level; this legislation expired in 2022 for students in 4th through 8th grade.</p> <p>HB 3803 seeks to continue to give parents the authority to choose whether their student shall repeat a grade by extending the policy to include 4th through 8th graders. HB 3803 strikes out current language regarding the parental election for a student to repeat a grade as it relates to grades 1st through 3rd and expands it to grades 1st through 8th.</p> <p>Additionally, a parent may determine that courses taken during the previous year for high school credit be repeated. A parent or guardian may not choose for their child to repeat a course if the child has already met all the requirements for graduation.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 5052</b> By: Gerdes	Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit.	Natural Resources  8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>Many Texans depend on groundwater wells that do not require permits from groundwater conservation districts. Currently, these districts are not required to factor in a project’s potential unreasonable impact on these exempt wells when granting or denying permits.</p> <p>HB 5052 seeks to balance private property rights with sustainable water resource management by ensuring private well owners’ concerns are considered by groundwater districts during the permitting process.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>
<b>HB 4777</b> By: Plesa   Lozano   Dutton   Johnson, Ann   Allison	Relating to the model training curriculum for school district peace officers and school resource officers.	Youth Health and Safety  6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent	<p>In Texas, over 300 school districts have their own police departments, and many others employ one or more school resource officers. In many districts, the officer-to-student ratio is higher than the counselor-to-student ratio. Currently, officers receive training in de-escalation techniques and students’ overall mental and behavioral health needs, but not in understanding the impact of mental health on student behavior or applying evidence-based strategies to address these issues. As these officers are often the first time many children will interact with law enforcement, it is important that any interaction is safe and healthy.</p> <p>HB 4777 seeks to remedy this by adding a requirement in the model training curriculum for school resource officers to include the effects of mental health conditions on student behavior and how evidence-based, grief-informed, and trauma-informed strategies support a safe school environment.</p>	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>

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			Many Texas students experience grief and trauma, which impacts their behavior. It's important that every adult they come in contact with at school has the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate this in a way that centers the student and provides what they need.	
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