



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

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LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, April 5, 2023

<p>HB 639 By: Lozano</p>	<p>Relating to the number of temporary licenses to conduct bingo issued to certain authorized organizations in a calendar year.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>Many local nonprofits and volunteer organizations organize charitable bingo games to raise funds for their mission. Currently, the Occupations Code limits the number of temporary licenses an organization can get to host charitable bingo games to 6 per year.</p> <p>HB 639 doubles the number of temporary licenses issued to an authorized organization (that does not hold a regular license to conduct bingo) from 6 to 12 per year. HB 639 gives these organizations the opportunity to host a bingo game once a month for the year, allowing more funds to be raised.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: La'Dereka Christian (512) 710-5627 Ladereka@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1161 By: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to the confidentiality of home address information for victims of child abduction and to the administration of the address confidentiality program by the office of the attorney general.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas' Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) outlines explicit protections for victims of sexual assault or abuse, stalking and trafficking, and family violence. The ACP assists these victims in keeping their addresses private by providing a free post office box and forwarding service, ensuring that their residences are not revealed. The statute, however, does not contain specific protections for victims of child abduction, leaving families vulnerable to further harassment and retraumatization.</p> <p>HB 1161 seeks to remedy this by expanding the scope of the attorney general's ACP to include victims of child abduction, defined in the bill as "any conduct that constitutes an offense of unlawful restraint, kidnapping, aggravated kidnapping, interference with child custody, or agreement to abduct from custody." HB 1161 would be effective upon passage if it receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, or on September 1.</p> <p>HB 1161 would create an additional tool in Texas' effort to keep families safe by ensuring that they feel secure in their homes. This peace of mind is vital to families that have experienced tragedy and are attempting to move forward.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated By: Savannah Lee savannah@texaslsg.org</p>
<p>HB 1228 By: Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to the right of a property owner or the owner's agent to receive on request a copy of the information used to</p>	<p>Ways & Means Vote: 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Currently, when a property owner disapproves of their property tax bill, they cannot request a copy of the information used to appraise their property until after a formal hearing is scheduled.</p> <p>HB 1228 enables property owners or their agents to request an electronic or mailed copy of any records, supporting data, schedules, and other materials from chief appraisers or private appraisal firms, at no cost prior to making a request for a formal hearing.</p>	<p>Favorable Evaluated by: Drew Tonjes (512)672-8406 Drew@texaslsg.org</p>

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	appraise the owner's property for ad valorem tax purposes.	0 Absent	Allowing property owners to obtain information on how their property was appraised before entering the protest process will help cut down on unnecessary protests, saving time for both the taxpayer and the Appraisal Review Board (ARB).	
HB 1363 By: Kuempel	Relating to the repeal of the real estate inspection recovery fund.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	HB 1363 eliminates an unnecessary fund and allows those funds to be put back into the state budget. SB 914, passed during the 80th Legislature, required licensed real estate inspectors to have liability insurance. Prior to SB 914, inspectors had to contribute to the Real Estate Inspection Recovery Fund to reimburse consumers for damages caused by Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) license holders. Even though this fund is no longer needed, inspectors are still paying into the fund, but the dollars go nowhere. HB 1363 removes language establishing the fund and phases out the balance of the fund to General Revenue (GR), after crediting the \$10 fee that inspectors paid into the fund. TREC may still levy disciplinary penalty fees. Rather than the fees being deposited into the fund, they will be credited to TREC's annual remittance to GR. Because TREC is self-funded through licensure fees, the self-directed semi-independent (SDSI) agency remits funds to GR annually. Any penalty fees will be a credit towards this annual remittance.	Favorable Evaluated by: Samantha Ruelas (956) 929-9978 Sam@texaslsg.org
HB 112 By: Howard Oliverson Rogers Klick Bonnen	Relating to workplace violence prevention in certain health facilities.	Public Health 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	On a daily basis, an average of 57 nurses are assaulted at work, ranging from verbal abuse to physical harm. These attacks come from patients, their families, and coworkers, and are a major reason why many nurses leave the profession early. HB 112 seeks to address this issue with the creation and implementation of statewide standards for preventing violence in health care facilities. Under the bill, health care facilities would be required to establish a committee charged with developing a violence prevention plan that meets rules set by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). Each committee must include at least one registered nurse providing direct care to patients and one employee providing security services at the facility. Health care systems with multiple facilities can establish a single committee in certain situations, but they must ensure that data related to violence prevention is tracked for each facility in the system. Under HB 112, violence prevention plans must include a definition of workplace violence, a system for reporting and investigating violent incidents, and annual training for employees. Anyone who violates the bill's provisions may be subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate licensing agency. Plans must also encourage employees to share information about workplace violence and provide protection against retaliation. HB 12 requires the committee to evaluate the violence prevention plan annually and report its results to the facility's governing body.	Favorable Evaluated By: Brian Dusablon 281-789-8955 brian@texaslsg.org

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			Health care professionals should not fear for their safety while at work. HB 112 aims to protect Texas health care workers from violence and hold those who exhibit abusive behavior accountable.	
HB 162 By: Murr Kitzman	Relating to minimum standards for prescribed burns.	Agriculture & Livestock 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Prescribed burning is considered one of the cheapest, most effective habitat management techniques. A Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager (CIPBM), licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture, is responsible for ensuring that a prescribed burn is confined and smoke emissions are minimized. CIPBMs may serve as a “burn boss” for a landowner conducting a prescribed burn. HB 162 clarifies that if a landowner’s prescribed burn plan lists a CIPBM as the “burn boss,” the CIPBM must be present during the burn and cannot send anyone on their behalf.	<u>Favorable</u> Evaluated By: LaTicia Jeffers (740) 621- 4226 laticia@texaslsg.org