



Texas Legislative Study Group

An Official Caucus of the Texas House of Representatives

Chair, Rep. Armando L. Walle
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Ana Hernandez
 Co-Vice Chair, Rep. Yvonne Davis
 Secretary, Rep. Victoria Neave Criado
 General Counsel, Rep. Lina Ortega

STEERING COMMITTEE

Rep. Rafael Anchia	Rep. Armando 'Mando' Martinez
Rep. Toni Rose	Rep. Rhetta Andrews Bowers
Rep. Nicole Collier	Rep. Carl O. Sherman Sr.
Rep. Julie Johnson	Rep. Sergio Muñoz Jr.
Rep. Abel Herrero	Rep. Mary E. González
Rep. Chris Turner	Rep. Diego M. Bernal
Rep. Gina Hinojosa	

LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS UNTIL 9:00 AM – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

<p>HB 2584</p> <p>By: Paul</p>	<p>Relating to indemnification and duties of real property appraisers under certain governmental contracts.</p>	<p>County Affairs</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, certain governmental entities' contracts with professional appraisers require appraisers to hold them harmless against liability for damage, and defend them in certain actions, even when the potential damages arises from the actions of the governmental entity.</p> <p>HB 2584 seeks to ensure appraisers cannot be held liable for an employing governmental entity's mistakes by rendering hold harmless provisions in a contract to be void and unenforceable. It also voids requirements in a contract requiring appraisers to defend an employing governmental entity's employee against a claim based on negligence or breach of contract.</p> <p>HB 2584 would help protect local appraisers from unfair litigation.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 250</p> <p>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><u>Favorable</u></p>

OK for Distribution

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

			<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>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>HB 1791 By: Davis</p>	<p>Relating to the qualifications of experts in certain health care liability claims.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1791 ensures that chiropractors or physicians can serve as witnesses in chiropractic malpractice cases. Chiropractors are not currently included in the list of individuals who are allowed to serve as an expert witness in malpractice claims for chiropractic care.</p> <p>HB 1791 allows a chiropractor or physician to qualify as an expert witness in a suit with a health care liability claim against a chiropractor. The witness would be allowed to testify on the causal relationship between the care provided and the injury, harm, or damages claimed.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1939 By: Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to the route designation for the issuance of a permit for the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles in Webb County.</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Differences in truck weight limits between Texas and Mexico can force some companies to divide shipments into multiple trucks before crossing international bridges, creating inefficiency and additional cost.</p> <p>HB 1939 provides the Texas Transportation Commission authority to allow the City of Laredo to expand permit issuance for oversize/overweight cargo vehicles on certain roads in Webb County. HB 1939 enables these permits for specific roads, namely State Highway 255 between the Laredo-Colombia Solidarity International Bridge and its intersection with Interstate Highway 35, and FM 3338 between its intersection with State Highway 255 and its intersection with FM 1472.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>HB 1939 expands the permit zone for oversize or overweight vehicles in Webb County, increasing efficiency and reducing costs for Texas freight transportation companies.</p>	
<p>HB 2668 By: Johnson, Ann</p>	<p>Relating to the rights of victims of sexual assault and to certain procedures and reimbursements occurring with respect to a sexual assault or other sex offense.</p>	<p>Homeland Security and Public Safety 8 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force (SASTF) in the Office of the Governor in Texas proposed policy recommendations to develop survivor-centered and trauma-informed responses to sexual violence, which were all passed by the 87th Texas Legislature. HB 2668 is a bill that aims to strengthen the rights of sexual assault survivors concerning forensic medical examinations.</p> <p>HB 2668 seeks to increase accessibility to forensic medical examinations, improve survivors' compensation eligibility and reimbursement, and allow for survivor-centered assault kit notification procedures. It consolidates all statutory approaches for all sexual assault victims and repeals provisions that distinguish between victims who report or do not report sexual assault.</p> <p>Subchapter F within in the chapter pertaining to Rights of Crime Victims refers to only victims of sexual assault who have reported through a form which have in the past restricted and denied victims by law enforcement to not receive a forensic medical examination after an assault. HB 2668 repeals Subchapter F, as the form is hindering medical access and treatment for survivors and not a crucial requirement for law enforcement to pursue the offense.</p> <p>For minors, the HB 2668 requires law enforcement agencies to refer victims of sexual assault to a forensic medical examination regardless of when the assault was reported. For adults, the bill requires law enforcement agencies to refer victims to a forensic medical examination within 120 hours after the reported assault. If it's after the 120-hour period, a referral must be made by a physician, sexual assault examiner, or nurse examiner who has conducted a preliminary medical evaluation to make the necessary determination.</p> <p>HB 2668 broadens the provision for reimbursement of a health care provider, sexual assault examiner, or nurse examiner who conducted the examination for the cost of the forensic portion of the examination, other medical care provided during the examination, and any other medical care provided to the victim during the 30-day period post examination, including medication and medical testing. The bill also requires the office of the attorney general to make a payment to victims of sexual assault or on their behalf of the reasonable costs from all testing and medical care, replacing the costs according to the Health and Safety Code provisions on emergency services. Additionally, the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the attorney general to make a payment according to medical fee guidelines by the Texas Workers' Compensation Act; • Limits the payment amount to \$25,000; • Authorizes the attorney general to deny or reduce a payment if the reimbursement was recouped from a 	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collateral source; and Establishes that the attorney general nor the victim is responsible for medical care costs that were not medically necessary or exceeds the fee guidelines. <p>HB 2668 establishes that a victim who receives a forensic medical examination that provided sufficient evidence constitutes sufficient evidence, meaning that they cooperated with the investigation to be eligible for an award payable under the state's crime victims' compensation program. It also retains and amends the provision that the law enforcement agency or state's attorney pay all costs related to the testimony of a licensed healthcare professional in a criminal proceeding regarding the results of a forensic medical examination regardless of whether the victim reported the assault.</p> <p>The bill removes the requirement to provide a written notice to the victim regarding the agency's intention to destroy the evidence and replaces it with written notification through the statewide sexual assault evidence electronic tracking system before destroying the evidence. The bill also requires the preservation and transfer of evidence to comply with the current Government Code for law enforcement agencies regarding the analysis and release of evidence of sexual assault or another sex offense.</p> <p>Overall, HB 2668 strengthens survivors' rights before, during, and after receiving forensic medical examinations, including receiving their sexual assault kit notification. SASTF ensures that all recommended policies are survivor-centered and provide a more transparent and consistent collaboration between victims of sexual assault and law enforcement agencies.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--

LSG Floor Report For POSTPONED BUSINESS UNTIL 10:00 AM – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

HB 3490 By: Rogers	Relating to the notice and compensation a municipality must provide before revoking the right to use property for a use that was allowed before the adoption of or change to a zoning regulation or boundary.	Land & Resource Management 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Concerns have been raised about the ability of municipalities to revoke the conforming use of a property through the adoption or change of a zoning regulation or boundary that results in nonconforming use. Nonconforming use is the use of land that existed legally before a zoning restriction came into effect, but continues to exist even though it is no longer in compliance with currently applicable restrictions. HB 3490 aims to prevent nonconforming land use caused by zoning regulation or boundary changes. It requires that affected property owners and occupants receive written notice at least 10 days before a public hearing on zoning changes that could make their current conforming uses nonconforming. The notice must include the time and place of the hearing and a bold warning about the potential loss of rights to continue using the property in its current manner.	<u>Favorable</u>
------------------------------	---	--	--	-------------------------

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

			<p>HB 3490 also requires that property owners or lessees be allowed to continue using their property in a nonconforming manner unless explicitly required by the municipality to stop. If required to stop, they are entitled to payment equal to the costs incurred due to ceasing the nonconforming use and the loss in market value of the property. They may also continue the nonconforming use until they recover the determined amount. A person receiving payment must stop the nonconforming use within 10 days.</p> <p>Under HB 3490, municipalities must provide written notice of the obligation to stop the nonconforming use and available remedies within 10 days of imposing the requirement. Property owners or lessees have 30 days to respond and an appeals process is available.</p> <p>The bill provides for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appeal of a remedy determination to a municipality’s board of adjustment by a person entitled; • Judicial review of the board’s final decision, sought by either the person or the municipality; • The continued nonconforming use of a property pending appeal, unless a temporary restraining order is granted; • The adjustment by the appellate entity of the payment and the amount of time for the operation of a nonconforming use; and • An optional waiver of the bill’s applicable rights and remedies by an owner or lessee. <p>HB 3490 waives a municipality's immunity from suit and governmental immunity from liability for actions brought by property owners or lessees to enforce their rights and remedies. This bill does not apply to nonconforming uses that have been intentionally abandoned for at least six months.</p> <p>HB 3490 seeks to protect property owners and occupants from the negative impacts of nonconforming land use resulting from changes in zoning regulations or boundaries. HB 3490 strikes a balance between the needs of municipalities to regulate land use and the rights of property owners to continue using their property in a reasonable manner.</p>	
HB 1561	Relating to the decision of a court of	Judiciary & Civil	The Texas Supreme Court recently ruled that state law gives a court of appeals the ability to deny a permissive interlocutory appeal — which occurs when a ruling by a trial court is appealed while other parts of the case are	<u>Favorable</u>

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

By: Smithee	appeals not to accept certain interlocutory appeals.	Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	still happening — as long as the court complies with the Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure that requires courts to give basic reasons for decisions. Under current law, the court does not have authority to mandate courts of appeals to accept more permissive appeals to ensure disputes are resolved efficiently. HB 1561 aims to solve this issue by requiring a court of appeals to provide a reason for denying an appeal, and giving the Texas Supreme Court authority to review the court's decision under an abuse of discretion standard. HB 1561 ensures that interlocutory appeals cannot be denied without a reason being provided, and that the Supreme Court has authority to review these denials.	
HB 4921 By: Murr	Relating to the establishment of an adult education pilot program by the Windham School District.	Corrections 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	According to the Brookings Institute, approximately two-fifths of people entering correctional facilities do not have a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) credential. Research suggests that educational attainment is a key indicator of social mobility, economic stability, and criminal justice involvement. Nationally, justice-involved individuals tend to be undereducated and underemployed when compared to the general population: this is particularly troubling in Texas which has the highest prison population in the country. HB 4921 aims to provide justice-involved individuals between the ages of 26 and 50 greater access to educational opportunity. HB 4921 establishes a pilot adult education program in which justice-involved individuals can earn a high school diploma through a nonprofit entity collaboration with the Windham School District (WSD). Individuals would be eligible if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are between 26 and 50 years of age; and • Did not graduate from high school, pass a test required to graduate from high school, or earn a high school equivalency certificate. Additionally, HB 4921 requires the program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter into a memorandum of understanding with at least one non-profit entity to provide adult education through the program; • Require that each nonprofit identify regions across the state in which they can operate; and • Identify at least three schools operated by WISD that are able to serve as sites for the program. For justice-involved individuals, educational opportunity – particularly adult education programs that improve literacy – reduces recidivism by giving individuals the knowledge and credentials generally required for employment. Rearrest and reincarceration are more likely when individuals do not have the skills, credentials, and support necessary to secure stable employment and housing. HB 4921 addresses this by expanding adult educational programming in TDCJ.	<u>Favorable</u>

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

<p>HB 4857 By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the cosmetology licensure compact.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4857 adds Texas to the list of member states participating in the Cosmetology Licensure Compact. The compact will allow licensed cosmetologists who move from one compact state to another to work without long wait times to receive a new state license.</p> <p>HB 4857 would allow cosmetology licensees to move freely between member states for employment. HB 4857 outlines eligibility requirements for states to have continuous participation in the compact, a multistate licensing program, and requirements for anyone moving to another member state. HB 4857 authorizes the Cosmetology Licensure Compact Commission (CLCC) and a Member State’s Licensing Authority to regulate the cosmetology practice, including carrying out disciplinary measures.</p> <p>HB 4857 states that to utilize the compact, a cosmetologist must have a license in good standing in a member state. HB 4857 also creates a centralized database with information regarding licensure, investigations, and other pertinent information for all licensees in member states. Under HB 4857, all agreements between the CLCC and the member states are binding according to the terms. However, HB 4857 outlines provisions to amend the compact or allow a member state to withdraw.</p> <p>HB 4857 allows lawfully practicing cosmetologists in compact states to work quickly without a hiatus. This is especially helpful for military spouses or family members who may have to move every few years.</p> <p>This bill takes effect on the date the compact is enacted into law in the 10th member state.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 4082 By: Goldman Tepper</p>	<p>Relating to the purposes for which a municipality or county may issue an anticipation note or certificate of obligation.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments, & Financial Services</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>At times, local governments like counties and municipalities may issue certificates of obligations (COs) or anticipated notes or bonds for public works without seeking approval from voters. These bonds or COs are backed by property taxes and other local revenues. The existing law allows for the issuance of COs and anticipation notes for public work. However, there is confusion about what "public work" means, and the HB 4082 seeks to clarify this by defining what it is and is not.</p> <p>HB 4082 amends the Local Government and Government code to classify several things as "public work" that counties and municipalities can use the COs for. These include roads, highways, bridges, sidewalks, parking structures, landfills, airports, utility systems, water supply projects, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, wharfs, docks, flood control and drainage projects, public safety facilities, judicial facilities, administrative office buildings, animal shelters, libraries, and parks or recreation facilities that are open to the public and are part of the municipal or county park system.</p> <p>However, the law prohibits professional or semi-professional centers, coliseums, or hotels from being considered "public works."</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u></p>

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

			COs are often used as a tool for economic development and generate revenue and jobs in projects like hotels and convention centers. Though specific self-funded revenue may be insufficient, these projects could still happen within the city with the approval of voters in the next election cycle.	
HB 671 By: González, Mary Lopez, Ray Garcia	Relating to a veterans suicide prevention campaign.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs 7 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Suicide rates among military veterans are disproportionately high. In Texas, death by suicide for veterans averaged 1.4 per day in 2020, with 75% of these deaths involving firearms. There is a need to make suicide prevention education accessible to Texas veterans and their families.</p> <p>HB 671 requires the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) conduct a suicide prevention campaign to provide veterans with information about suicide prevention. TVC is required to establish a website to provide information about suicide prevention and safe firearm storage. TVC is required to collaborate with community-based non-profit or private organizations, and is authorized to contract with these types of entities. TVC is authorized to solicit and accept gifts and grants for the campaign.</p> <p>HB 671 provides a campaign to provide lifesaving information to veterans and is conducted by a source that veterans can trust.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 3199 By: Noble Cook	Relating to requiring certain information before being employed by a child-care facility.	Human Services 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Although both private and public schools utilize a pre-employment affidavit, child-care facilities are not required to. This pre-employment affidavit requires applicants to answer questions related to being charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor. HB 3199 seeks to require child-care facilities to use these affidavits as a part of their hiring process.</p> <p>HB 3199 requires any child-care facility applicant to submit a pre-employment affidavit disclosing if the applicant has ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor. An applicant who answers affirmatively regarding an inappropriate relationship with a minor must disclose all facts relating to the charge, the adjudication, and the conviction, including if it was determined to be true or false.</p> <p>HB 3199 establishes an applicant is not precluded from being employed based on the disclosed charge, if the employer determines that the charge was false based on the information provided in the affidavit. Additionally, withholding information required to be disclosed by an applicant is immediate grounds for termination.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>

LSG Floor Report For Major State Calendar – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

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

<p>HB 2263</p> <p>By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a natural gas local distribution company to offer energy conservation programs.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Natural gas energy conservation programs have proven successful in reducing energy consumption and costs and improving energy services across the state. However, there is no statewide requirement for gas companies to offer conservation programs, and many Texans do not have access to them. HB 2263 aims to establish a uniform framework for energy conservation programs in Texas for natural gas, with the goal of promoting wider adoption of such programs by local distribution companies (LDCs).</p> <p>HB 2263 allows the RRC to authorize cost recovery for LDCs to implement energy conservation programs.</p> <p>HB 2263 permits LDCs to offer energy conservation programs to their customers, subject to new requirements and regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC). Political subdivisions would be barred from limiting customer participation based on the type or source of energy used.</p> <p>HB 2263 permits LDCs to recover costs associated with implementing the conservation programs, but they must apply for approval from the RRC every three years. LDCs would have to submit annual reports on program performance, a proposed budget, public input, and projections for the upcoming year. The RRC would have the authority to allocate program costs among eligible customer classes. The RRC would have to approve the cost recovery.</p> <p>HB 2263 allows proposed energy conservation programs to be combined into a portfolio that includes various measures, such as financial incentives, technical assistance, product discounts, rebates, and weatherization for low-income customers.</p> <p>HB 2263 clarifies that the proceeding related to energy conservation program cost recovery is not a ratemaking proceeding. LDCs implementing energy conservation programs would be required to reimburse the RRC for its proportionate share of costs related to reviewing cost recovery applications.</p> <p>HB 2263 aims to increase accessibility to energy conservation programs for all Texans, allowing them to upgrade their appliances, make their homes more efficient, and reduce their energy consumption.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2847</p> <p>By: Darby Morales, Eddie</p>	<p>Relating to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas over and a study of the production, pipeline</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas has abundant hydrocarbon resources and a strong energy sector, which makes hydrogen an important fuel source for the state’s future. To secure funding for clean hydrogen projects and continue leading the nation in this area, regulations must be created for hydrogen production, transportation, and storage.</p> <p>HB 2847 provides the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) authority over pipeline transportation and underground hydrogen storage.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

	transportation, and storage of hydrogen.		<p>HB 2847 establishes that the Texas Hydrogen Production Policy Council is responsible for studying and recommending rules for hydrogen energy development. The council will be composed of the RRC chair or the chair's designee and up to 11 members appointed by the RRC to represent various participants, including at least three representatives from the hydrogen industry. The council will be chaired by the Railroad Commissioner or the commissioner's designee.</p> <p>HB 2847 outlines the council's responsibilities, including studying the development of hydrogen industries in Texas, monitoring regional efforts for clean hydrogen hub development under federal acts, and developing a state plan for hydrogen production oversight. The council will coordinate actions with other state agencies and have the authority to make recommendations for RRC rules necessary for the oversight and regulations of hydrogen production, pipeline transportation, and storage. Council members will not receive compensation or reimbursement for expenses, and the council will be abolished with these provisions on January 1, 2030.</p> <p>Having demonstrated expertise, the RRC is well-equipped to assume this authority for hydrogen infrastructure and storage, and the newly created policy counsel under HB 2847 will assist the RRC.</p>	
<p>HB 4287</p> <p>By: Metcalf Cunningham Manuel Bailes Ashby</p>	Relating to the use of customer-sited distributed generation facilities owned by certain non-ERCOT electric utilities.	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4287 allows non-ERCOT utilities within the Southeastern Electric Reliability Council to provide backup electric service to nonresidential retail customers through a customer-sited distribution generation facility. This would apply to Entergy's service region on the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid in southeast Texas. The backup generator must be capable of providing electric service during a power outage, and the facility must be owned and operated by the electric utility with no more than 10 megawatt capacity.</p> <p>HB 4287 requires the Public Utility Commission of Texas to establish just and reasonable rates for backup electric service supplied using a customer-sited distributed generation facility, consistent with provisions of the Public Utility Regulatory Act governing electric utility rates.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
<p>HB 4811</p> <p>By: Anchía Guillen Hernandez Geren</p>	Relating to the creation of the Texas Energy Efficiency Council.	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, no single entity is responsible for evaluating energy efficiency opportunities in Texas. HB 4811 addresses this by establishing the Texas Energy Efficiency Council (TEEC), a public-private partnership to improve energy efficiency in Texas. The TEEC would consist of 16 members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house, along with representatives from the energy industry, environmental organizations, academia, and other stakeholders.</p> <p>TEEC would develop and implement a statewide strategic plan for energy efficiency, including recommendations for increasing the use of energy-efficient technologies and practices in buildings, appliances, and transportation. TEEC would be required to submit an annual report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker, and the legislature on its activities and progress toward achieving goals laid out in the strategic plan.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>

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

HB 4811 cultivates a collaborative approach towards making Texas more energy efficient. This will reduce electricity costs, and lower demand on the grid.

LSG Floor Report For Constitutional Amendments Calendar – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

<p>HJR 166 By: Thompson, Senfronia Johnson, Julie Davis</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment allowing recovery of exemplary damages by parents or a person's estate for a homicide.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Constitution only allows the surviving husband, widow, or heirs of a homicide victim to recover exemplary damages for every person, corporation, or company that may commit a homicide, through willful act or omission or gross neglect. This means that parents who lose their adult children that do not have their own kids cannot recover any exemplary damages.</p> <p>HJR 166 allows spouses, children, or parents to recover exemplary damages or the deceased person's estate without regard to any criminal proceeding that may or may not be had in relation to the homicide. HJR 166 ensures that parents can recover their adult children's estate and any exemplary damages that resulted from the homicide of their child.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HJR 165 By: Muñoz, Jr.</p>	<p>Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a military service member who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.</p>	<p>Ways & Means 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, surviving spouses of U.S. armed service members who are killed in the line of duty are entitled to exemptions from all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's property taxes if they have not remarried since. This exemption, however, does not apply to other military service members, including those who serve in the National Guard as dual status technicians for the federal and state government under Operation Lone Star.</p> <p>HJR 165 aims to remedy this issue by proposing a constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a military service member to be exempt from property taxes on all or part of the market value of a residence homestead if the spouse has not remarried since the death of the member of the armed services. HJR 165 also allows the Legislature to define "military service member" to decide who would qualify for this exemption under this legislation. HJR 165 would allow the surviving spouses in the National Guard to receive the same benefits of those with spouses in the US armed services.</p> <p>The enabling legislation for this constitutional amendment is HB 4181, which has not been scheduled for the General State Calendar as of today.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

LSG Floor Report For General State Calendar – Wednesday, May 3, 2023

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

<p>HB 270 By: Thompson</p>	<p>Relating to post conviction forensic DNA testing.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Since 1989, Texas has overturned 74 wrongful convictions based on DNA evidence, effectively demonstrating the importance of post-conviction DNA testing in ensuring the fairness of our courts and the safety of the public. This testing has played a crucial role in identifying innocent individuals who have been incarcerated and in bringing actual perpetrators to justice. Among the cases where a wrongfully convicted person served a sentence, 28 actual perpetrators were identified through DNA testing and went on to commit 21 rapes, 2 murders, and 12 other violent offenses. Without this testing, these individuals remained an ongoing threat to society. However, the current standard for the courts to grant DNA testing is restrictive. To be granted testing, a convicted individual must establish that they would not have been convicted if exculpatory results had been obtained through DNA testing, but the definition of "exculpatory results" does not currently include a third party DNA match.</p> <p>HB 270 seeks to remedy this by expanding the term “exculpatory results” regarding DNA testing, clarifying that those results may include DNA testing that indicates a match to a known offender in law enforcement databases. HB270 also states that testing may be conducted in a DPS laboratory.</p> <p>HB 270 will assist the judiciary in future exonerations by expanding the ability for convicted individuals to be eligible for consideration.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2608 By: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to the use by certain municipalities of certain tax revenue to fund convention center facilities, multipurpose arenas, venues, and related infrastructure.</p>	<p>Ways & Means 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The 83rd Legislature authorized municipalities to designate a project financing zone (PFZ) to use incremental hotel-associated revenue for qualified projects, which include projects in which up to 40% is privately funded. PFZs can continue for up to 30 years after designation and reduce taxpayer burden with private contributions. COVID-19's impact on travel and hotels caused underperformance of existing PFZs, leaving some municipalities unable to repay debt obligations from hotel-associated revenue, forcing them to find alternative resources.</p> <p>HB 2608 modifies the population limits for a qualified project located in a municipality by changing it from a population of between 650,000 and 750,000 to between 850,000-950,000. HB 2608 extends the time by two years before a PFZ expires due to the COVID-19 pandemic on hotel-associated revenues if the zone was designated as a PFZ in or before 2019 and in existence on March 15th, 2020. HB 2608 helps hotels recover from the effects of COVID-19 by allowing them two more years to have a PFZ.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3483 By: Turner Lopez, Janie</p>	<p>Relating to the creation, distribution, and posting of a veterans benefits and services poster in the workplace.</p>	<p>Defense & Veterans' Affairs 6 Ayes, 2 Nay, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>In 2021, Texas was home to approximately 1.4 million veterans, the largest veteran population nationally. Veterans comprise a significant workforce in Texas but struggle with homelessness and mental health complications, especially post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Despite various programs helping veterans with housing, employment, and mental health, there is no central location or platform for veterans to access or find this information.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

		<p>0 Absent</p>	<p>To address this issue, HB 3438 requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to collaborate with the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) to develop and distribute a veterans benefits and services poster to each employer with at least 50 employees. The poster will include information on how an employee can apply for unemployment compensation benefits under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, benefits offered under a federal program, and how an employee can exercise any state or federal tax benefits or preferences offered to veterans. The information will also include how an employee can contact the TVC, including their website and the veterans crisis hotline, and inform the employee how to obtain a Department of Public Safety-issued driver’s license or personal identification card. The poster will also identify services available to Texas veterans, including education, workforce placement, training programs, legal assistance, and substance abuse and mental health treatment. HB 3483 requires employers to display these posters in a conspicuous place in their business, accessible to all employees.</p> <p>HB 3483 aims to address the issue of fragmented resources by giving veterans an avenue to be informed about the benefits and services they are entitled to.</p>	
<p>HB 4419 By: Goldman Ashby Hunter Morrison Collier</p>	<p>Relating to the promotion of film and television production in this state, including the eligibility of film or television productions for funding under the major events reimbursement program, the creation of a film events trust fund and a film production tax rebate trust fund, the establishment of virtual film production institutes, and the designation of media production development zones.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>There have been many professionals in the media industry that want to come to produce content in Texas and build the industry. HB 4419 would add film and television production to the Major Events Reimbursement Program (MERP) by establishing the Film Events Trust Fund (FETF) and the Film Production Tax Rebate Trust Fund (FPTRTF) through MERP. The Comptroller would hold and administer the Film Events Trust Fund, separate from the state treasury.</p> <p><i>Supporting Educational Opportunities</i> HB 4419 would also allow Texas A&M University and Texas State University to establish an institute to offer educational opportunities for students interested in virtual film production.</p> <p><i>Establishes Trust Funds</i> HB 4419 establishes the Film Events Trust Fund (FETF) and the Film Production Tax Rebate Trust Fund (FPTRTF). A film event is eligible for funding under the FETF if the event takes place in Texas, once or at least once a year, and it is determined that the total incremental increase tax receipts (revenue from Limited Sales, Excise, and Use Tax, Sale, Retail and Use of Motor Vehicles Tax, Mixed Beverages Taxes, and Hotel Occupancy Taxes, etc.) totals less than \$5 million. After a site for a film event is chosen by a site selection organization, the state office will determine the amount of tax revenue increase that can be directly attributed to the event for a 30-day period.</p> <p>A film or television production is eligible for funding under the FPTRTF if the production organization selects one or more sites in Texas for at least part of the production. The music, film, television, and multimedia office</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>within the office of the governor would administer the program. After a project is selected, HB requires the office to determine the tax receipts directly attributable to the project.</p> <p>Overall, HB 4419 aims to create a trust fund for film events that will enhance the planning, creation, execution, and showcasing of television programs, movies, virtual films, and multimedia productions within the state; enabling Texas to effectively compete with other states in attracting productions.</p>	
HB 4928 By: Frank	Relating to the continuation and operations of certain local health care provider participation programs.	County Affairs 6 Ayes, 2 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	In Texas, local hospitals can choose to implement a healthcare provider participation program (LPPF), through which a healthcare-related tax is implemented on a local level. LPPFs are administered by an existing unit of local government and are designed specifically to meet federal requirements regarding eligible local funds. In 2019, The 86th Legislature passed SB 2286, which authorized Wichita County to administer and operate a Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF). This authority is set to expire at the end of this year. HB 4928 extends Wichita County’s LPPF authority to December 31, 2027.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 4539 By: Goldman Ashby Hunter Morrison Collier	Relating to qualifications for participation in the moving image industry incentive program.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent	<p>There is concern within the media and film industry about finding qualified Texans to meet the eligibility requirements for the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program (TMIIP). TMIIP requires that 70% of a production crew be Texas residents, which can be difficult for projects to achieve. HB 4539 seeks to address this concern.</p> <p>HB 4539 lowers the minimum percentage of a production crew, actors, and extras of a moving image project required to be Texas residents from 70% to 55% to satisfy eligibility requirements under TMIIP. HB 4539 will increase the accessibility of TMIIP and encourage more projects to come to Texas.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 4653 By: Anchía Rose Frazier González, Jessica Meyer	Relating to participation in a deferred retirement option plan by members of the retirement systems for police and fire fighters in certain municipalities.	Pensions, Investments, and Financial Services 6 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	<p>Some cities offer optional retirement plans for their police and fire department employees, including the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), which allows eligible members of the Dallas Police and Fire Pension System to invest 13.5% of their contributions for ten years without a cost of living adjustment (COLA). Some senior officers have opted for DROP and have remained in active service beyond the current 10-year cap (in addition to having served at least 25 years before enrolling). Given the low recruitment and officer shortage, HB 4653 aims to incentivize senior members to continue in active service by increasing the cap from 10 to 20 years for their DROP account credits.</p> <p>HB 4653 applies only to municipalities with a population of more than 1.18 million and located in a predominantly county with a total area of less than 1,000 square miles, such as Dallas. The bill may apply to anyone who selects the DROP option before, on, or after the bill’s effective date but not to a member whose retirement pension ceased being credited to the member’s DROP account on or after Jan. 1, 2018. HB 4653 only affects 69 senior officers of the Dallas Fire and Police Department by the bill’s provisions once enacted.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>

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

<p>HB 4354 By: Lozano</p>	<p>Relating to the mitigation and preparedness program administered by the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) board of directors recommended that the Legislature allow TWIA and the Texas Department of Insurance flexibility in developing incentives for best-practice wind mitigation efforts, such as more resilient construction methods.</p> <p>HB 4354 encourages more resilient construction to lower insurance losses after a catastrophe by authorizing TWIA to design and operate a mitigation and preparedness program subject to approval by the insurance commissioner. The program must work to improve preparedness for windstorms and hail catastrophes and reduce potential future losses. TWIA may fund the program from the catastrophe reserve trust fund. The amount is capped at \$500,000 and may not be used if the commissioner deems it would jeopardize the soundness or impair the ability of the TWIA.</p> <p>Appropriate construction methods can improve insurance affordability and reduce community damage, costs, and losses after a catastrophe.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3743 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; expanding authority to adopt fees.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has many responsibilities for license holders throughout the state. HB 3743 clarifies certain operations within TDLR, and modernizes current practices.</p> <p>HB 3743 authorizes the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulations (TCLR) the authority to charge fees for certain programs and activities managed by TDLR. Additionally, TCLR may require individuals such as license holders, applicants, or other parties to provide their email address to assist TDLR’s business e-inspection process.</p> <p>Under HB 3743, TDLR can now accept applications from prisoners in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), but cannot issue licenses until after the applicant’s release. This provision does not impede TDLR’s authority to confirm eligibility for licensure or issue provisional or restricted licenses in accordance with other laws.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 103 By: Murr Spiller</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment of a retired or former judge as a visiting judge in certain counties.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, county judges may appoint retired judges or constitutional county judges from other counties to be visiting judges when a county judge is absent or when high caseloads require the assistance of another judge. A recent opinion from the attorney general indicated that a former constitutional county judge would not meet the definition of “retired judge,” meaning these judges are not eligible to be appointed to be visiting judges unless they have other experience that qualifies them as a retired judge.</p> <p>HB 103 aims to allow former constitutional county judges to qualify as visiting judges. HB 103 defines a “former constitutional county judge” as a person who served as a judge for at least 96 months in a constitutional county court or served as a judge for at least 48 months in a constitutional county and who is a licensed attorney in this state. It allows the county judge to appoint former constitutional county judges as visiting judges when the county judge is absent and to share the bench if needed to help with caseloads that cannot be efficiently undertaken without help. HB 103 allows more judges to assist counties as visiting judges.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

<p>HB 1899 By: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for insider trading and other misuse of official information.</p>	<p>State Affairs 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1899 establishes a criminal penalty for insider trading based on the net gain of the transaction, i.e., pecuniary gain. An offense involving a net pecuniary gain of less than \$150,000 remains a third-degree felony, while the penalty is enhanced to a second-degree felony if the net pecuniary gain is \$150,000 or more but less than \$300,000 and to a first-degree felony if the net pecuniary gain is \$300,000 or more. HB 1899 makes the consequences of abusing private information by public servants more stringent to mitigate further exploitation.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1517 By: Frank Rose Noble Garcia</p>	<p>Relating to an independent assessment of the Health and Human Services Commission’s rules, minimum standards, and contract requirements that apply to certain residential child-care providers.</p>	<p>Human Services 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Texans Care for Children reported that foster care providers follow certain safety standards but face difficulties staying open due to some excessive regulations. HB 1517 aims to eliminate redundant requirements, ensure the safety of children in foster care, and maintain current placements through foster care providers.</p> <p>HB 1517 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to contract with an independent entity that demonstrates expertise in evaluating state child welfare systems and conducting statistical and operational analysis to conduct an assessment. The assessment will examine HHSC’s regulations, minimum standards, and contract requirements for child-placing agencies, residential child-care facilities, relative caregivers, and adoptive homes. The assessment will also evaluate current standards or oversight requirements to determine their relevance, whether they comply with federal regulations, and if they are best practices.</p> <p>The selected independent entity is then required to complete the assessment and submit to HHSC and the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) a report about their assessment findings and their recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplifying HHSC minimum standards, updating licensing standards, and adjusting HHSC’s system of assigning weights to minimum standards to prioritize children’s health, safety, and well-being in residential child-care facilities or the home of a relative caregiver or adoptive parent. • Simplifying HHSC minimum standards to reduce barriers to opening a child-placing agency or becoming a relative caregiver or an adoptive parent. • Addressing licensing, training, or oversight requirements that hinder the retention of high-quality residential child-care facilities, relative caregivers, or adoptive parents. • Updating licensing requirements bar hiring and retaining high-quality leadership, administrators, and staff at child-placing agencies and residential child-care facilities. • Allowing flexibility in applying standards to ensure service provision responds to a child’s individual needs. • Defining HHSC’s role in licensing, investigating, contract oversight, and any other regulatory activity to eliminate duplicative functions within HHSC. • Promoting transparency and clarity of HHSC’s expectations for child-placing agencies, residential child-care facilities, relative caregivers, and adoptive parents. <p>The independent entity must consider the input of all relevant stakeholders, including those affected by HHSC’s rules, standards, and contracting requirements.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>HHSC is to publish the independent entity’s report on its website and submit a copy to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the House of Representatives, and each standing committee with primary jurisdiction over the HHSC. HHSC, in collaboration with DFPS, is required to submit a report to the parties above describing HHSC’s and DFPS’s plan to implement the assessment recommendations and justification for recommendations they choose not to implement.</p>	
<p>HB 2002 By: Oliverson Price</p>	<p>Relating to preferred provider benefit plan out-of-pocket expense credits for payments made by an insured directly to a physician or health care provider.</p>	<p>Health Care Reform, Select 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Health insurance plans often include annual deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. After reaching these limits, the plan typically covers all expenses for the rest of the year. In Texas, patients may sometimes save money by paying cash for medical treatments, but they choose not to because it will not count towards their deductible or annual maximum.</p> <p>HB 2002 aims to require Texas insurers to credit an insured's deductible and annual maximum out-of-pocket expenses when they pay a healthcare provider directly for medically necessary services or supplies. This is applicable only if no claim is submitted to the insurer and the paid amount is less than the average discounted rate for an equivalent preferred provider under the insured's plan. Insurers must create a procedure for claiming this credit, identify necessary documentation, and ensure this information is easily accessible on their website.</p> <p>HB 2002 seeks to allow cash payments to count toward deductibles and annual maximums for insurance plans, making healthcare more affordable and accessible for Texans.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2345 By: Guillen Thompson, Senfronia Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to definitions for purposes of gambling offenses and the prosecution of the criminal offenses of gambling, gambling promotion, and keeping a gambling place.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 8 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Current law does not clearly define what an economic benefit is when winning a game of skill or luck. HB 2345 seeks to clarify current statute language outlining what an economic benefit is.</p> <p>HB 2345 states that an economic benefit is any direct winnings received before the end of a game. It also expands the definition of a private place to include a non-public place that cannot be accessed without a valid membership, special invitation, or prior permission.</p> <p>HB 2345 adds an exception to the law that exempts individuals from prosecution if they knowingly or intentionally operate in the earnings of a gambling place, provided that the gambling place was located in a private place and did not provide any economic benefit other than personal winnings to any person. Additionally, the exception applies only if the risks of losing and the chances of winning at the gambling place were the same for all participants, except for the advantage of skill or luck.</p> <p>Similarly, there is an exception for the advantage of skill or luck, the risks of losing and the chances of winning at the gambling place were the same for all participants if the thing of value was bet or offered in a private place. The exception also applies only if the thing of value bet or offered did not provide any economic benefit other than personal winnings to any person, and the risks of losing and the chances of winning the thing of value bet</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			or offered were the same for all participants.	
<p>HB 1915</p> <p>By: Hefner</p>	<p>Relating to land services performed by a landman.</p>	<p>Energy Resources</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Current statute is not reflective of services performed by a landman in Texas. As a result, these laws need to be revised to ensure that landmen receive fair and equal statutory protections and benefits.</p> <p>HB 1915 amends the state Occupations Code and expands the exemption for non-attorneys who perform acts related to mineral or mining interests in real property. The exemption now covers any act related to land services as long as they don't hold themselves out to be licensed attorneys. This includes negotiating mineral or energy rights, reviewing title status, managing rights derived from interests in minerals or energy, and pooling such interests.</p> <p>The bill defines "mineral" as substances considered minerals in Texas, including hydrocarbons and other minerals, regardless of depth. "Other energy sources" include natural resources necessary to produce energy like geothermal, hydroelectric, nuclear, solar, and wind energy. Transactions involving the sale, lease, or transfer of an interest in real property related to such a natural resource are exempted from The Real Estate License Act.</p> <p>HB 1915 also includes landmen as among the individuals exempt from the Private Security Act, who in the course and scope of their services would not qualify for exemption otherwise. This change excludes payments made to nonemployees for landman services related to other energy sources from a taxable entity's total revenue for franchise tax purposes.</p> <p>HB 1915 is a clean-up bill that updates language in statute to ensure the code reflects the nature of landman industry practices in the present day.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3051</p> <p>By: Bonnen</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of funding to the Texas Historical Commission for state historic sites.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Historical Commission requires a sustainable funding mechanism to maintain and implement long-term planning for the restoration of historic sites.</p> <p>HB 3051 establishes the Historic Infrastructure Sustainability Trust Fund as a fund outside the treasury. The trust would be held, managed, and invested by the Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and administered by the comptroller, generating earnings from the fund to maintain, preserve, rehabilitate, and restore historical sites throughout the state.</p> <p>The fund would be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • money appropriated or transferred by the Legislature; • gifts, grants, and donations received by the commission; and • the returns received from investment. 	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>The commission must spend at least one-third of distributed funds on the historic courthouse preservation program and may not use the money for salaries, benefits, or administration costs. The Comptroller’s estimate of the potential annual yield is roughly \$8.7 million, split one-third to courthouse grants and two-thirds to historic sites in the legislation. Provisions for this bill are funded in SB 30.</p> <p>HB 3051 ensures the preservation of Texas history is of utmost importance.</p>	
<p>HB 2976 By: Guillen</p>	<p>Relating to an elective course on firearms safety for public high school students.</p>	<p>Youth Health & Safety, Select</p> <p>7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Texas does not provide firearm safety courses in public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. Given the state’s high prevalence of firearms, HB 2976 aims to introduce student firearm safety courses focused on accident prevention and protection, reducing firearm-related accidents, and promoting a safer environment.</p> <p>HB 2976 establishes an elective firearms safety course for high school students in Texas public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. The State Board of Education will develop a curriculum addressing accident prevention, student safety, and appropriate responses when encountering firearms, including information from the Parks and Wildlife Department’s hunter education course. The bill also mandates the creation of a virtual firearms safety course, available for free on the websites of the Texas Education Agency, Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Department of Public Safety. If passed, the bill’s provisions would begin the 2024-2025 school year. The course will count as one-half elective credit.</p> <p>HB 2976 is a response to the increased accessibility and permissance of guns in our state and the reality that gun deaths are the leading cause of death for children in our nation. While robust gun reform would be ideal, gun safety education for children can assist in mitigating the harm from the current Texas gun policy. HB 2976 highlights the importance of firearm safety education in Texas, aiming to reduce accidents and create a safer environment for its residents.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3289 By: Anderson</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting the use of certain social media applications and services on devices owned or leased by state agencies.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 4 Absent</p>	<p>State and federal government agencies have raised security concerns regarding the use of TikTok and other social media applications on government-issued electronic devices.</p> <p>HB 3289 requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS), in consultation with the governor’s office, to jointly identify social media applications or services that pose a security threat to the state’s sensitive information, critical infrastructure, or both. DIR must publish and annually maintain the list of such applications on its website. HB 3289 authorizes the governor by executive order to identify social media applications or services that pose a security threat to the state’s sensitive information, critical infrastructure, or both. HB 3289 requires state agencies to adopt policies prohibiting the use of certain social media applications or services as identified by DIR and DPS or by an executive order of the governor. DIR and DPS must jointly develop a model policy for state agencies to use while developing their own policies, and state agencies must adopt their own policies within 60 days of the model being created. An agency’s policy is permitted to include an exception to allow the installation and use of prohibited applications for</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>specific purposes like providing law enforcement or implementing information security measures. HB 3289 provides the procedure if an agency includes an exception to its policy.</p> <p>HB 3289 aims to mitigate the potential security risks that could arise from the use of social media services on government-owned or leased devices. Notably, HB 3289 does not restrict the use of social media applications or services on non-government devices, which means many Texans can continue to engage in social media at their discretion.</p>	
<p>HB 3444 By: Canales</p>	<p>Relating to the classification of transportation districts by the Texas Transportation Commission.</p>	<p>Transportation 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) plans, designs, develops, operates, and maintains the state transportation system through 25 regional districts. These districts are divided into three categories - metro, urban, and rural - but these designations are not decided through a public process and not formerly adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission. HB 3444 seeks to make the process of deciding district categories more uniform and transparent by making it mandatory for the Texas Transportation Commission to set rules to decide the categories and what constitutes a metropolitan area.</p> <p>HB 3444 amends the Transportation Code to require the Texas Transportation Commission to establish a set of criteria to classify each TxDOT district as either metropolitan, urban, or rural. HB 3444 codifies TxDOT's regional district classification and ensures that a district with a population exceeding one million is classified as "metropolitan".</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3625 By: Walle</p>	<p>Relating to notice requirements for a leased dwelling located in a floodplain.</p>	<p>Business & Industry 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the Texas Property Code requires landlords to provide tenants with a written notice stating whether the rental property is located in a 100-year floodplain.</p> <p>HB 3625 adds exceptions for the required notice and allows that it does not have to be provided with short-term leases of less than 30 days, nor in other temporary rental agreements typically known as "leasebacks," such as when a seller of a home arranges to lease the property back from the new owner for up to 90 days following the sale.</p> <p>Overall, HB 3625 allows for exemptions to the required flood notice in specific circumstances where it may be unnecessary or duplicative.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3742 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of combative sports by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and to immunity for ringside</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV,</p>	<p>Currently, combative sports programs cannot organize elimination tournaments in Texas. However, HB 3742 aims to tackle this problem by authorizing the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and the Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) to permit such events.</p> <p>HB 3742 also provides protection from legal action for ringside physicians who were performing their duties in good faith.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

	physicians assigned to combative sports events.	1 Absent	These proposed changes will allow elimination tournaments under TDLR and TCLR regulations while also shielding ringside physicians from being sued for doing their jobs.	
HB 4218 By: Leach	Relating to liability related to a duty to retrofit certain rented or leased motor vehicles with safety devices.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	Commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) are often leased by businesses from third-party rental truck companies. Currently, truck leasing and rental companies that own but do not operate their vehicles have occasionally been sued under a negligence theory that safety equipment or technology not required by applicable federal vehicle safety standards at the time the vehicle was manufactured or sold could have been included on the CMV to avoid a collision. HB 4218 limits liability in any civil action, including a products liability action, gross negligence, alleging negligence, or strict liability action, for truck leasing and rental companies who do not retrofit or select vehicle parts or equipment that are not required by applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards at the time the vehicle was manufactured or sold. HB 4218 defines retrofit as to install new equipment or component parts that were not included in the motor vehicle when it was manufactured or sold. This term excludes routine maintenance or repairs to the vehicle to address wear and tear or damage from an accident or other cause. The bill specifies that only motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating or weight of at least 6,000 pounds, for which the owner’s liability for an accident is governed by federal law relating to leased or rented motor vehicle safety and responsibility, and is not a motor vehicle that was manufactured for the use in transportation of less than 10 individuals apply under HB 4218. Additionally, the seller is not exempt if they fail to comply with a law or regulation that requires a mandatory recall or retrofit of the vehicle. There are concerns that HB 4218 gives liability protections for the truck rental industry based on limited instances when courts have permitted litigation on this issue.	<u>Favorable with Concerns</u>
HB 4233 By: Zwiener Frank	Relating to training regarding runaway prevention for certain individuals who provide care for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.	Human Services 8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent	Interested parties have raised concerns about training procedures provided to caregivers for children or youth in conservatorship with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) who are at risk of running away from their placements. Only DFPS employees are provided training and the Runaway Prevention Resource Guide to respond to youth considered high risk for running away, but not their caregivers. HB 4233 seeks to address this issue by providing necessary training and resources to educate these caregivers on runaway prevention measures and proper procedures for runaway events. HB 4233 mandates that anyone caring for children or youth in DFPS’ conservatorship aged ten and older complete a training program on runaway prevention measures and proper procedures if a child or youth runs away from the caregiver. Under HB 4233, training may be offered to caregivers who provide care for children under ten years old if they have a history of running away, a part of existing licensing training provided by DFPS or contracted residential child-care providers, and offered in lieu of required training not relevant based on the age of the children the caregiver will be providing care for.	<u>Favorable</u>

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

			HB 4233 aims to equip those providing care to youth with tools to prevent runaways in Texas.	
HB 3929 By: Cook Leach Price Smith	Relating to the adoption by the Supreme Court of Texas of the Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	The Uniform Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act (UIDDA) has been adopted by 46 states to allow litigants to depose individuals and conduct discovery in other states. The current process for litigation in other states requires obtaining a commission or local counsel in the discovery state, letters rogatory, or the filing of a miscellaneous action during the discovery phase of litigation. UIDDA would remove the need to go through this process, and allows for subpoenas that authorizes discovery that is in compliance with rules in other states. UIDDA has been found to be inexpensive, efficient, implements clear discovery guidelines, and requires minimal judicial oversight. HB 3929 would allow the Texas Supreme court to adopt the UIDDA, making it much easier for litigants to depose individuals and conduct discovery in other states. The bill repeals the applicable sections of code that would no longer apply if the Supreme Court adopts the UIDDA.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 4571 By: Bucy Talarico	Relating to measures to address student hunger at postsecondary educational institutions.	Higher Education 6 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 5 Absent	College students at public Texas universities often struggle with food insecurity. Nearly 1 in 3 students at the University of Texas, Austin struggle to find adequate access to food and HB 4571 seeks to combat student food insecurity by establishing a Hunger-Free Campus Program. HB 4571 requires the Texas Education Higher Coordinating Board to establish the Hunger-Free Campus Program, which is designed to support institutions seeking to implement solutions to hunger on campus. The solutions must allow students to donate leftover meal credit to peers in need, establish food pantries on campus, and collaborate with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to develop strategies for increasing student enrolment in the SNAP program. The board must establish criteria required in order to be considered a Hunger-Free Campus and the board may establish a task force to develop guidelines for addressing student hunger. HB 4571 also requires vendors who sell food on campus to accept benefits under the supplemental nutritional assistance (SNAP) program. The commission must provide an exemption from work requirements for SNAP benefits to a student who would otherwise be ineligible. The executive commissioner must adopt rules to ensure students remain SNAP-eligible during semester breaks. Food insecurity coupled with stress negatively impacts academic performance, physical well-being, and mental health. It's important to ensure the basic needs of college students are met so they are able to succeed on campus and have a successful future.	<u>Favorable</u>

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

<p>HB 4417 By: Goldman</p>	<p>Relating to the administration of court-ordered programs regulated by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>The 87th Legislature passed the Sunset bill for the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), HB 1560. The drug and alcohol driving awareness program was eliminated through this process.</p> <p>HB 4417 removes the drug and alcohol driving awareness program from the list of court-ordered programs that fall under TDLR’s regulatory authority.</p> <p>HB 4417 serves as a clean-up bill to remove certain language in current statute referring to a program that was eliminated through the Sunset bill.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1100 By: Johnson, Julie Patterson Lalani Shaheen</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of certain senior retirement communities.</p>	<p>Human Services 7 Ayes, 2 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>For nearly 24 months, Billy Chemirmir assumed the guise of a maintenance worker and infiltrated numerous retirement communities catering to senior citizens. Once inside, he would suffocate the residents, rob them of their valuables, and stage the crime scene to resemble a natural death. The retirement communities neglected to provide and implement adequate security measures to protect them. HB 1100 seeks to protect residents within senior retirement communities.</p> <p>HB 1100 mandates certain senior retirement communities in Texas to take certain actions to ensure the safety of their residents and outlines which retirement communities apply to its provisions. HB 1100 outlines certain facilities that are exempt from its provisions like supportive housing facilities operated under the National Housing Act or centers for independent living as classified by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. One requirement is that the communities must perform criminal background checks on employees using the Department of Public Safety’s (DPS) system. HB 1100 requires that senior retirement community contracts disclose whether the community requires each business that provides services at the community to complete criminal background checks for the employees who will provide the services.</p> <p>HB 1100 requires retirement communities to maintain a resident safety and communications policy regarding criminal activity that poses a risk to residents. The community must inform each resident of reports of known criminal activity made to law enforcement from or at the community or instances of trespassing at the community within two business days of the report date or when the activity occurred.</p> <p>HB 1100 removes criminal liability for compliance in conducting criminal history checks or posting community notices. It also allows the retirement community to remove personally identifiable information of an individual involved in the reportable incident but cannot refuse to post a notice based on concerns that an individual’s personal information would be disclosed.</p> <p>Under HB 1100, senior retirement communities are prohibited from penalizing or preventing a resident from speaking with any interested persons regarding the safety and security of the community or preventing law enforcement from entering a common area to conduct a voluntary interview with a resident regarding an investigation into criminal activity at the retirement community.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>HB 1100 also requires that the senior retirement community be held liable to a resident for actual damages for any violations of the provisions outlined in the bill. Finally, any lease, rental, or purchase agreement for a unit within the retirement community may not include provisions that waive liability, requires arbitration, or controls the resident’s advanced directives or related documents.</p> <p>HB 1100 would protect elderly Texans by requiring additional restrictions for senior retirement communities.</p>	
<p>HB 844 By: Patterson Thierry Leach</p>	<p>Relating to the definition of trafficking for purposes of the offense of trafficking of persons.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Under current Texas law, victims of human trafficking are required to provide third-party identification to receive services related to the offense. This places an undue burden on survivors, who may be unable to identify their traffickers due to fear, emotional attachment to their trafficker, or an inability to recall details. As a result, many survivors are left without the critical help they need to recover from the trauma of exploitation. HB 844 seeks to address this issue by removing the requirement for third-party identification in cases of commercial sexual exploitation.</p> <p>HB 844 expands the definition of “traffic” to include soliciting or patronizing another person by any means. This adjustment will remove the barrier of third party identification.</p> <p>HB 844 makes services for those who have survived human trafficking more accessible, allowing them the resources necessary to heal and move forward.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1073 By: Hull</p>	<p>Relating to certain health care services contract arrangements entered into by insurers and health care providers.</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The healthcare market is increasingly adopting capitated, value-based care models like advanced and direct primary care, in which providers manage patient care for a fixed monthly fee. These models are popular among employees, employers, and doctors. A Hint Health survey shows over 80% of employees are likely to choose an all-inclusive direct primary care plan if offered. However, outdated Texas law limits payment and benefits design innovation. Currently, only health maintenance organizations (HMOs) in Texas can use risk-based, value-based payments, while preferred provider organization (PPO) and exclusive provider organization (EPO) plans cannot. This is because no law explicitly allows capitation for these plans, leading the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to interpret the law as banning risk-based payments.</p> <p>HB 1073 seeks to address this issue by allowing preferred and exclusive provider benefit plans to contract with primary care physicians or groups for compensation under various arrangements, including fee-for-service, risk-sharing, and capitation, or any combination of these arrangements. The bill prohibits global capitation arrangements and does not require primary care physicians to participate. It also protects them from discrimination by insurers for non-participation, including fee schedule reductions or mandatory participation as a condition of being in the insurer’s provider network. Physicians and groups may file a complaint with TDI if they believe they have been discriminated against, violating these provisions.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>HB 1073 outlines contract content requirements involving value-based or capitated payment arrangements, ensuring they do not create disincentives for medically necessary care or interfere with a physician's independent medical judgment. Contracts must provide detailed information about performance measures, patient attribution processes, and other financial aspects. If capitation is involved, contracts must allow the opportunity to renegotiate rates or reimburse on a fee-for-service basis under certain conditions. HB 1073 establishes that the parties to these contracts are the primary care physician or primary care physician group and the preferred provider benefit plan or exclusive provider benefit plan and prohibits a party to the contract from subcontracting.</p> <p>HB 1073 aims to promote more efficient and cost-effective healthcare for Texans while maintaining safeguards for patient care and physician autonomy by increasing the flexibility of payment arrangements between insurers and primary care physicians.</p>	
<p>HB 1819 By: Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the repeal of the authority of political subdivisions to adopt or enforce juvenile curfews.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety Select</p> <p>8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Juvenile curfews generally function to keep youth out of public places past certain hours, sometimes resulting in penalties such as fines and community service. Recent research has revealed that these curfews can have negative effects on youth, increasing their contact with law enforcement and leading to negative outcomes in school. Additionally, these curfews don't seem to increase public safety. HB 1819 seeks to eliminate the authority of political subdivisions to enforce or adopt curfews for youth.</p> <p>HB 1819 prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or enforcing a measure that imposes a curfew for individuals younger than 18 years old, except for in cases where a curfew is implemented regarding a disaster for purposes of emergency management.</p> <p>HB 1819 will reduce youth contact with the justice system while maintaining the interest of public safety.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1192 By: Turner Plesa González, Mary</p>	<p>Relating to the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program.</p>	<p>Higher Education</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, students must complete 4 years of ROTC training to gain eligibility for the Texas Armed Services Scholarship. This 4-year agreement provision could penalize students who graduate in less than 4 years by missing out on the scholarship or forcing them to stay enrolled longer than necessary. HB 1192 seeks to provide these students the opportunity to receive the scholarship by removing this 4-year requirement.</p> <p>HB 1192 changes the requirements for scholarship eligibility by allowing the student to complete one year of ROTC training — or another undergraduate officer commissioning program — for each year they receive the scholarship. HB 1192 also requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to post on its website and provide students with information regarding the number of years of ROTC training each branch of the U.S. military forces requires before entering into a contract.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

<p>HB 1703 By: Ordaz</p>	<p>Relating to the workforce development evaluation system administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, including the establishment of a workforce development career education and training evaluation pilot program.</p>	<p>International Relations & Economic Development 9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and local workforce development boards provide various training programs for Texans. However, the success of these programs in terms of wages and employment is inconsistent, and the data associated with them is insufficient. For example, in 2019, veterans experienced negative outcomes in state programs, while SNAP Employment & Training participants saw improvements, but the reasons remain unclear. HB 1703 addresses these concerns by updating program data evaluation requirements and initiating a pilot program to collect and analyze data on career education and training programs.</p> <p>HB 1703 aims to enhance program evaluations, gather and assess supplemental data, and identify successful components and data gaps. Notable updates include requiring disaggregated evaluation data, allowing TWC to develop a method to collect wage records as permitted under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act, and comparing self-sufficient wage data with program earnings outcomes following any system modernization done by TWC. TWC must also present detailed service information and analyze self-sufficient wage employment attainment after completing career education and training programs following any system modernization done by TWC.</p> <p>HB 1703 also directs TWC to establish a pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area, where the local workforce development board will collect and evaluate data on career education and training programs in the area. Upon completing the pilot program, the board will collaborate with TWC to issue an analysis of the job placement performance, including information on employment paying self-sufficient wages and detailed information on services provided. TWC must submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2028, detailing the pilot program's results and recommending whether to continue it statewide. The provisions for the pilot program expire on September 1, 2029.</p> <p>HB 1703 aims to improve Texas's workforce development evaluation system by establishing a pilot program that collects and evaluates career education and training program data. The pilot program's findings could help identify successful components and address data gaps, ultimately benefiting Texans by improving the quality and effectiveness of workforce development initiatives.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1927 By: Hull Dutton Lozano Johnson, Ann Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to a parent's right to intervene in the apprehension by a peace officer of a child for an emergency detention and certain requirements and restrictions applicable</p>	<p>Youth Health & Safety, Select 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>When emergency detention, or apprehension, occurs by a peace officer without time for a warrant, the officer may take a person into custody if the officer has reason to believe that the person has a mental illness and is a risk of serious harm to themselves or others. The officer must immediately transport the apprehended person to a mental health facility and file a notification of detention with the facility. While this may make sense for an adult experiencing a crisis, these detentions are currently applied to children. Children do not have the rights of an adult and do not have the right of custody and care for themselves as their parents do. This emergency detention does not include any provision for parental notification or involvement, even when the emergency detention is initiated at school. Parents should have the right to not only be notified, but also take custody of their child so they may seek treatment or services from a provider of their choice.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

	to an emergency detention.		<p>HB 1927 grants the right to take custody of the child younger than 18 years of age and being placed under a mental health-related emergency detention to a parent, guardian, conservator, or other person standing in parental relation to the child. The bill requires the peace officer to attempt to contact the child’s parent, guardian, conservator, or other person standing in parental relation, before placing the child under an emergency detention. HB 1927 authorizes the adult to voluntarily seek treatment or services for the child from a provider of their choice. When an officer transports a child to a facility following an emergency detention, they must include a statement describing their attempt to contact the child’s applicable person standing in parental relation in the emergency detention form filed with the facility. Additionally, if the transporting officer is a school district peace officer, the officer must also document the contact attempt in the child’s student records and the district must forward a copy to any person standing in parental relation to the child.</p> <p>HB 1927 prohibits a peace officer from using handcuffs, electrical devices, chemical agents, or any other similar devices to apprehend a child 10 years of age or younger for a mental health-related emergency detention. The peace officer who takes a person into custody for such an emergency detention must use age-appropriate trauma-informed practices in responding to the situation.</p> <p>Children should not be treated as adults in emergency detention situations and parents have the right to be notified. HB 1927 addresses these issues and protects the rights of parents and the mental health of their children.</p>	
<p>HB 2120</p> <p>By: Bell, Keith Gates Shaheen Schaefer</p>	<p>Relating to the practice of barbering and cosmetology at an establishment at a public secondary school.</p>	<p>Public Education</p> <p>10 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, a barber or cosmetology school located on the same premises as a barber or cosmetology business must be separated by a permanent wall because they operate under different standards that could cause clients to confuse students for licensed professionals. As schools expand innovative education programs for students, some of the established protections in statute aren’t necessary to preserve the school-establishment distinction.</p> <p>HB 2120 seeks to allow these schools and establishments to operate on the same premises at a public secondary school without separating the facilities by a permanent wall. Allowing schools to lease space for licensed hair stylists and barbers could further support Career and Technical Education (CTE) in this field for interested students.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2850</p> <p>By: Smith Cook</p>	<p>Relating to discovery procedures for civil actions brought under the Family Code.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>8 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>In 2020, the Texas Supreme Court finalized changes related to disclosures and discoveries in the Texas Code of Civil procedure, which more closely aligned Texas rules with Federal guidelines. While these guidelines work well at the Federal level, many parties have expressed concern that they are not easily applicable to all Texas localities, particularly rural counties, and have caused hardship for attorneys and pro se litigants.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

		<p>o PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2850 seeks to address this by reversing the changes made to Rule 194 and Rule 195 relating to disclosure requirements and discovery regarding testifying expert witnesses. HB 2850 authorizes a party to request to obtain disclosure from another party of any or all of the following information and material as long as the request is made not later than the 30th day of the discovery period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying information of the involved parties, third parties, or anyone having relevant knowledge such as name, address, and telephone number; • legal theories of the responding parties' claims or defenses and the method by which they are calculating economic damages; • relevant information regarding a testifying expert; • any discoverable settlement agreement or witness settlement; and • In a legal case where someone claims physical or mental injury and damages resulting from the action, a request can be made that the other party disclose all medical records and bills relevant to the injuries or damages being claimed. <p>The bill clarifies that a responding party is not required to provide all evidence at trial in response to a request for their legal theories and factual bases. It also specifies that a response to a request for legal theories or calculation of damages cannot be used for impeachment if it has been amended or supplemented, and requires the responding party to serve a written response to the requesting party for information regarding expert testimony no later than the 30th day after the request. Regarding expert witnesses, timelines are outlined in the bill related to various circumstances for information delivery from the responding party.</p> <p>HB 2850 outlines the specific circumstances in which a responding party may be exempt from providing a copy of documents and other items to the requesting party. Additionally, the bill authorizes a party to obtain discovery by oral deposition and a report containing various discoverable items, such as the subject matter on which the expert is to testify and the expert's mental impressions and opinions.</p> <p>HB 2850 mandates that in a lawsuit seeking affirmative relief, if a party designates an expert, that expert must be made available for deposition. If the party fails to provide a report of the expert's observations, tests, supporting data, and other factors, the expert must promptly be made available for deposition. If the party does provide the required report, they are not required to make the expert available for deposition until after all other experts have been designated. If a party is not seeking affirmative relief, HB 2850 requires that an expert under the control of a party be made available for a deposition reasonably promptly after the expert is designated, and if the information gleaned during the deposition is not recorded, the court may require that report must be produced. Additionally, the bill limits the methods for requesting information about testifying expert witnesses in a lawsuit to a disclosure request or a deposition report. Lastly, the bill prohibits the Texas Supreme Court from modifying or repealing any of its provisions.</p>	
--	--	---------------------------	--	--

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

			<p>HB 2850 simply returns provisions regarding disclosure and discovery to their state prior to 2020, which will increase the efficiency of the process and allow many counties to navigate these guidelines with more ease.</p>	
<p>HB 3140 By: King, Ken</p>	<p>Relating to eligibility requirements for the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program.</p>	<p>Higher Education 8 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, Texas ranks last among the states in access to mental health services, and public school students face a serious shortage of professional mental health services. HB 3140 seeks to address this need by expanding the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program.</p> <p>HB 3140 will include public school mental health professionals for eligibility in the student loan repayment provisions of the Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program. In order to qualify, applicants must have been previously employed full-time for one year and are currently employed in providing mental health services to students in a Texas public school. HB 3140 also requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to distribute information regarding the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program to institutions that offer an educational program that prepares students for a school mental health profession.</p> <p>By expanding eligibility for the Teach for Texas Loan Repayment Assistance Program, more individuals may be incentivized to work as school mental health professionals to provide these important services to Texas public school students.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3028 By: Meyer</p>	<p>Relating to a credit for prepayment of the amount required to be paid by a school district for the purchase of attendance credit under the public school finance system.</p>	<p>Public Education 10 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>The 86th Legislature passed HB 3, which eliminated the “early agreement credit” that allowed districts to reduce the amount of recapture paid by 4% if the district agreed to purchase attendance credits in an amount sufficient to reduce their local revenue to a certain level. HB 3208 seeks to reinstate the early credit agreement to provide relief to districts that pay the most in recapture.</p> <p>HB 3028 restores the 4% credit for prepayment if the district pays the total credit purchased by February 15th of the school year in which the agreement stands. The state would then earn interest from recapture payments made early.</p> <p>Supporters of HB 3028 point out that recapture districts also face local challenges that impact students and educators. However, the \$384 million cost to the state would only benefit some property-wealthy districts with the most resources already. The agreement may amount to a bonus for a few wealthy districts when the funds may be better used to increase the basic allotment to benefit all students. The early credit agreement undermines the entire premise of recapture — that the quality of a child’s education should not depend on their zip code.</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>

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

<p>HB 2946</p> <p>By: King, Ken Leo-Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the required number of minutes of instructional time to be provided by a juvenile justice alternative education program.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Juvenile justice alternative education programs (JJAEP) are designed to provide justice-involved children with education and support while encouraging personal growth and preventing recidivism. Under current law, these programs operate under instructional days, unlike Texas public schools, which operate under instructional minutes. This is because the 84th legislature passed HB 2610, which shifted Texas public schools to instructional minutes to allow for flexibility. This difference has caused confusion for administrators, probation officers, and other involved parties because the lack of continuity between instructional time for public schools and JJAEP’s can cause calendar differences and barriers to transferring children from one type of institution to another. HB 2946 seeks to align JJAEPs instructional time with other schools in Texas to allow for continuity.</p> <p>HB 2946 amends the amount of instructional time that a JJAEP must provide from a minimum operational period of seven hours per day and 180 days per year to a minimum of 43,200 minutes of instructional time per year. The only exception to this is if a JJAEP successfully applies for a waiver.</p> <p>HB 2946 will help to provide consistency between JJAEPs and public schools, allowing for more clarity and a more efficient process.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3544</p> <p>By: Moody</p>	<p>Relating to payment of certain court costs associated with interpreters.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent</p>	<p>Many individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) lack access to court interpreters, violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, requiring state courts that receive federal assistance to provide interpreters to persons with LEP. In Texas, some low-income litigants and legal aid providers must pay for their own language access services, such as interpreters, despite the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure stating that court-appointed professionals are a covered court cost for those with a valid statement of inability to pay.</p> <p>HB 3544 seeks to ensure that all individuals, regardless of financial situation or spoken language, can fully participate in the justice system. The bill clarifies that a party who files a statement of inability to afford payment of court costs is not required to pay for an interpreter unless the statement has been contested in court and the party has been ordered to pay. This exemption does not apply to interpreter services for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have communication disabilities, which must be provided free of charge per federal and state laws.</p> <p>Under HB 3544, each county auditor, or other individual designated by the county’s commissioners court, shall submit information on the interpreter-related funds that the county spent in civil and criminal proceedings to the Office of Court Administration (OCA).</p> <p>Failing to provide interpreters leaves individuals less capable of understanding and defending their legal rights regarding their children, homes, and freedom. HB 3544 would help ensure equality in the justice system for these Texans.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

<p>HB 3553</p> <p>By: Thierry Shaheen Jetton Cook</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of trafficking of persons if committed at certain locations.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas is currently grappling with increasing rates of human trafficking, having 1,383 reported cases of trafficking in 2020. This issue is becoming more prevalent on college campuses, where students learning to navigate adulthood are more vulnerable. Economic instability, lack of supervision, and increased use of alcohol put these students at greater risk for trafficking. This bill seeks to make college campuses in Texas a “no trafficking zone.”</p> <p>HB 3553 amends the current code to include a public, private, or independent institution of higher education among the premises in which the offense of trafficking is enhanced from a second degree felony to a first degree felony if the offense occurs within 1,000 feet of the institution.</p> <p>HB 3553 will provide greater protection to college students just learning how to live independently and grow into adults.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3709</p> <p>By: Noble</p>	<p>Relating to the franchise and insurance premium tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of certified historic structures.</p>	<p>Ways & Means</p> <p>11 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Texas historic preservation tax credit is given to help rehabilitate certified historic structures. This tax credit helps restore historic structures so that they can continue to generate state and local taxes. This tax credit is currently under the Franchise Tax section (Chapter 171) of the Tax Code, and can be applied against either franchise tax or the insurance premium tax. There has been discussion about repealing the franchise tax, and if it were repealed, this section of Tax Code would also be removed, disallowing usage of the Texas historic preservation.</p> <p>HB 3709 aims to resolve this potential issue by creating a new chapter of tax code (Chapter 172) for the Texas historic preservation tax credit. It allows an entity to apply for a credit for all or part of the tax to be used towards their property and casualty insurance premium tax; life, health, and accident insurance premium tax; title insurance premium tax; and reciprocal and interinsurance exchange premium tax. HB 3709 protects the Texas historic preservation tax credit from being repealed along with the franchise tax.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3554</p> <p>By: Thierry Shaheen Jetton Cook</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of trafficking of persons if committed at certain locations.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Texas currently has the second-highest rate of human trafficking in the nation. This issue is particularly prevalent for children in the child protective system, who are at an increased risk for trafficking due to risk factors related to their experiences, such as childhood abuse, lack of supportive adult figures, and housing instability. HB 3554 seeks to protect these vulnerable children by creating a “no trafficking zone” near facilities that interact with children.</p> <p>HB 3554 amends the Penal Code to include facilities operating as a residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster children, the unhoused, or persons subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault, community centers that offer youth services, and child-care facilities among the premises in which the offense of trafficking is enhanced from a second degree felony to a first degree felony if the offense occurs within 1,000 feet of the institution.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			HB 3553 will help to ensure that vulnerable populations receive the protection that they need to stay safe and move forward.	
HB 4091 By: Johnson, Ann Jetton	Relating to the mental health needs of a minor in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.	Youth Health & Safety, Select 7 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Foster children often face more behavioral health challenges than their peers due to the trauma or abuse they've experienced. Texas currently has a shortage of inpatient services and beds for children in Child Protective Services (CPS). To address this, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth Houston) proposed the Successful Transitions for Adolescents–Recovery Trajectories Success (START) pilot program in collaboration with the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). START is designed for CPS children with significant trauma, persistent mental health needs, and multiple failed foster placements. UTHealth Houston will dedicate an 18-bed unit for the program and may expand to the new Dunn Center hospital if successful.</p> <p>START, modeled after UTHealth Houston's successful sub-acute adult treatment program with published research findings, offers extended stays of 30-60 days and provides personalized therapy and additional recovery programming to improve long-term outcomes. However, DFPS's statutory restrictions on inpatient hospital admissions would hinder the program. Therefore, the statute needs to be amended to grant more authority for sub-acute, or longer stay, programs like START.</p> <p>HB 4091 seeks to broaden the conditions under which DFPS can request admission of a minor in their managing conservatorship to an inpatient mental health facility. Under HB 4091, this would now include cases where a physician believes that the minor's mental health has deteriorated to a point where they require and would benefit from a specialized inpatient treatment program designed to help them transition to residential treatment or a less restrictive foster care setting.</p> <p>HB 4091 aims to support Texas youth in CPS by allowing for longer stay, sub-acute style programs like START.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 677 By: Jetton Cole	Relating to a highway toll exemption for public school buses.	Transportation 12 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 1 Absent	<p>Toll roads are utilized for the most efficient and economical travel for school bus routes in many parts of Texas. However, money would be better spent in classrooms, on instructional supports and new school buses, instead of tolls.</p> <p>HB 677 amends the state Transportation Code to exempt public school buses from paying highway tolls. This change does not impact the toll project entity's ability to make rules or policies concerning the use of toll projects or managed lanes. These policies may include prohibiting the use of the project or managed lane by vehicles that cannot maintain minimum required speeds. The fiscal impact on the state due to the loss of toll revenue cannot be determined at this time.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>

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

			<p>HB 677 returns thousands of dollars to public school districts to focus on education and maintaining their bus fleets rather than paying highway tolls.</p>	
<p>HB 2572 By: Lujan</p>	<p>Relating to the central registry of names of individuals found to have abused or neglected a child.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>8 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) maintains a central registry of child abuse or neglect offenders to ensure these individuals cannot work in certain facilities where children are present. In April 2020, an employee from the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) was fired for having inappropriate relationships with children under her care. However, only 16 months later, she was allowed to work at another facility serving girls who had been sexually abused. Despite a background check, TJJD’s finding of her abusing children during her employment could not be seen by the new employer due to a loophole. Background checks will pick up criminal prosecutions but do not identify abuse or neglect findings stemming from an investigation by TJJD or the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). HB 2572 aims to ensure that findings of abuse or neglect by TJJD and HHSC will also appear on a background check and fully inform relevant employers if an applicant has been found to have abused or neglected a child.</p> <p>HB 2572 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to include the names of individuals that TJJD or HHSC found to have abused or neglected a child in their central registry. TJJD and HHSC must provide DFPS with the required information if they find that the individual abused or neglected a child.</p> <p>HB 2572 will aid in the protection of children from offenders of child abuse or neglect.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2794 By: Lujan Leo-Wilson Neave Criado Bailes Murr</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment of a guardian ad litem in certain suits filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice and Family Issues</p> <p>9 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Court-appointed special advocates (CASA) are dedicated volunteers appointed by a judge to advocate for children involved in the child welfare system. These compassionate advocates become intimately familiar with a child's family, community, and legal team to ensure the child's best interests are represented in court proceedings. They also play a crucial role in cases where court-ordered services are necessary for one or both parents. Currently, state funding is limited to services for children formerly in foster care and is not available for those involved in parent-child relationship cases. HB 2794 seeks to allow CASA programs to use state funding to provide services for children and families involved in court proceedings that involve the parent-child relationship or court-ordered services.</p> <p>HB 2794 enables the court to provide a guardian ad litem to represent a child immediately after the Department of Family Services files a petition, before the hearing regarding a temporary order for the child’s guardian to participate in child welfare services. HB 2794 allows this guardian the same powers under current provisions regarding special appointments, child custody evaluations, and adoption evaluations, and authorizes this guardian to be: an adult with training and expertise, an attorney appointed in a dual role, or an organization of advocates or an individual advocate appointed under statutory provisions related to child services.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

			<p>HB 2704 prohibits a court from appointing an attorney in a dual role as a guardian ad litem if a government entity brings the suit, unless the court appoints another person to serve as the child's guardian ad litem. The bill restricts the actions of an attorney appointed solely as a guardian ad litem to actions that a non-attorney guardian may take and prohibits such an attorney from providing legal services.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill makes revisions to several definitions regarding statutory provisions related to CASA programs, as follows: changes to the term “abused and neglected” to “allegedly abused and neglected,” includes a child who is the subject of a suit filed by a governmental entity in requirements regarding participation in certain child welfare services, and replaces volunteer advocates goal of obtaining a permanent placement for such a child that is in the child's best interest with a goal of promoting the child's best interest.</p> <p>HB 2794 will allow CASA advocates the resources necessary to ensure that each child involved in the child welfare system receives the care they need to stay safe and move forward.</p>	
<p>HB 3255 By: Manuel</p>	<p>Relating to emergency response management training for certain administrators and security personnel at public schools.</p>	<p>Youth Health and Safety Select 6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) currently provides emergency response management training to various entities that aim to teach how to prepare, respond to, and recover from various types of disasters. This training is not currently required for school administrators and school safety personnel. This leaves Texas schools more vulnerable to disaster events. HB 3255 aims to improve preparedness for such disasters and mitigate risk.</p> <p>HB 3255 requires public and open enrollment charter schools to mandate that each principal, assistant principal, and various school safety officers complete these emergency response management training courses provided by FEMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Incident Command System; • Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response; • An Introduction to the National Incident Management System; and • National Response Framework, An Introduction. <p>HB 3255 requires the board of trustees for the district to adopt policies that verify the completion of this training by required parties.</p> <p>HB 3255 will help ensure school personnel are prepared for various scenarios that may put students and staff at risk, further ensuring the safety of Texas schools.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

<p>HB 3067</p> <p>By: Jones, Venton</p>	<p>Relating to the installation and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications by certain peace officers.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence</p> <p>8 Ayes, 0 Nay, 1 PNV, 0 Absent</p>	<p>Authorized peace officers can obtain search warrants for evidence from social media and cell phone companies. However, school and university peace officers are prohibited as they are not considered authorized peace officers under current law. These officers then face unnecessarily prolonged investigations in their efforts to obtain search warrants for evidence from social media and cell phone companies. HB 3067 addresses this barrier by expanding the list of authorized peace officers.</p> <p>HB 3067 expands the definition of “authorized peace officer” in the current statute to include those commissioned as peace officers by schools and universities.</p> <p>By being considered in the definition of “authorized peace officer,” these officials can be included in the provisions relating to installment and use of tracking equipment and access to certain communications.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3833</p> <p>By: Lopez, Janie Bowers Flores Lozano Cunningham</p>	<p>Relating to the duties of a public school counselor.</p>	<p>Youth Health & Safety, Select</p> <p>6 Ayes, 1 Nays, 0 PNV, 2 Absent</p>	<p>School counselors play a vital role in students' lives by providing career guidance, academic support, and crisis intervention. School counselors could play an important role in addressing the mental health needs of students but current law governing school counseling programs does not fully address student emotional development. Students not only need social and academic development, they need emotional development as well.</p> <p>HB 3833 seeks to address the emotional needs of students by amending the Education Code to include emotional abilities under the primary responsibilities of a counselor. The bill also requires school counselors to participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating a comprehensive developmental school counseling (guidance) program to serve all students and to address the special needs of students. In defining the students who will be served by this program, HB 3833 includes students who are at risk of choosing an unhealthy or inappropriate solution to a problem or engaging in harmful behavior toward the student's self or others. The bill would take effect starting in the 2023-2024 school year.</p> <p>Counselors are trained in psychology and counseling as a part of their master’s program and often do not get the opportunity to use those specific skill sets to help students. HB 3833 clarifies that emotional needs are an integral part of the school counseling profession.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 4932</p> <p>By: Lopez, Janie Isaac Guerra Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to the amount of foreign emissions of air contaminants in nonattainment areas and the revision of the state implementation plan</p>	<p>Environmental Regulation</p> <p>6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 PNV, 3 Absent</p>	<p>The federal Clean Air Act allows states to demonstrate nonattainment areas as impacted by foreign emissions in their state implementation plan. It is understood that foreign emissions of air contaminants contribute to nonattainment of federal standards as well as impact public health, such as respiratory conditions and cardiac issues. HB 4932 seeks to make data related to foreign emission sources available to lawmakers.</p> <p>HB 4932 amends the state Health and Safety Code and defines "foreign emissions" as air contaminants that originate outside of Texas.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>

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

	to account for those emissions.		<p>HB 4932 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to request from the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency the amount of foreign emissions that are detected or estimated to be at each federal air quality monitoring site located in each nonattainment area of Texas no later than October 1, 2023. If TCEQ does not receive the information requested within 180 days, the commission is to estimate the amount of foreign emissions. TCEQ may contract with a third party to conduct this estimate.</p> <p>HB 4932 requires the executive director of the commission to report to the TCEQ a recommendation on whether to revise the state implementation plan to account for the amount of foreign emissions in each nonattainment area of Texas. This requirement will expire on September 1, 2027.</p> <p>HB 4932 helps ensure that Texas is making adequate progress toward identifying foreign emissions, adjusting the state implementation plan accordingly, and reporting this data in order for it to be evaluated by environmental policy makers in the state of Texas.</p>	
HB 4716 By: Manuel Cunningham Lalani Hinojosa	Relating to the referral of certain students receiving special education services to a local intellectual and developmental disability authority for services or public benefits.	Public Education 8 Ayes, 2 Nay, 0 PNV, 3 Absent	<p>Students with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) who receive special education services may also benefit from local services. HB 4716 seeks to ensure these students are given adequate support by requiring school districts to refer them to local intellectual and developmental disability authority.</p> <p>HB 4716 requires school districts to refer each student receiving special education services who has or is “suspected to have” an intellectual disability to a local intellectual and developmental disability authority for services or public benefits, including services under a Medicaid waiver program. Providing guidance toward accessible programs, resources, and support could benefit students’ mental and physical health.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>