Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report — Friday, April 25, 2025

Postponed Business until 9:00 AM			
HB 107 By: Simmons | Rose | Collier | Jones, Venton | Oliverson	Relating to the establishment of the sickle cell disease registry.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 24.**	**Favorable**

Postponed Business until 10:00 AM			
HB 1587 By: Hull	Relating to the sales tax exemption period for clothing, footwear, and certain school-related items.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 14.**	**Favorable**
HB 3684 By: Capriglione | Button	Relating to the exclusion of certain securities transaction payments from the total revenue of a taxable entity that is a registered securities market operator.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 22.**	**Favorable**

General State Calendar				
HB 118 By: Hefner	Relating to the establishment and powers and duties of the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 118 establishes the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict to help the state prepare for and respond to rising global threats that could disrupt critical supply chains and infrastructure. Rising global tensions impact the supply chains we rely on daily to deliver goods to our state agencies and local governments. A global conflict has the potential to sever key supply chains that deliver critical procurements like pharmaceuticals, hospital equipment, and power transformers. HB 118 also serves as a proactive measure to address the anticipated supply chain disruptions resulting from President Trump's tariffs. HB 118 would create the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict. Tasked with developing state security strategies and policies before a conflict occurs, the committee will also gather and prepare information to help Texas remain organized and ready to respond. It will be composed of 9 members, including a representative of the Texas	**Favorable**

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			National Guard, the adjutant general, the director of the Department of Public Safety, the chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. Responsibilities include conducting tabletop exercises to simulate potential conflict scenarios, auditing state supply chains and critical infrastructure, and investigating threats to Texas' medical drug supply chain. In addition to submitting reports to the governor on the findings of these exercises and audits, the committee will make a report with a narrative and summary of findings available to the public annually. By identifying and reducing vulnerabilities within the state, HB 118 works to protect Texas citizens and assets while contributing to the broader defensive posture of the U.S.	
HB 388 By: Harris Davila	Relating to a uniform coordination of benefits questionnaire for health benefit plans.	Insurance 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 388 aims to reduce billing errors and improve the coordination of benefits for patients with dual insurance coverage by mandating that all health benefit plans utilize a uniform questionnaire developed by the Texas Department of Insurance. Currently, several major health insurance carriers in Texas use unique questionnaires to gather similar information for coordinating benefits for patients with dual coverage. Aligning forms from various carriers can lead to errors, resulting in unexpected bills for patients. HB 388 prevents errors and assists with the coordination of benefits by requiring the Texas Department of Insurance to develop a uniform questionnaire for coordinating benefits to be used by all health benefit providers' plans. HB 388 ensures consistent and accurate coordination of insurance benefits, ultimately protecting patients from billing errors and unexpected medical costs.	**Favorable**
HB 114 By: Cortez	Relating to the transition of certain veterans' mental health initiatives from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on Defense & Veterans' Affairs 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 114 transitions the administration of veteran mental health programs from the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) and establishes a grant program to streamline services and improve outcomes. The mental health program for veterans is currently administered by the HHSC. While TVC provides training for peer service coordinators, HHSC administers the peer support program and grant funding. Both HHSC and TVC recognize the benefits of consolidating these responsibilities under a single agency to improve efficiency and streamline service delivery for veterans; however, clear direction from the legislature is needed to proceed. By consolidating veterans' mental health services under TVC, an agency focused solely on veterans, HB 114 aims to enhance coordination, efficiency, and tailored support for veterans and their families. This bill also establishes a grant program within TVC to support community-based mental health services, funded through existing legislative appropriations and local/private matching funds. HB 114 requires TVC to develop and implement a Veteran Suicide	**Favorable**

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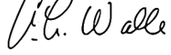
			Prevention Action Plan with components to strengthen crisis response, peer support, and outreach. An annual report containing the number of participants served, the number of peer service coordinators trained, an evaluation of services, and recommendations will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature.	
HB 205 By: Cortez	Relating to the eligibility for grants for alternative fueling facilities.	Environmental Regulation 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 205 carves out exemptions to grant funding requirements for alternative fueling facilities operating in Texas' seven largest counties. This will allow for greater access to emissions reduction funding for entities that serve the public. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers a grant under the Texas Alternative Fueling Facilities Program, which awards funding for facilities that provide alternative fuel. Grant recipients operate in both the private and public sector and reduce harmful diesel emissions by offering fuels like hydrogen, biodiesel, electricity, and liquefied natural gas. Currently, grants may not be awarded to a fueling facility that is not available to the public. This denies funding for municipal transit authorities like non-diesel bus services and electric rail lines that meet all other grant requirements but restrict public access to their fueling infrastructure. HB 205 exempts alternative fueling facilities from these grant eligibility requirements if they are: - metropolitan rapid transit authorities and regional transportation authorities - located in a county with a population greater than 1 million, and - located in a region identified as a high-emissions area under the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Under these provisions, exemptions would extend only to alternative fueling facilities in Texas' seven largest counties: Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar, Travis, Collin, and Denton. HB 205 provides greater funding access for public-serving programs reducing emissions in areas of highest need.	**Favorable**
HB 2789 By: Frank | Hull | Manuel | Noble	Relating to the regulation of child welfare, including licensure, community-based care contractors, family homes, and child-care facilities.	Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2789 streamlines licensing and regulatory requirements for foster care providers in Texas to reduce operational barriers and costs, while maintaining protections to ensure the safety and well-being of children in care. During FY21, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) reported a loss of more than 1,000 beds for children in foster care, resulting in a placement crisis for youth. Following the Legislature's identification of inefficient regulatory and burdensome oversight processes for placement providers, SB 593 (88R) was enacted, which required an independent third party to conduct an audit of the regulations governing foster care placements and submit a report with recommendations for improvements. Currently, DFPS and the Health and Human Services Commission are planning to implement recommendations from the report; however, some require the legislature to make statutory changes.	**Favorable**



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			HB 2789 addresses burdensome regulations while prioritizing foster youth safety by — **Streamlining several licensing requirements**: • Single Source Continuum Contractors (SSCCs) will be exempt from obtaining a child placing agency license. They would still be obligated to follow rules and laws that protect the health, safety, and well-being of foster youth, but would not be required to obtain a child placing license to fulfill contracting obligations to DFPS. Contractors operating under an SSCC would still need to apply for the license when applicable. • State-regulated facilities, such as child-placing agencies and residential operations, will have their license validity extended from six months to 12 months. • Changes eligibility criteria for child-care administrators' licenses by removing the time and degree-based requirements to accept experience or education equivalents. **Removing outdated health requirements**: State-regulated facilities will no longer be required to test for tuberculosis or retain records for vision, hearing, and other senses that are currently subject to inspection. **Decreasing liability insurance costs:** The liability insurance requirement for facilities, homes, and agencies that provide child care services would decrease from $300,000 to $100,000 in an effort to reduce costs. HB 2789 aims to ease regulatory burdens on foster care providers while maintaining a focus on child safety, enabling more efficient operations, and supporting the state's efforts to address the ongoing placement crisis.	
HB 2791 By: Button | Bell, Keith | Longoria | Lopez, Janie | Harris Davila	Relating to powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission with respect to the procurement of goods and services for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2791 enables the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to continue providing vocational rehabilitation services (VRS), which assist individuals with disabilities in finding or maintaining employment. Changes to the Health and Human Services Commission during the 88th Legislative Session inadvertently removed TWC's authority to provide VRS. HB 2791 restores this authority by allowing TWC to enter into contracts for goods and services related to VRS, and to procure them by any method deemed the best value. Vocational rehabilitation services, such as vocational counseling and testing, play a crucial role in supporting Texas' diverse workforce.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

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HB 499 By: González, Mary | Patterson	Relating to a warning label on social media platforms concerning the association between a minor's social media usage and significant mental health issues.	Public Health 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 499 seeks to protect youth by raising awareness of the mental health risks associated with excessive social media use through warning labels on platform landing pages. A study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association of Psychiatry reports that children and adolescents who spend more than 3 hours a day on social media face double the risk of mental health problems, including experiencing symptoms of depression and anxiety. This is concerning, as the American Psychological Association reports that U.S. teens spend, on average, 4.8 hours a day on social media. Currently, Texas does not have measures in place to alert young users or their guardians to the potential mental health risks associated with prolonged social media use. HB 499 requires social media platforms to display a warning label on their landing pages to raise awareness of the potential mental health risks associated with excessive social media use. The warning label must provide information regarding the association between social media use and mental health issues and include details on available resources for those experiencing a mental health crisis, such as the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number. Additionally, the warning label must contain a statement on the use of personal data by social media platforms and address the addictive nature of social media usage. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission must adopt evidence-based rules regarding the form and content of the warning label. HB 499 seeks to address the growing mental health risks associated with excessive social media use among youth by requiring social media platforms to include warning labels that inform users of potential psychological harms, promote crisis resources, and increase transparency about data usage and platform design.	**Favorable**
HB 2960 By: Hayes	Relating to choice of law and venue for certain construction contracts.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2960 protects subcontractors from having to travel to other states for contract disputes. Some construction contracts have requirements that disputes about the property be done in a court outside of Texas. However, Texas law shields contractors from having to travel to other states to resolve their disputes by making these requirements voidable. A 2023 ruling by the 14th Court of Appeals threatens these protections that construction contractors have relied on for decades. The court ruled that when the general contractor signs a contract, a subcontractor waives their rights to void the requirement that disputes be litigated in another state's court. General contractors oversee the entire construction project and hire subcontractors to perform specific tasks within the project. Subcontractors do not always have the	**Favorable**

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			opportunity to review the contract before the general contractor signs it. This ruling establishes a harmful precedent for subcontractors who may not be aware of the specifics of the main contract. HB 2960 enforces that any provision within a construction contract requiring the agreement or disputes about the contract to be litigated or interpreted in another state is void without exception. The bill requires that contract disputes be litigated in the Texas county where the property is located unless both parties agree to another location. This ensures that Texas contractors can resolve legal disputes within the state, sparing them the burden of traveling out of state or dealing with unfamiliar legal systems elsewhere.	
HB 3163 By: Leach	Relating to the county in which an application for court-ordered mental health services must be filed.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3163 clarifies that both the county where a patient was apprehended and the county where they are seeking treatment have the authority to issue orders of protective custody. Conflicting interpretations of court-ordered mental health services application statutes create confusion about which county has jurisdiction to file the order of protective custody (OPC). An OPC is a court order that is temporarily used to detain someone experiencing a mental health crisis while a court determines if they need mental health services. Police officers can place an apprehended individual who is experiencing a mental health crisis and is believed to be a danger to themselves or others under an emergency detention order (EDO). Current law states that the applicant can receive treatment in the county where they are located, but it is unclear whether this refers to the county where police apprehended the patient or where the patient is seeking treatment. This confusion has led to both counties rejecting treatment applications, leaving patients in a facility that lacks the appropriate jurisdiction to help the patient, delaying their access to care, and increasing administrative costs for the counties. HB 3163 clarifies that both the county where police apprehended the patient under an Emergency Detention Order (EDO) and the county where the patient seeks treatment have jurisdiction to file the OPC. This bill aims to improve patient access to mental health services while also giving local courts the flexibility to direct patients to facilities that can best address their specific needs.	**Favorable**
HB 3135 By: Smithee	Relating to the issuance of specialty license plates for retired firefighters.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3135 directs the Texas Motor Vehicles Department to design and issue specialty license plates for retired firefighters. Texas issues specialty plates to honor other retired professionals, such as peace officers and classroom teachers, and this would be a way to honor firefighters, too.	**Favorable**

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Bill 2427 By: Canales	Relating to the route designation for the issuance of a permit for the movement of oversize and overweight vehicles for certain routes in Hidalgo County.	Transportation 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2427 codifies the existence of a heavyweight corridor in Hidalgo County — originally established through Texas Department of Transportation rulemaking — in state statute. Heavyweight corridors are roadways that permit oversize vehicles which transport goods more efficiently. This particular heavyweight corridor, stretching from West Doffin Road between its intersection with Spur 29 to its eastern intersection with Doffin Canal Road, was established by TxDoT rulemaking ability in the interim under the condition that a bill be passed to enshrine the corridor in statute. The corridor would specifically facilitate trade over the border of Texas and Mexico. This heavyweight corridor would expand economic activity that enriches Texans.	**Favorable**
HB 1618 By: Harris Davila	Relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a portion of the Edwards Aquifer.	Natural Resources 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1618 seeks to grant the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) the authority to approve Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects, including those using Class V injection wells that pass through Williamson County, east of Interstate 35 due to close proximity of the Brazos River Authority. ASR is a process that stores treated water in underground aquifers when water is readily available and recovers it during dry periods or times of high demand. Unlike surface water storage, ASR stores water underground, which helps minimize the risk of evaporation, contamination, and habitat disruption. Currently, TCEQ rules prohibit wells from crossing or ending in the Edwards Aquifer due to its sensitivity and the presence of endangered species. This restriction has blocked recent efforts to store excess treated surface water in deeper, geologically separate formations beneath the aquifer, an approach that could help meet the region's growing water needs. HB 1618 would authorize the TCEQ to approve the ASR project near the Edwards Aquifer in a designated area of Williamson County. The project would inject water into a deeper geologic formation beneath the Edwards Aquifer, with the water stored in isolated, protected zones, completely segregated from the Edwards Aquifer, and meeting high safety and quality standards.	**Favorable**
HB 1672 By: Ashby	Relating to application of the Administrative Procedure Act to	Delivery of Government Efficiency	HB 1672 improves public safety by allowing the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) to quickly shut down unsafe commercial vehicles, typically large freight trucks, on Texas roads.	**Favorable**

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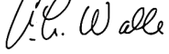
	certain actions by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles related to the compliance review and safety audit program for commercial motor vehicles.	11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	Under current law, state agency actions must generally follow statutory administrative procedures, including notice and hearing requirements. This can be slow and impractical for immediate dangers to public safety. HB 1672 exempts transportation orders from these administrative requirements. That way, when a commercial vehicle fails a safety audit, the TxDMV can immediately notify the appropriate entities responsible for removing unsafe vehicles from the road, without being slowed down by this burdensome process. HB 1672 improves efficiency and enhances public safety by allowing the state to take faster action against potentially dangerous vehicles.	
HB 1722 By: Tepper	Relating to an owner's or lessee's access to property through a Texas Department of Transportation highway right-of-way.	Transportation 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1722 prohibits the Texas Department of Transportation from restricting someone's property access due to right-of-way road land. Right of way is a general term for the entire width of land between the public boundaries of a highway. When TxDOT builds a highway, they sometimes partition someone's property such that a person cannot access all of their land. However, TxDOT is not required to purchase the land that they have made inaccessible to the owner. The bill would prohibit the TxDOT from restricting someone from accessing their owned or leased property that is adjacent to a highway right-of-way, was accessible before the highway right-of-way was constructed, and was acquired or constructed before the department assumed authority over the right-of-way. Currently, TxDOT restricts access to someone's land if there are safety concerns regarding access to that land. This bill would preempt TxDoT's ability to restrict land use due to these safety concerns. Without the ability to regulate or restrict access for safety reasons, TxDOT may be forced to purchase property from landowners in order to ensure the safety of the traveling public. This bill would ensure that TxDOT compensates owners for all land that the department makes inaccessible, enhancing property rights and preventing government overreach.	**Favorable**
HB 1338 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the adoption of uniform rules for hours of work for certain county employees.	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government	HB 1338 lowers the population threshold to allow commissioners' courts in smaller counties to enforce uniform work hours.	**Favorable**



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		11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The current statute only allows the commissioners' court of counties with a population of at least 355,000 to enforce uniform hours of work for county employees. Uniform work hours are an employee's standard work schedule for when they are expected to report to work. Galveston and other counties with populations that fluctuate or are consistently below this threshold cannot enforce working hours for employees whose compensation is approved by their commissioners court. Uniform work hours ensure accountability to the commissioners' courts that employees are correctly compensated for their labor, which is extremely important during declared emergencies when county employees must work overtime. HB 1338 lowers the population threshold so that the commissioners' courts for counties with at least 265,000 residents can enforce uniform work hours for county employees.	
HB 787 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the restarting of a vehicle's battery while the vehicle is being transported on the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry; authorizing a fee.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 787 establishes a safety measure for cars that restart their batteries on the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry. Cars can stall on the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry, and while the ferry operator has the ability to jump car batteries, they currently do not check for hazardous fumes before doing so. HB 787 mandates that operators of stalled vehicles on the Galveston-Port Bolivar ferry jump their batteries only after the ferry operator has verified with a hazardous gas detector that doing so is no risk of flammability. The bill also authorizes a fee for this service to cover the costs of the equipment and operation.	**Favorable**
HB 2618 By: Anchía | Raymond | Zwiener | Bumgarner | Darby	Relating to the development of a severe weather adaptation plan by certain entities.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2618 requires relevant state agencies to publish biennial, research-based severe weather adaptation plans, directing state focus towards the growing risk of climate disasters. **Texas experiences the most frequent and costly weather events, and the risk is only getting worse.** According to federal data, Texas experiences far more billion-dollar climate disasters than any other state, with at least 34 other billion-dollar weather events since 2023. Furthermore, the Texas State Climatologist projects increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events over the next decade, including hotter temperatures, increased drought severity, and more intense hurricanes and flooding. Furthermore, the Texas Department of Insurance reports that storms and natural disasters have been the primary reason for home insurance claims in Texas, with an average homeowner insurance rate increase of over 21% since 2023.	**Favorable**

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			Severe weather risks are made worse by a lack of comprehensive planning throughout state agencies. Lack of severe weather planning has recently contributed to increased impacts from wildfires, hurricanes, floods, and winter storms. **HB 2618 requires the state to research and plan for severe weather emergencies.** HB 2618 requires 13 state agencies to publish research-based, biennial severe weather adaptation plans to address each agency's role in severe weather prevention and response. Each agency's plan would assess its severe weather vulnerabilities, weather-related cost outlooks, potential funding opportunities, and a statewide strategy to monitor severe weather impacts. Plans will be submitted to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and all relevant legislative committees. They must also publicly post versions of these plans that redact sensitive agency information. Finally, all severe weather adaptation plans may be used by the State Auditor when conducting agency audits. **HB 2618 aims to prevent further destruction.** HB 2618 addresses an urgent and existential threat to the public safety and financial health of Texas by forcing state agencies and officeholders to research and plan for severe weather emergencies. Texas is uniquely exposed to the threats of climate change and severe weather, which requires swift and prudent action.	
HB 879 By: Frank	Relating to the licensing of certain military veterans as health care providers.	Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 879 aims to tackle Texas's healthcare workforce shortage by creating a licensing pathway for recently retired military nurses and physicians. The Department of State Health Services projects that by 2032, Texas will face a shortage of more than 57,000 nurses and 2,500 primary care physicians. Although many licensed healthcare providers retire from the military in Texas intending to continue practicing, the lack of a streamlined licensing process hinders their entry into the workforce. HB 879 combats the nurse and physician workforce shortage by creating a new path for retired military personnel to become licensed. To be eligible for licensure, an applicant must be licensed in good standing as a physician or nurse in another state, retired or left military service while serving on active duty in Texas, authorized as a physician or nurse to treat enlisted military service members, and have passed the Texas Medical Jurisprudence Exam if applicable. Additionally, the applicant must have left military service within the last year before the application date for a license to be issued. The Texas Medical Board and the Texas Board of Nursing will not issue licenses to applicants who have been discharged from the military due to poor conduct, are under investigation for misconduct involving a controlled substance, or are or were subject to a disciplinary order, action, or denial by another jurisdiction. Applicants are also ineligible if they have been convicted of or are under investigation for a misdemeanor or felony.	**Favorable**

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			HB 879 offers a focused solution to Texas's increasing healthcare workforce shortage by streamlining the licensing process for qualified, recently retired military medical professionals while upholding rigorous standards to guarantee public safety and professional integrity.	
HB 1126 By: Gámez	Relating to sunscreening devices installed on a motor vehicle that displays or qualifies for the issuance of a judicial specialty license plate.	Transportation 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1126 allows judges to tint their car windows, affording them a defense against threats to their safety. Threats against judges have more than doubled since 2021, reports the Associated Press. For their protection judges are allowed certain privileges for their protection, such as concealed carry of handguns in courthouses. This bill would allow state, federal, and county judges to tint their car's windows. By doing so, the custodians of our justice system would be afforded an additional measure of protection against potential threats.	**Favorable**
HB 4134 By: Lujan	Relating to a convenience fee for processing electronic payments for motor vehicles.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4134 may help expand consumer choice by allowing vehicle retailers to charge fees for electronic payments. However, the bill may prevent consumers from making one-time, electronic payments without a fee. Currently, vehicle retailers cannot charge a fee for electronic installment payments. As a result, they often choose not to offer electronic payment options like credit or debit cards because of the high fees card companies charge retailers and retailers' inability to pass those costs on to the consumer. Instead, customers may pay with cash, checks, or wire money. All of these options take time. This can present a problem if customers are late on a payment and need to pay a bill quickly. Meanwhile, third-party processing companies are permitted to charge a fee for credit card, debit card, and electronic funds transfers (ETFs). This bill allows retailers to charge a fee for electronic payments, but places restrictions on those fees. Retailers would not be allowed to take fees from electronic payments for retail installment contracts unless: • The fee is reasonably related to expenses incurred by the holder of the contract • The fee is less than $10 or 5% of the payment • The consumer may make a fee-free payment in a different form and is notified of this option.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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			While the increased flexibility may give consumers more payment options, this bill would allow companies to charge fees for one-time, electronic payments that they currently offer for no charge. Paying by an electronic check, for instance, may incur fees as a result of HB 4134.	
HB 3513 By: Fairly	Relating to the composition, duties, and personnel of the Moore County Juvenile Board.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3513 restructures the Moore County Juvenile Board to address ongoing challenges the rural county has faced in staffing and maintaining the board. Under current law, the Moore County Juvenile Board must include the county judge and six members appointed by the Moore County Commissioners Court who serve staggered terms. However, complying with these requirements has proven difficult due to the rural nature of Moore County. HB 3513 increases flexibility by removing the staggered term requirement and allowing the board to have three to five members rather than six. The bill permits the Commissioners Court to extend a member's term by up to two years, easing the pressure of frequent appointments. Additionally, it adds the County Court at Law judge, who presides over juvenile cases, as a board member and corrects listed provisions that should apply to the Moore County Juvenile Board.	**Favorable**
HB 718 By: Bell, Cecil	Relating to prohibiting a public institution of higher education from partnering with certain private entities for the construction of a student housing facility.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 718 aims to eliminate bad actors and protect higher education institutions by preventing partnerships with private developers that have a history of nonpayment of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor. Currently, private developers with pending nonpayment claims or liens can still work with public colleges to build student housing. This situation is exacerbated by universities in desperate need of student housing. HB 718 seeks to incentivize responsible developers and promote positive outcomes for contractors engaged in the work.	**Favorable**
HB 1536 By: Craddick	Relating to a rural community-based care pilot program.	Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1536 creates a rural community-based care pilot program to bring localized foster care services to rural communities. According to the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), Community-Based Care is the Texas model for providing foster care services, which allows local communities to leverage regional strengths and resources and find innovative ways to meet the unique and individual needs of children and their families. To implement this model, DFPS contracts a single provider in each region to oversee a network of services, including foster homes, living arrangements,	**Favorable**

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			and case management. However, in rural areas where the program is trying to expand but fails to attract contractor bids or proposals, a significant gap in localized foster care services remains. HB 1536 establishes a pilot program for rural community-based care, coordinating foster care services through a lead entity, which can be a nonprofit organization with board members residing in the region or a local government entity. To support a scalable and flexible foster care service model, the lead entity may subcontract portions of the work to other providers, allowing smaller or specialized organizations to contribute even if they cannot manage the full continuum of care. The pilot program will also require DFPS to establish a community stakeholder group, which will enhance community participation in program planning and oversight to address the region's rural needs. Additionally, HB 1536 mandates that DFPS and the lead entity evaluate the fiscal feasibility of a capitation funding model, which would allocate a fixed amount of funding for each child receiving services in the program. Rural workforce challenges would also be addressed through specialized training and career programs for foster care services. DFPS must contract with an independent evaluator to assess the pilot program's outcomes for children and families, cost-effectiveness, community satisfaction, and any systemic changes made to child welfare services. HB 1536 seeks to strengthen Texas's foster care system by piloting a community-based care program in rural areas that empowers local entities to provide a comprehensive range of child welfare services, thus addressing service gaps in underserved regions while promoting accountability, sustainability, and community involvement.	
HB 1445 By: Hernandez | Schofield	Relating to the compensation of counsel appointed to provide representation and services to indigent individuals in criminal and juvenile proceedings.	Criminal Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1445 allows the director of a managed assigned counsel (MAC) program to appoint a designee to approve attorney payments, easing the administrative burden and allowing for the program to operate with greater efficiency. MAC programs are responsible for assigning qualified attorneys to indigent defendants and processing the attorney's payments. Under current law, only the judge or the director of a MAC program may approve payments for attorneys. Larger counties process a significant number of payments, with Harris County processing over 36,000 last year. Smaller counties, while not processing the same amount of payments, face issues with limited resources and personnel. If the MAC director becomes ill or encounters any situation that prevents them from working, the county risks serious disruptions to the financial stability of attorneys who depend on timely payments. Additionally, some attorneys decide to stop working in courts that take a long time to process their payments, decreasing the number of attorneys available to indigent defendants.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

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			By allowing MAC directors to appoint a designee to approve attorney payments, HB 1445 aims to ensure continuity in payment processing, reduce administrative delays, and strengthen the overall efficiency and reliability of indigent defense services across Texas.	
HB 1640 By: VanDeaver	Relating to a customer guide to home solar energy devices.	State Affairs 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 1640 promotes customer protection by requiring the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to publish a customer guide to home solar systems. Home solar systems offer residential electric customers greater energy reliability and cost savings. However, some salespeople for home solar systems promise buyers unrealistic cost savings, and sell systems that are not proper fits for all buyers. This pattern has been of particular concern to elderly homeowners who may be more easily taken advantage of. HB 1640 requires the PUC to publicly post a customer guide to home solar systems. These customer guides will provide information regarding best practices, specific questions for buyers to ask, and links to further information. Electric providers must include a link to the guide in a customer's bill. HB 1640 ensures that buyers have access to quality information before making the best decision for their own home energy needs, and could protect vulnerable communities from being misled.	**Favorable**
HB 1893 By: Cook | Noble | Tinderholt | Bhojani | Capriglione	Relating to the disclosure under the public information law of a motor vehicle license plate number captured in a video recording obtained or maintained by a law enforcement agency.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1893 makes law enforcement agencies more efficient by allowing the public release of license plate numbers captured in law enforcement video recordings. Video footage containing license plate numbers are considered confidential under current privacy protections. As a result, law enforcement agencies spend hours redacting license plates that are already in public view on the road. HB 1893 establishes that license plate numbers captured in law enforcement recordings are not confidential and may be disclosed under public information laws. The bill does not prohibit agencies from invoking other legal exceptions to disclosure, but it eliminates the requirement to redact license plate numbers before release, saving law enforcement agencies time and money.	**Favorable**
HB 1734 By: Orr |	Relating to the transfer of court files in a suit affecting the	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family	HB 1734 reduces the costs and time associated with transferring suits involving the parent-child relationship between courts.	**Favorable**

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Manuel |	parent-child relationship in which continuing, exclusive jurisdiction is transferred.	& Fiduciary Relationships 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Suits involving the parent-child relationship can be opened and closed and transferred to different courts numerous times until the child reaches age 18. Currently, when suits are transferred to a different court, the clerk handling the transfer is required to send all original papers filed to the new court at the expense of the filer. This process can be time-consuming for clerks who have to locate all the paperwork and costly for filers when there are hundreds of pages being transferred. HB 1734 allows for clerks to send just the pleadings (documents that support a party's claims or defense) in the pending proceeding rather than all of the case files in court transfers for cases affecting the parent-child relationship. Either party can specifically request other documents as needed for the suit. This legislation will help reduce costs to the filer with the transfer of their suits and increase judicial efficiency because clerks will no longer have to locate and copy all original documents.	
HB 3229 By: Lambert | Slawson	Relating to recycling of certain renewable energy components; authorizing an administrative penalty.	Environmental Regulation 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3229 requires renewable energy component recyclers to submit reports to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), to prevent wind turbine graveyards in Texas. **Recyclers are not currently subject to the same requirements as renewable energy generators, leading to "wind turbine graveyards."** Since 2017, over 30 acres in Sweetwater, Texas have become a graveyard of wind turbine blades. This graveyard is not the result of wind farm operators, but the recycling company that purchased the decommissioned turbine blades and then became insolvent. **HB 3229 introduces reporting requirements for renewable energy component recyclers.** HB 3229 requires recycling facilities to submit a yearly report to the TCEQ that includes an inventory of all unrecycled renewable energy components, an estimated recycling timeline, and a recycling cost estimate prepared by a third-party engineer. A recycling facility is prohibited from operating without a filed report, and TCEQ may impose $500 administrative penalties per day per violation. HB 3229 requires recyclers to prove they can cover 100% of their estimated recycling costs. Proof of financial assurance can come in the form of a letter of credit, a bond, or a minimum investment grade credit rating issued by a major domestic credit rating agency. TCEQ will be required to maintain a list of recycling facilities in Texas that are in compliance with these provisions. HB 3229 applies only to recycling facilities, and it places no extra burden on renewable energy operators.	**Favorable**

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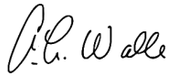
			HB 3229 strengthens landowner protections and introduces necessary requirements for recyclers, to end the threat of wind turbine graveyards in Texas.	
HB 3306 By: Dean	Relating to the applicability of certain laws affecting indemnification agreements to certain contracts or agreements pertaining to electric utility infrastructure.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3306 seeks to shift financial responsibility for damages on electric infrastructure projects from utility companies to contractors by permitting indemnity clauses in construction contracts. Currently, construction contracts related to electric infrastructure cannot include indemnification provisions, which are contract terms that could hold contractors financially responsible for damages or liability resulting from their work. If damages or mistakes occur during a project, the absence of an indemnity clause forces electric utility companies to bear the costs, even if the contractor is at fault. This situation potentially increases the risk of litigation, raises insurance costs, and adds additional expenses for ratepayers across Texas. HB 3306 allows electric utility companies to include indemnity clauses in construction contracts, thereby enabling them to hold contractors liable for damages or problems that result from projects. HB 3306 aims to protect electric utilities from undue liability by ensuring contractors are held accountable for damages resulting from their work. However, without safeguards, there is concern that excessive liability could threaten the stability of local employers and the broader construction workforce, especially since many contractors hire skilled laborers who work in high-risk environments where accidents, despite best efforts and training, can still occur. In such cases, the financial burden of even minor incidents could be devastating for small or midsize employers. Additionally, any cost savings that would be passed on to consumers are not guaranteed.	**Favorable with Concerns**
HB 1276 By: Gonzalez, Mary	Relating to a study of this state's response to plant disease or pest outbreaks.	Agriculture & Livestock 5 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1276 strengthens Texas's agricultural resilience by directing the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to conduct a statewide study on how effectively the state identifies, reports, and responds to plant disease and pest outbreaks. According to the UN, plant diseases and pests are responsible for $220 billion of global food loss each year. These outbreaks have worsened due to climate variability. The state's current tools — such as licensing, inspections, and quarantine regulations — are outdated and insufficient to meet the scale and complexity of modern agricultural threats. Without a comprehensive review and modernization of Texas's approach, the state risks incurring economic losses and threats to food security.	**Favorable**



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			HB 1276 commissions a study by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to evaluate the state's current response to plant disease and pest outbreaks. The study must assess how outbreaks are identified or reported, as well as the state's capability to respond to and contain them. The Extension Service must submit a detailed report with findings to state leadership by December 1, 2026. HB 1276 sets the stage for solutions to an urgent and growing threat to Texas agriculture.	
HB 3272 By: Geren | Curry | Darby	Relating to the operation of an unmanned aircraft over a spaceport; creating a criminal offense.	State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3272 prohibits drone operation over spaceports. Texas is home to four spaceports, which are federally licensed properties used for the launch, landing, or recovery of spacecraft. These spaceports often conduct sensitive research. Spaceport operators have reported that unidentified drones sometimes fly over spaceports, raising concerns about potential espionage, interference with flight operations, and threats to critical infrastructure. Current statute prohibits drone operations over certain restricted airspaces but does not extend this protection to spaceports. HB 3272 offers spaceports similar protections extended to other restricted airspaces by making unauthorized drone flight over spaceports a criminal offense. Under the bill, it would be a Class B misdemeanor offense for intentionally or knowingly operating an unmanned aircraft over a spaceport. Repeated offenses may be elevated to Class A misdemeanors. By prohibiting unauthorized drone flight over spaceports, HB 3272 extends protections to an emerging industry in line with similar fields, and ensures sensitive research and operations can continue.	**Favorable**
HB 3276 By: Noble	Relating to the eligibility of certain individuals for certification as certain juvenile officers or employees of a juvenile facility.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3276 strengthens employee eligibility requirements for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) facilities and probation departments, enhancing safety for youth in the juvenile justice system. Previously, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) could only suspend or revoke the certifications of juvenile probation and supervision officers that had already been issued. However, some officers receive provisional certifications, which allow them to work while they complete the requirements for full certification. In 2023, the 88th Legislature expanded TJJD's authority, allowing the department to take action on provisional certifications and disqualify former employees from future certification if they were terminated due to certain types of misconduct. This created a loophole for TJJD employees who were not terminated but engaged in misconduct, and employees, contractors, or volunteers who do not have a certification because their position does not require one. This effectively	**Favorable**

			limits TTJD's ability to prevent individuals with a history of misconduct from continuing to work within the juvenile justice system. HB 3276 closes this loophole by allowing TJJD to disqualify anyone who was employed by, contracted with, or volunteered for TJJD, juvenile probation departments, or juvenile facilities from certification. Individuals can be permanently barred from certification if they violate relevant rules, prove unfit for certification, or are deemed a threat by a panel consisting of the executive director and three board members. This aims to ensure consistent standards across all roles and strengthens protections for youth in the juvenile justice system.	
HB 3516 By: Dyson	Relating to the availability of certain working papers and electronic communications of certain administrative law judges and technical examiners under the public information law.	Energy Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3516 exempts Railroad Commission (RRC) contested case hearing information from Public Information Requests (PIR). The RRC employs administrative law judges and technical examiners to adjudicate certain contested cases for the RRC. Communication regarding these cases is subject to public information requests, which could expose the organization to disclosing sensitive information. Currently, if the RRC does not wish to share requested information with the public, they must appeal to the Attorney General. This process can delay contested cases and potentially reveal information on ongoing cases that could impact their outcomes. Currently administrative judges in the State Office of Administrative Hearings are exempt from public information requests regarding contested cases. HB 3516 extends this same exemption to RRC administrative law judges and technical examiners. While the intent of the bill is to protect sensitive information, HB 3516 is unnecessary and could remove transparency from decisions made by the RRC. The RRC already has tools at its disposal to prevent exposing sensitive case information, including appealing to the Attorney General. State agencies should be subject to required public disclosure where applicable, and HB 3516 offers less checks against abuse of power.	**Unfavorable**
HB 4145 By: Dyson	Relating to the timely billing of health care services related to a personal injury claim.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV	HB 4145 allows healthcare providers to seek payment from a patient's lawyer when the patient is a plaintiff in an injury dispute. When someone is injured and pursuing a legal case, their attorney often collaborates with physicians to ensure they receive medical treatment. The provider agrees to a delay in payment until the suit is settled under a letter of protection with the patient's lawyer. In these instances, the provider is required to send the bill to the patient or the responsible	**Favorable**

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		0 Absent	party within 11 months of providing the service for reimbursement. Providers may also send the bill to the patient's lawyer; however, provisions in these letters of protection prevent the lawyer from being held responsible for payment. Attorneys have avoided paying healthcare providers by waiting out the time requirements to claim that physicians did not send the bill to the responsible party in time. The timely billing requirement protects this practice. HB 4145 seeks to add a patient's attorney as a responsible party for payment when healthcare services are provided in connection with a personal injury claim. Physicians would satisfy the timely billing requirement by sending the patient's bill to their lawyer within 11 months of the service.	
HB 1585 By: Bell, Cecil	Relating to housing finance corporations and to the location of residential developments owned by those corporations.	Intergovernmental Affairs 8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1585 stops traveling housing finance corporations from exploiting tax exemptions. Housing finance corporations (HFCs) were created under the Texas Finance Corporations Act to give local governments the ability to develop tax-exempt affordable housing in their jurisdictions. Local HFCs partner with developers to develop affordable housing projects. The developer agrees to offer apartments below market rate to low-income tenants in exchange for not having to pay taxes on the property. Local governments benefit from the new availability of affordable housing, and the developers benefit from the tax exemptions. However, in recent years, there has been a rise in what are known as travelling HFCs. These travelling HFCs operate outside of the jurisdictions where they were established without permission and oversight from the local jurisdictions. Travelling HFCs partner with developers on new or existing properties to take them off the tax rolls under the false guise of offering affordable housing to take advantage of the tax exemptions that HFCs are provided. Developers are incentivized because the traveling HFCs charge one-time fees and annual payments that are minimal compared to what they would pay in taxes on the property. The profits from exploiting this loophole are exported back to the travelling HFC's jurisdiction. Schools, emergency services, and other districts in the affected jurisdiction that rely on tax dollars to operate are deprived of revenue. HB 1585 requires HFCs to operate only within the boundaries of the jurisdiction where they were formed. Additionally, only the developments owned by local HFCs can receive the tax exemption benefits. Travelling HFCs will no longer be able to erode the tax base for their benefit because only truly affordable housing developments qualify for tax exemptions. This bill closes the travelling HFC loophole to ensure that HFCs are operated in good faith and are accountable to their local government.	**Favorable**

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HB 4810 By: Guerra	Relating to the continuation of the Trade Agricultural Inspection Grant Program.	Agriculture & Livestock 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4810 supports international trade along Texas's southern border by extending the timeline for the Trade Agricultural Inspection Grant Program. There is a persistent shortage of federal agents who can conduct agricultural inspections on the southern border. This staffing shortage has led to congestion at border crossings, increasing wait times. To help alleviate wait times, the Trade Agricultural Inspection Grant Program finances nonprofit organizations that assist with agricultural inspections at commercial ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico border. H.B. 4810 extends the duration and review period of the Trade Agricultural Inspection Grant Program. The bill extends the program's life by 4 years, allowing for continued operation. Additionally, it extends the deadline for the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to evaluate the program's performance and submit a report to the legislature. The bill also clarifies that TDA is only required to implement the program's provisions if the legislature makes a specific appropriation; otherwise, TDA may use other available funds at its discretion. This extension allows nonprofit organizations to continue assisting with agricultural inspections at Texas-Mexico border crossings, helping to reduce wait times and streamline the trade flow. H.B. 4810 supports a practical solution to a high-impact economic challenge by extending an existing program that has shown promise in streamlining border processing. By allowing nonprofits to support inspection efforts, the state helps alleviate staffing gaps.	**Favorable**
HB 2989 By: Metcalf | Leo Wilson	Relating to the name, rights, powers, and privileges of the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2989 will facilitate the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District's partnership with the federal government to enhance key port infrastructure. HB 2989 renames the Chambers County Improvement District No.1 as the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District. Additionally, the bill codifies the District's ability to perform all actions necessary to be a non-federal sponsor under a federal project partnership agreement, including operating barges, engaging in dredging, and engaging in related maritime operations on water. These powers are statutorily permitted already, but consolidating them through this bill facilitates the creation of a prospective federal agreement to enhance the port.	**Favorable**
HB 2558	Relating to the child support obligation	Judiciary & Civil	HB 2558 strengthens protections for a defendant when they are unable to pay child support because of current or recent incarceration.	**Favorable**

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By: Dutton	of an obligor during the obligor's confinement in jail or prison.	Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Individuals recently released from jail or prison confinement often face challenges in securing employment. These challenges are exacerbated for individuals who are obligated to pay child support because the payments have continued to accrue while they were incarcerated. An acceptable defense for an inability to pay child support due to incarceration must be brought up in the defendant's response proceedings. This proof cannot be brought up during the trial, so if the defendant or their attorney fails to provide this proof beforehand, the defendant can be held in contempt. HB 2558 seeks to address this by mandating that a court cannot find an individual in contempt of court for not paying child support when they were jailed in a local, state, or federal jail or prison for a consecutive 90 days. It also allows the respondent or their lawyer to provide this evidence during the response proceedings and at the trial for unpaid child support. This change gives current or recently incarcerated child support obligors time to catch up on their child support arrears without facing additional punishment.	
HB 3014 By: Lambert | Cook | Perez, Mary Ann	Relating to the creation of the offense of fraudulent use, possession, or tampering with a gift card, gift card packaging, or gift card data or redemption information.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3014 makes gift card fraud a distinct criminal charge, helping law enforcement prosecute this unique crime. Gift card fraud cost American consumers $217 million in 2023. This fraud generally takes the form of thieves stealing a gift card, obtaining the card's information, and then returning the card to the store. Using sophisticated software, they can then detect when the card is activated by a legitimate purchase, at which time the thieves use the card's information to drain the balance and leave the honest consumer with nothing. Despite the prevalence of this crime, gift card fraud is not clearly defined in statute. These crimes are sometimes prosecuted as credit card fraud or shoplifting, but the Texas Financial Crimes Intelligence Center reports that this lack of clarity delays justice. This bill defines gift card fraud broadly enough to encompass the diverse ways in which the crime is perpetrated. The bill also establishes progressive penalties based on the number of fraudulent gift cards altered by the thief, ranging from a state jail felony for fewer than five cards to a first degree felony for more than 50 cards. HB 3014 enables law enforcement to prosecute fraud that falls outside current legal definitions.	**Favorable**
HB 2742 By: Vasut	Relating to the split-payment of ad valorem taxes.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 2742 allows taxpayers time to pay their split-payment property tax bill when taxing units mail their bill later than expected.	**Favorable**

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		0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, taxing units, such as cities and counties, may offer split-payment plans in which property taxes are paid in two installments: the first by December 1 and the second by July 1. This system works well, except when unresolved protests or other issues prevent appraisal districts from sending tax bills by the November 30th deadline. Property owners cannot reasonably meet the December 1st payment deadline when the taxing unit mails their tax bill right before or even after the due date. HB 2742 addresses this problem by allowing property owners the flexibility to pay the first installment of their tax bill up to one month after the bill's postmarked date. This ensures that property owners have sufficient time to make their split payments even when their tax bill is mailed late.	
HB 1695 By: Canales	Relating to the relocation, adjustment, and ownership of commercial signs.	Transportation 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1695 allows commercial sign owners to relocate signage when their property is displaced by public infrastructure projects. When commercial signs are in the path of a public infrastructure project, the Texas Department of Transportation either buys that property at the fair market value through eminent domain or gives the owner a credit to pay for the relocation of that signage to nearby land. However, some Texas cities prohibit relocation, thereby forcing the commercial sign owner to sell their property by the power of eminent domain. This bill requires that, if commercial signs are torn down because of public infrastructure projects, the sign owners must be allowed to relocate to another statutorily permissible location. If state construction obstructs a sign, the owner is likewise permitted to relocate but is responsible for the costs associated with relocation. HB 1695 requires Texas cities' to grant special exceptions to any ordinance preventing the relocation of signage. This bill would protect the property rights of commercial sign owners.	**Favorable**

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