Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report — Thursday, May 1, 2025

Postponed Business until 5:45pm on Wednesday April 30th			
HB 15 By: Meyer | Leach | Schofield | Anchia | Longoria	Relating to the formation, governance, and internal management of domestic entities.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 30.**	**Will of the House**
Postponed Business until 10:00 AM			
HB 1971 By: Darby | Guerra	Relating to an exemption for drillers or operators of closed-loop geothermal injection wells from certain requirements applicable to persons involved in activities under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 22.**	**Favorable**
HB 1338 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the adoption of uniform rules for hours of work for certain county employees.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 25.**	**Favorable**
HB 2989 By: Metcalf | Leo Wilson	Relating to the name, rights, powers, and privileges of the Cedar Port Navigation and Improvement District.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 35.**	**Favorable**
HB 267 By: Patterson | Hickland | Metcalf | Hefner | Vasut	Relating to defenses to prosecution for certain offenses involving material or conduct that is obscene or otherwise harmful to children.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 28.**	**Unfavorable**
HB 1201 By: Manuel | Hull | Walle | Swanson | Simmons	Relating to a pilot program to provide Medicaid coverage of doula services.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 28.**	**Favorable**
HB 2954	Relating to the relocation or removal of dredged spoils or materials by a navigation district.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 28.**	**Favorable**

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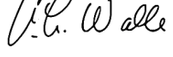
By: Metcalf | Leo Wilson			
HB 5265 By: Wilson	Relating to the Texas Health Care Workforce Education Fund.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 29.**	**Favorable**
HB 1804 By: Tepper	Relating to compliance with the filing requirements of certain reports of political contributions and expenditures and financial statements, including as a qualification for public elective office; providing an administrative penalty.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 29.**	**Favorable**
HB 5061 By: Leach | Isaac	Relating to prohibiting certain activities by contractors and vendors of state agencies; providing administrative penalties.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 30.**	**Favorable**

Major State Calendar

HB 1520 By: Kitzman	Relating to the Angelina and Neches River Authority, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1520 seeks to ensure continued oversight and strengthen accountability for the Angelina and Neches River Authority (ANRA) by implementing key governance and operational reforms. Although ANRA is not subject to abolishment under the Texas Sunset Act, a recent review by the Sunset Advisory Commission identified several areas where the authority could adopt best practices to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Currently, many river authorities, including ANRA, have not adopted several standard good government practices commonly applied during Sunset reviews. These include measures related to board member training, conflict-of-interest policies, and other transparency-focused procedures. To address these gaps, HB 1520 requires board member training, designates the board's presiding officer to be appointed by the governor, and establishes clear grounds for the removal of board members. HB 1520 also ensures public access by requiring opportunities for public testimony before the board and creates a formal complaint system. A transition process is also included to ensure current board members meet the new training requirements. In addition, HB 1520 reduces the length of board members' terms from six years to four years, aligning ANRA with recent constitutional amendments that limit terms for governing boards of constitutionally created conservation	**Favorable**



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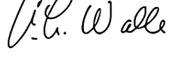
			districts. HB 1520 includes provisions to manage the transition to the new term length. It also requires the board to hire a general manager responsible for overseeing the authority's daily operations. These reforms will enhance ANRA's efficiency, accountability, and transparency, thereby strengthening its governance and long-term sustainability to better serve the community.	
HB 1545 By: Bell, Keith | Canales | Hull | Kitzman | Shaheen	Relating to the sunset review process and certain governmental entities subject to that process.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1545 updates the Texas Sunset Act by revising sunset dates for certain agencies, requiring limited-scope reviews for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and refining reporting requirements for agencies under review. Currently, the Sunset Advisory Commission evaluates state agencies on a fixed cycle, but recent agency needs and legislative priorities have prompted schedule adjustments. HB 1545 aligns the sunset dates for the Credit Union Department, State Office of Administrative Hearings, and Texas Juvenile Justice Department to 2031, shifts forward the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners to 2033, and repeals the 2023 law that would have sunset the State Soil and Water Conservation Board, effectively moving it to 2035. It also requires a limited-scope review of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department focusing on its efforts to partner with local entities to reduce reliance on state-run facilities, and mandates a report to legislative stakeholders on the conditions and future of those facilities. Additionally, the bill refines the reporting requirements agencies must submit before sunset reviews and clarifies the duties of the Sunset Commission during evaluations. These changes aim to improve oversight while focusing review resources on critical agency performance areas.	**Favorable**
Constitutional Amendments Calendar				
HJR 110 By: Tepper	Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the filing of required political funding reports and personal financial statements to be eligible to hold certain public elective offices.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HJR 110 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to more strictly enforce required campaign finance disclosures for many of Texas' top officials, whose election procedures are enshrined in the Texas Constitution. This strict enforcement ensures that all Texas leaders are held to high ethical standards. If Texas voters approve HJR 110, it would prohibit eligibility for certain elected offices if the candidate fails to file required political funding reports or personal financial statements by existing filing deadlines. HJR 110 would apply to all candidates or appointees for Governor, State Senator,tate Representative, Chief Justice, Justice of the Supreme Court, or District Judge in Texas. Election provisions concerning these positions are enshrined in the Texas Constitution, requiring a HJR to amend.	**Favorable**



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			If both HJR 110 and associated proposed legislation, HB 1804 (89R), pass into law, Texas' top officials could be removed from the ballot or office if they fail to meet certain campaign finance reporting requirements. However, HB 1804 (89R) has other provisions that can stand if HJR 110 fails to pass. For a full analysis of HB 1804 (89R), please refer to LSG's Floor Report for April 29. All candidates for public office in Texas are required to submit campaign finance reports. However, as reported by the Texas Tribune, enforcement of campaign finance violations is rare. In 2023 alone, the Texas Ethics Commission referred 515 campaign finance violations to the Attorney General, and only 25 were prosecuted. Some believe this has led to an environment where TEC is not seriously regarded by candidates, leading to various ethical concerns. HJR 110 would address these ethical concerns within Texas elections and ensure that all officeholders are held to a high standard of integrity and transparency.	
HJR 203 By: Wilson	Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the Texas Health Care Workforce Education Fund to provide funding to eligible institutions of higher education to address Texas' health care workforce needs and drive the state economy.	Higher Education 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HJR 203 proposes a constitutional amendment to create the Texas Health Care Workforce Education Fund, helping implement HB 5265 (89R), which was postponed to May 1st. HB 5265 (89R), which LSG rated Favorably, aims to tackle the healthcare workforce shortage by creating the Texas Health Care Workforce Education Fund and the Texas Health Care Workforce Education Startup Fund. For more information on HB 5265 (89R), please refer to LSG's Floor Report for April 29. As Texas's population continues to grow, the state faces mounting challenges in meeting healthcare demands. Without dedicated resources, educational institutions lack the capacity to produce enough healthcare professionals to meet these needs. HJR 203 would create a permanent, dedicated funding source to support comprehensive regional universities in expanding healthcare workforce education. HJR 203 requires the legislature to set eligibility criteria for universities to receive fund distributions. The constitutional amendment proposed by HJR 203 would be decided by election on November 4, 2025. HJR 203 significantly expands Texas's ability to train healthcare professionals needed to meet the state's growing demands.	**Favorable**

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General State Calendar		
These bills were **originally scheduled for yesterday's calendar**. A full analysis is available in LSG's Floor Report for **April 30**.		
HB 1887 By: Metcalf | Lambert | Bumgarner	Relating to birth records of adopted persons; authorizing a fee.	**Favorable**
HB 1914 By: Cook	Relating to the modification of a possession order and temporary possession of a child when a conservator of the child is incapacitated.	**Favorable**
HB 2402 By: Rose	Relating to the determination of fees, charges, and rates for certain benefits under Medicaid.	**Favorable**
HB 2306 By: Villalobos	Relating to changing the eligibility for release on parole of certain inmates serving sentences for trafficking offenses involving child victims and disabled individuals.	**Favorable**
HB 1809 By: Hernandez	Relating to prohibited insurance discrimination on the basis of an insured's marital status following the death of the insured's spouse.	**Favorable**
HB 2350 By: Dutton	Relating to standing in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.	**Favorable**
HB 3000 By: King | Ashby | Phelan | Frank | Landgraf	Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.	**Favorable**
HB 3237 By: Turner	Relating to certain energy consumption goals for institutions of higher education and certain governmental entities.	**Favorable**

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HB 3326 By: Allen	Relating to certain duties of a public institution of higher education in relation to the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.	**Favorable**
HB 3211 By: Dean | Gerdes | Harless | Lalani | Phelan	Relating to the participation of optometrists and therapeutic optometrists in managed care plans providing vision benefits.	**Favorable**
HB 1056 By: Dorazio | Hunter | Capriglione | Raymond	Relating to the issuance of gold and silver specie and the establishment of a currency based on gold and silver; authorizing a fee.	**Unfavorable**
HB 2081 By: Bucy	Relating to the establishment of the Building Better Futures Program to support educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public and private institutions of higher education.	**Favorable**
HB 2187 By: Howard | Shofner	Relating to hospital staffing reports and complaint processes and to retaliation and mandatory overtime protections for nurses.	**Favorable**
HB 3092 By: Gerdes | Curry | Darby	Relating to a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an electric transmission line.	**Favorable**
HB 3308 By: Geren	Relating to charitable raffles conducted by the professional sports team charitable foundations of rodeo organizations sanctioned by certain professional associations or hosting a Professional Rodeo Event at rodeo venues.	**Favorable**
HB 3526 By: Capriglione | Bumgarner	Relating to fiscal transparency for bonds issued by local governmental entities.	**Favorable**
HB 3750 By: Manuel	Relating to reimbursing certain Department of Family and Protective Services employees for certain legal expenses.	**Favorable**

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HB 3527 By: McQueeney	Relating to the regulation of manufactured homes.	**Favorable**
HB 4219 By: Capriglione	Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.	**Favorable**
HB 4230 By: Metcalf | Flores | Isaac	Relating to the establishment of a hike and bike trail to be known as the Bicentennial Trail.	**Favorable**
HB 4290 By: Darby	Relating to a qualifying cogenerator that serves a large load and a colocated desalination facility.	**Favorable**
HB 5238 By: Lopez, Ray |Capriglione	Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.	**Favorable**
HB 4804 By: Hefner	Relating to the revocation of a driver's license or personal identification certificate and to disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle.	**Favorable**
HB 4749 By: Landgraf	Relating to reconstitution of the petit jury wheel and grand juror and petit juror qualifications in certain counties.	**Favorable**

General State Calendar (continued)

HB 245 By: Wilson	Relating to the treatment of military service credit in the	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services	HB 245 clarifies the applicability of military service for service credit in the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS).	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

	Employees Retirement System of Texas as law enforcement or custodial officer service.	9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, up to 60 months of active-duty military service can be applied for credit in the ERS, provided that the service member did not serve long enough to receive military retirement benefits. To apply those credits, new retirement system members have to "buy in" to the system, essentially contributing — for each month that they wish to apply to their ERS account — the amount that they would have been required to contribute had they been employees of Texas rather than serving in the military. However, the statute is ambiguous about whether the credit can be applied for retirement from law enforcement or custodial officer (LECO) roles. Inconsistent interpretation has prevented veterans from applying their service to their ERS retirement. HB 245 specifies that military service can be applied for LECO retirement credits with the ERS. The bill also changes the amount of contribution required to buy into the system. Previously, the amount per month of credit was the greater of the contribution made in the first month of retirement system membership or $18. The bill changes the amount to simply the amount that the new member paid into the system during their first month working for Texas after their release from active military duty. There are open questions about whether this bill will alter the actuarial soundness of the ERS. Currently, no data exists about the prevalence of veterans within the LECO ranks. The delicate balance of the pension fund could be altered by an influx of these retirement credits. Furthermore, if many older TECO personnel were to purchase five years worth of retirement credits, they may decide to retire earlier than their administrators anticipated. In sectors with personnel shortages, such as the Texas Department of Juvenile Justice, an unexpected exodus of retirees could trigger a crisis of understaffing. The remedies for these concerns are for legislators to be prepared to fund unfunded liabilities within the ERS and address understaffing, should any result, in the next session.	
HB 1465 By: Hickland | Bowers | Louderback | Gámez | Cook	Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of invasive visual recording and the applicability of sex offender registration requirements to that offense.	Criminal Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1465 strengthens legal protections for privacy by expanding the definition of invasive visual recording and requiring individuals convicted of this offense to register as sex offenders. Invasive visual recording is currently a state jail felony, but individuals convicted under this statute are not required to register as sex offenders, even though the offense is sexual in nature and can result in lasting trauma for victims. Current law only recognizes certain specific locations, such as bathrooms or changing rooms, as places where this crime can occur, leaving other private spaces such as bedrooms unprotected.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

			HB 1465 broadens the scope of invasive visual recording to include any location where a person has a reasonable expectation of privacy, defined to include bathrooms, bedrooms, and changing rooms, when images are recorded, transmitted, or broadcast without consent and with the intent to invade privacy. Additionally, this bill requires individuals convicted of this offense to register as a sex offender. By updating statutory language to better reflect the realities of this offense and aligning its consequences with similar sexual crimes, HB 1465 ensures more comprehensive protection for victims and holds offenders to appropriate standards of accountability.	
HB 1482 By: Leo Wilson | Gerdes	Relating to changing the eligibility for community supervision for certain repeat intoxication offenders.	Corrections 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1482 removes eligibility for judge-ordered community supervision and increases the time-served requirement for individuals convicted of multiple intoxication offenses, raising concerns about limiting judicial discretion and a lack of effective responses to substance use disorders. Repeat offenders of intoxication-related crimes are at a higher risk for reoffending. These individuals currently remain eligible for community supervision and parole, and there have been instances where individuals with multiple prior offenses were released and went on to cause fatal accidents. If sentenced to prison, these individuals currently must serve at least 25% of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole consideration. HB 1482 makes individuals ineligible for community supervision if they have two or more prior convictions for any combination of specific intoxication-related offenses, ranging from DWI to intoxication manslaughter. It also requires these individuals to serve at least 50% of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole consideration. This bill is projected to cost the state $610.4 million over the next five years, with an estimated ongoing cost of at least $290 million annually. While intended to promote accountability and enhance public safety, HB 1482 significantly limits the court's ability to tailor punishments based on individual circumstances. Judges currently have access to tools such as ignition interlock devices, rehabilitation programs, and driver's license suspensions to address these offenses. HB 1482, however, imposes a one-size-fits-all approach across a wide range of offenses that hold varying penalties and degrees of severity. Additionally, there is no time limit on how far back prior intoxication offenses can be considered, meaning individuals could face prison time regardless of how long ago their previous offenses occurred. There are concerns that mandating incarceration for repeat offenses will increase strain on the prison system and disregard evidence-based alternatives such as treatment and supervision programs. According to the National Highway	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**

OK for Distribution

			and Traffic Safety Association, long-term imprisonment has shown little to no impact, or even an increase in future accidents and convictions. Both research and advocates emphasize the importance of prioritizing rehabilitation-focused approaches over incarceration when addressing repeat intoxication offenses.	
HB 294 By: Cortez | Cain | McLaughlin	Relating to the regulation by a property owners' association of food production on single-family residential lots.	Agriculture & Livestock 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 294 mandates that property owners' associations (POAs) may not prohibit the growing of fruits and vegetables and the raising or keeping of domestic fowl and rabbits. Currently, under Texas law, POAs vote on whether to allow the raising and keeping of domestic fowl in their neighborhood. Interest in home gardening and food production is rising due to health, financial, and lifestyle benefits; however, some POAs restrict these practices, preventing Texans from accessing the benefits of self-grown food. HB 294 aims to fix this by removing POAs' ability to prohibit the growing of fruits and vegetables and the raising or keeping of more than six domestic fowl or adult rabbits on single-family residential lots. POAs can adopt reasonable rules for setbacks, fencing, shelter standards, and sanitation to address noise, odors, and safety concerns, but cannot outright prohibit these activities. However, roosters may be banned, and fowl or rabbits must be confined to side or rear yards. While the bill aims to balance personal rights and community standards, this blanket statewide mandate may override local governance and the unique needs of individual communities. HB 294 lacks clarity on key issues, such as whether animal slaughter is allowed, how "domestic fowl" is defined (which could include turkeys and geese), and how rules would be enforced in densely populated areas. If passed, POAs may face difficulties in developing guidelines and enforcing compliance, especially in larger communities. These uncertainties could lead to increased legal disputes and enforcement burdens for POAs.	**Favorable with Concerns**
HB 793 By: Thompson	Relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information of an applicant for or a person protected by a protective order.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 793 requires courts to keep the personal information of individuals seeking or protected by a protective order confidential. Under current law, courts have discretion on whether to exclude an applicant's personal information from a protective order application and court records. Court records are accessible to the public. Since this information is not required to be kept confidential, an applicant's address and county of residence could be accessed by the responding party (the person the protective order is against). Survivors of family violence may be hesitant to seek protection from the court system because their location could be disclosed to their abuser.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

		1 Absent	HB 793 mandates that courts make the home address of a protective order applicant automatically confidential. This information will be struck from the court's public records. It also requires courts to inform applicants that they can request to keep other personal information out of their protective order application. This could include their phone number, place of employment, and their child's school. The applicant can designate someone to receive court documents on their behalf so they do not have to interact with the respondent. HB 793 creates stronger privacy protections for survivors of family violence by ensuring their personal information is shielded from their abusers. It ensures people seeking protection from the courts don't have to risk their safety in the process.	
HB 809 By: Thompson	Relating to the execution of a waiver of citation by digitized signature in a suit for the dissolution of a marriage.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 809 modernizes the divorce suit process by allowing digitized signatures and electronic notarization for waivers of citation. Despite the increasing reliance on electronic signatures in the legal system, current statute does not permit their use to waive service in a divorce suit. A waiver of citation allows either party in the suit to waive their right to receive notifications that the case is filed because they are already aware and have agreed to the suit. Individuals must currently come into the court where the divorce suit was filed to sign the waiver with the court clerk. Additionally, a party's signature on the waiver requires notarization. This means the individual would have to locate a notary to physically verify their signature. This requirement can be burdensome, especially for parties who are out of state, lack transportation, or have safety concerns in cases involving family violence. HB 809 allows a waiver of citation for a divorce suit to be electronically signed. It also allows a notary or other party that verifies signatures to electronically notarize signatures on documents in a divorce suit. HB 809 removes the current barrier requiring handwritten signatures and in-person notarization to streamline divorce proceedings.	**Favorable**
HB 3928 By: Thompson	Relating to providing notice of a vehicle towed to a vehicle storage facility by publication on a third-party Internet website.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3928 modernizes notice requirements for towed vehicles by allowing public notice through a department-approved third-party website as an alternative to newspaper publication. Currently, when a vehicle is towed to a storage facility and the owner or lienholder cannot be identified, notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation. HB 3928 allows storage facilities to instead publish the required notice on a publicly available website maintained by a third party approved by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. The bill requires the department to post links to approved third-party websites on its own website. This	**Favorable**

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			change aims to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and provide greater accessibility for locating information about towed vehicles.	
HB 334 By: Ordaz | Patterson | Shaheen | Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra | Leo Wilson	Relating to the establishment of a county employee family leave pool program.	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 334 allows counties to create a family leave pool program that lets employees donate unused leave to coworkers facing serious personal or family situations. Currently, counties have limited tools to support employees who run out of paid leave during events like childbirth, adoption, or serious illness. State employees can donate unused leave to a family leave pool for others to use in times of need, but county employees don't have this ability. HB 334 authorizes counties to establish a voluntary leave donation program where employees can contribute unused sick or vacation time to a shared pool. Other employees may apply to use leave from the pool if they've exhausted their leave due to qualifying events, such as caring for a newborn, adopting a child, managing a serious illness, or acting as a guardian. The applying employee would be required to submit substantial proof for their request. The county judge or an appointed person will oversee the family leave program. HB 334 provides counties with the flexibility to support their workforce during difficult times and aligns local leave policies in line with options already available at the state level.	**Favorable**
HB 2037 By: Darby | Luther	Relating to repairs made pursuant to a residential or manufactured home tenant's notice of intent to repair and the provision of notice regarding a residential or manufactured home tenant's security deposit.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2037 modernizes certain landlord notices and tenant repair requirements to align with current communication methods and rental practices. Currently, tenants who need to make health or safety-related repairs that their landlord refuses to address are required to find a contractor using outdated sources, such as the Yellow Pages. Additionally, landlords are required to send notices to a tenant's physical forwarding address after move-out. HB 2037 allows tenants to use any independent contractor for health- or safety-related repairs. The bill also authorizes the use of email for required lease communications. HB 2037 reflects modern leasing practices, reduces confusion, and ensures both landlords and tenants can communicate and complete essential repairs more efficiently.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

HB 1973 By: Cook	Relating to proof of the identity of a child's parents in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1973 helps ensure accurate identification of a child's parents in family law cases by requiring parties to submit a certified birth certificate or alternative proof of parentage. Courts handling custody, support, or other child-related matters rely on accurate information about the child and their parents. However, under current law, there's no consistent requirement to submit official documents verifying who the parents are, which can create confusion or delay the resolution of the case. HB 1973 requires anyone filing a case affecting a child's custody to submit a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. If the petitioner doesn't have access to it, the court can ask another party to provide it or request other forms of proof. These documents must be kept confidential. It also exempts the Office of the Attorney General's child support agency from having to submit a child's birth certificate when filing child custody suits. HB 1973 supports better-informed court decisions without placing additional burdens on families or agencies.	**Favorable**
HB 285 By: Ordaz | Leach | Meyer | Moody | Cook	Relating to the prosecution of the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on New Offenses and Changed Penalties 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 285 strengthens protections for pets by allowing individuals to be prosecuted for cruelty to nonlivestock animals if their actions result from criminal negligence, helping close a gap in current law. Cruelty to nonlivestock animals, such as dogs and cats, is only prosecutable if the individual acted intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly. This limitation has made it difficult to hold individuals accountable in cases where animals are harmed or killed due to careless behavior. Incidents involving groomers or pet care providers have raised concerns that negligent actors can continue operating without consequence, potentially harming more animals. HB 285 adds criminal negligence as a qualifying mental state for the offense of cruelty to nonlivestock animals. This bill includes a defense to prosecution if the negligent conduct occurred during the performance of duties by a licensed veterinarian or their assistant. Notably, this simply allows this fact to be used as a defense and does not mean that veterinarians or their assistants can not be prosecuted for failing to exercise the care they should be. By updating this offense to include criminal negligence, HB 285 allows prosecutors to pursue justice in cases where harm results from dangerous indifference rather than intentional cruelty. There is some concern that individuals who lack intent or awareness could face criminal charges for conduct that, while negligent, was not malicious. However, the legal system includes multiple checks to to minimize the risk of this. Ultimately, HB 285 improves protections for pets and closes a gap in existing law.	**Favorable**

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HB 4341 By: McLaughlin	Relating to critical infrastructure facility emergency response maps and the critical infrastructure emergency response map grant program.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4341 establishes the Critical Infrastructure Emergency Response Map Fund to provide grants for critical infrastructure mapping. This mapping could allow for better preparedness and communication among first responders to emergencies at critical infrastructure facilities. First responders report that they often arrive at emergencies without prior knowledge of the area's infrastructure, layout, or operations. These challenges are of particular concern for first responders to emergencies at critical infrastructure facilities. HB 4341 requires certain critical infrastructure facilities to provide an accurate emergency response map of the facility to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This requirement would only apply to military bases and public and private airports with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) aeronautical charts. The bill requires the map to follow best practices for emergency response planning and integrate with software used by DPS. The bill prohibits critical infrastructure facilities from providing these emergency response maps available to the public. HB 4341 also requires DPS to establish and administer a grant program to provide mapping services for critical infrastructure facilities to develop required emergency response maps. DPS will adopt rules for the grant program, including eligibility standards for grant recipients. To fund this grant program, HB 4341 establishes the Critical Infrastructure Emergency Response Map Fund as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund administered by DPS. The Fund will consist of appropriations by the Legislature, interest on fund investments, and gifts, grants, and donations. The detailed critical infrastructure maps provided by HB 4341 could greatly improve emergency response success and enhance public safety. While there have not been any recent emergencies at the types of facilities addressed in the bill, similar emergency mapping efforts were passed by the 88th Legislature in response to the Robb Elementary shooting in Uvalde, Texas. First responders have reported that this type of mapping could help prevent future mismanagement of emergency response.	**Favorable**
HB 4264 By: Hefner	Relating to creation of a grant program for certain peace officers who hold a master proficiency certificate.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 10 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 4264 creates a grant program that provides financial incentives to experienced law enforcement officers who have earned a master proficiency certificate from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). Law enforcement agencies across Texas are facing growing challenges with recruitment and retention. Many seasoned officers are choosing to leave the profession as soon as they become eligible for retirement, contributing to workforce instability.	**Favorable**

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		0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4264 directs the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to establish a grant program awarding one-time stipends of $6,500 to full-time peace officers who hold a master proficiency certificate issued by TCOLE, are employed full-time by a law enforcement agency, and meet any other additional criteria set by the division. Earning this certificate requires a combination of years of service, training hours, college credit, and/or military service. Officers can apply through their agency or independently with agency approval. Grant funds must be used solely to increase the officer's compensation. The division is also tasked with creating procedures to process and evaluate applications and monitor the use of grants. These stipends are classified as taxable income and are issued as gross payments, ensuring officers receive an approximate net benefit of $5,000 after taxes. By offering a financial incentive tied to experience, training, and education, HB 4264 helps strengthen officer retention, supports ongoing professional development, and signals the state's commitment to investing in experienced peace officers.	
HB 1043 By: Bhojani | Curry | Capriglione | Alders | Garcia, Linda	Relating to a study by the General Land Office in partnership with a working group consisting of the Texas Department of Insurance, Department of Information Resources, and other entities on the establishment and implementation of a distributed ledger-based title registry pilot program.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1043 directs the General Land Office to study the feasibility of using distributed ledger technology for a property title registry through a pilot program involving both urban and rural counties. Texas currently relies on traditional systems for recording property titles and liens, which can vary by county and lack uniform transparency and security standards. HB 1043 requires the General Land Office, in collaboration with a working group including the Department of Insurance, Department of Information Resources, and other stakeholders, to study the design and implementation of a pilot program using distributed ledger (blockchain) technology to record title transfers. The study must assess costs, data privacy, compatibility with existing systems, and overall benefits compared to traditional methods. A final report is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2027. The bill aims to modernize real estate recordkeeping and explore a secure, transparent alternative to traditional county-based systems.	**Favorable**
HB 837 Howard | Harless	Relating to instruction for barbers and cosmetologists on identifying and assisting victims of	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 8 Ayes 1 Nays	HB 837 requires barber and cosmetology students and license holders to receive training on identifying and assisting victims of domestic violence. Currently, barbers and cosmetologists must complete general training and continuing education, but there is no specific requirement related to domestic violence awareness. HB 837 directs the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation	**Favorable**

	domestic violence.	0 PNV 4 Absent	to adopt rules mandating that students receive instruction on recognizing and helping victims of domestic violence during their training programs. It also adds a continuing education requirement for licensed professionals to complete similar training. This measure aims to equip beauty industry professionals, who frequently interact with the public, with the tools to recognize signs of domestic abuse and connect victims with appropriate resources.	
HB 1234 By: Guillen	Relating to certain procedures required for the denial of certain applications for a license to carry a handgun.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1234 promotes fairness and transparency in the handgun license application process by giving applicants the opportunity to review and respond to denial recommendations based on medical concerns. Currently, individuals applying for a license to carry (LTC) can be denied based on a recommendation from a medical advisory board without any formal opportunity for the applicant to provide additional context. This has raised concerns about due process and the lack of a formal mechanism for applicants to address medical information that may be misinterpreted. Some applicants have been denied a LTC based on their attendance of routine psychiatric counseling, which is required by some high-stress professions. HB 1234 seeks to address this issue by requiring the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide written notice to an applicant before denying a license on medical grounds. The notice must clearly state the reason for the denial and give the applicant at least 30 days to submit additional written materials to supplement or clarify their application. These materials must then be forwarded to the medical advisory board for reconsideration, and each panel member must provide an updated written opinion regarding the applicant's ability to exercise sound judgment regarding the proper use and storage of a handgun. After reviewing these opinions, DPS must make a final determination on whether to approve or deny the application. By establishing a formal review process and communication loop between applicants, DPS, and medical reviewers, HB 1234 supports more informed decision-making and safeguards applicants' rights while maintaining standards for safe firearm ownership.	**Favorable**
HB 1193 By: Manuel | LaHood | Ordaz |	Relating to the confidentiality of certain information on a declaration of informal marriage.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 1193 protects the privacy of individuals who file a declaration of informal marriage by allowing them to request that their personally identifying information be kept confidential. Texas couples can declare an informal (common law) marriage by filing a form with a county clerk. This form includes personal information such as the applicants' addresses, birthplaces, and social security numbers. The county clerk then	**Favorable**

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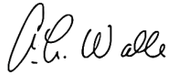
Pierson		0 PNV 0 Absent	files a copy of the completed forms with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) vital statistics unit. Under current law, these forms become public records, and anyone may access this information on the county clerk's website. This poses privacy or safety concerns for survivors of family violence and other forms of abuse because they cannot request that the information be kept confidential. HB 1193 updates the informal marriage declaration form to include a checkbox that allows either party to request confidentiality. If a party checks this box, the clerk can only publicly publish their name. All other identifiable information will be kept private from anyone except the parties and their lawyers. Additionally, the vital statistics unit for DSHS must follow the confidentiality request as well. HB 1193 provides safeguards for people entering informal marriage agreements to control who can access their information.	
HB 1194 By: Manuel | Bumgarner | Jones, Jolanda | Virdell | Ward Johnson	Relating to the period during which an order for emergency protection remains in effect.	Criminal Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1194 extends the minimum duration of emergency protective orders to give victims of violent or sexual offenses more time to secure safety, rebuild their lives, and access support. Emergency protective orders last 31-61 days, or 61-91 days if a deadly weapon was involved in the offense. Survivors of family violence, sexual assault, trafficking and related crimes often flee with limited resources, and the initial weeks following separation from a violent situation are when they are most vulnerable to retaliation. Advocates and victims report that 31 days is not enough time to establish safety, secure housing, and/or obtain legal representation. HB 1194 increases the duration of emergency protective orders to 61-91 days for most qualifying offenses, and 91-121 days for cases involving a deadly weapon. By aligning protective order time frames with the needs of survivors, HB 1194 improves their opportunity to access safety and stability. The extended window also gives law enforcement, community organizations, and legal professionals more time to assist victims in navigating the legal system and accessing critical resources.	**Favorable**
HB 1646 By: Lujan | Metcalf	Relating to the amount of an expenditure that may be paid by an emergency services district employee	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government	HB 1646 raises the spending limit for emergency services district (ESD) employees without board approval from $2,000 to $50,000, giving districts more flexibility, but it raises concerns about oversight and accountability. Currently, ESD employees must seek board approval for any purchase over $2,000, even for urgent or routine operational needs. ESD boards must provide a written 72-hour notice to the public and have a quorum of at least three	**Favorable with Concerns**

	without board approval.	6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	board members to hold a board meeting. These meeting requirements and low caps may create delays when buying essential equipment, such as emergency gear or medical supplies. HB 1646 allows bonded employees to authorize purchases up to $50,000 without board approval. Companies have insurance on bonded employees to cover potential loss caused by the employees' actions, such as fraud or misuse. HB 1646 is intended to reduce delays for essential purchases and improve ESD operational efficiency. However, the bill does not restrict how the funds can be used, how often they may be accessed, or require the purchases to be limited to equipment directly related to emergency services. This raises concerns about the potential misuse of public funds, including the risk that funds could be used for personal benefits. Without clearer limits or required documentation, there is little to ensure that taxpayer money is used appropriately or that boards remain informed about repeated spending.	
HB 1729 By: Vasut | Barry	Relating to a limitation on the number of terms a person may serve as a commissioner of Port Freeport.	Transportation 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 1729 institutes term limits for Port Freeports commissioners. Six commissioners administer Port Freeport, serving in staggered, six-year terms. Last year, they voted unanimously to pursue legislation that would institute term limits. With their decision in mind, this bill would prevent anyone from being elected as a commissioner who has previously served two full terms.	**Favorable**
HB 2498 By: Leach	Relating to the consequences of a criminal conviction on a person's eligibility for an occupational license.	Corrections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2498 promotes second chances in workforce development by limiting when certain criminal convictions can be considered in occupational licensing decisions, while still preserving safeguards for serious offenses. Many Texans with criminal records face barriers when seeking occupational licenses, even for offenses that are old or unrelated to the work they intend to pursue. Current laws allow broad discretion in denying licenses based on past convictions, which can prevent rehabilitation and workforce reintegration. This lack of clarity and consistency in licensing decisions can hinder reentry and employment, increasing the risk of recidivism. HB 2498 seeks to improve fairness, support rehabilitation, and expand second-chance employment opportunities by: • Requires licensing authorities to place information on their website and application forms stating that prior convictions may affect license eligibility, explaining the criteria used to evaluate criminal history, and notifying applicants of their right to request a criminal history evaluation letter regarding their eligibility. • Requires licensing authorities to maintain data on the number applications received, approved, denied for any reasons, denied because of the applicant’s prior criminal conviction or placement on deferred adjudication	**Favorable**



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			community supervision, and criminal history evaluation letters requested. This information must be reported to the Legislature and published on the authority's website annually. • Prohibits licensing authorities from denying a license based on a conviction if at least 5 years have passed since conviction or release, with the exception of certain serious crimes such as murder and sexual assault. • Clarifies that these standards apply to license renewals, in addition to denials, suspensions, and revocations. • Allows licensing authorities to accept applications from individuals incarcerated at TDCJ. • Creates a presumption in favor of licensure and requires licensing agencies to take evidence of the applicant's rehabilitative efforts into account, in addition to other factors. By narrowing when past convictions can disqualify an individual, reinforcing the role of rehabilitation in licensing decisions, and increasing transparency through data reporting, HB 2498 supports fairer access to employment while still allowing agencies to protect public safety.	
HB 1314 By: Hickland	Relating to price estimates and billing requirements for certain health care facilities.	Public Health 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1314 increases medical price transparency by requiring medical facilities to provide clear, timely billing estimates for nonemergency services. According to Forbes, Texas ranks fifth in the nation for healthcare costs. This high cost burden often leads to care hesitancy, with many individuals avoiding medical treatment due to fear of unexpected or unaffordable bills. The lack of price transparency in healthcare significantly contributes to this problem, as patients often struggle to make informed financial decisions about their care. HB 1314 governs the billing policies of ambulatory surgical centers, birthing centers, hospitals, and freestanding emergency medical care facilities. It establishes that consumers, upon request, can receive an estimate of the facility's charges, specifying that this estimate must be the amount the facility will bill, rather than an adjusted figure. Estimates are defined as written statements outlining a consumer's nonemergency elective medical service. The estimate must be provided to the consumer within five business days of receiving the request. Additionally, estimates must include information on how to dispute a bill. If facilities violate any billing policies, they cannot pursue third-party collection actions against the consumer. By promoting greater transparency and accountability in medical billing, HB 1314 empowers Texans to make more informed decisions about their care.	**Favorable**

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HB 2295 By: Capriglione | Orr	Relating to newborn screening tests for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.	Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2295 addresses the critical gap in early detection and care for Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) in Texas by including it in newborn screenings and expanding access to support services provided by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). DMD is a genetic disorder characterized by progressive muscle degeneration and weakness due to alterations in a protein called dystrophin, which helps maintain the integrity of muscle cells. According to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, children with DMD experience progressive muscle deterioration and weakness, irreversibly losing the ability to walk, feed themselves, and breathe unassisted over time. Currently, Texas does not screen newborns for DMD, which delays diagnosis and access to early interventions that could enhance quality of life and slow disease progression. HB 2295 requires that DMD be included in the newborn screenings mandated by the DSHS. Additionally, it expands the eligibility criteria for financial assistance from DSHS's program for children with special health needs to encompass those who receive a positive test result for DMD during these screenings. DMD is also added to the criteria for which DSHS can provide services directly through approved providers. Additionally, DMD will be included in the diseases and disorders for which the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is required to carry out a program to combat mortality and morbidity and maintain a laboratory to support this effort. HB 2295 ensures earlier detection, expanded access to support services, and stronger public health efforts for DMD, providing critical resources to affected families and improving long-term outcomes for children diagnosed.	**Favorable**
HB 1353 By: Guillen	Relating to international cooperation agreements between certain state agencies and the United Mexican States and funding for infrastructure investment in this state; providing authority for certain agencies to issue bonds.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development, S/C on International Relations 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1353 aims to enhance Texas's ability to fund cross-border water and energy infrastructure projects by expanding bonding authority. It also allows investment collaboration with the North American Development Bank (NADB). Currently, certain state agencies lack clear authority to issue bonds for international cooperation efforts, and there is no direct mechanism to jointly invest in infrastructure with Mexico through NADB—a binational bank governed by the United States and Mexico that primarily finances water infrastructure. HB 1353 adds the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to the list of agencies authorized to issue bonds under international cooperation agreements. However, according to the agency's bill impact statement, it is likely that including TCEQ in this way is not sufficient to authorize TCEQ to issue bonds. It also allows eligible agencies to establish funding mechanisms in coordination with NADB — a binational bank governed by the United States and Mexico that primarily finances water infrastructure — to support infrastructure	**Will of the House**

			investments in Texas. Any agreement involving state appropriations must still receive approval from the governor and the Legislative Budget Board. While the bill's intent is admirable, according to TCEQ's impact statement, it falls short in accomplishing its goal. Secondly, while TCEQ has worked with NADB in the past, including the bank explicitly in statute is unnecessary.	
HB 1531 By: Howard	Relating to the definition of facility for purposes of workplace violence prevention requirements.	Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1531 enhances workplace violence prevention measures in healthcare settings by requiring all home and community support service agencies to comply with established safety and reporting standards. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, health care workers are five times more likely to suffer from a workplace violence injury compared to other workers overall. During the 88th Legislature, SB 240 was passed to streamline reporting systems, encourage nurses to report incidents of violence, and ensure that victims receive the treatment they need. However, some home and community support agencies were not identified as impacted facilities in the legislation, leading to a lack of support for nurses in those facilities. HB 1531 clarifies the definition of “facility” in the workplace violence prevention requirements to include all home and community support service agencies, not just those that provide home health services. With the restriction removed, a broader range of facilities will be subject to workplace violence prevention requirements, ensuring that more healthcare workers receive support.	**Favorable**
HB 1988 By: Lujan | Cook	Relating to the disclosure of certain information by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1988 supports mentorship and rehabilitation efforts in the juvenile justice system by allowing the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to share information about formerly incarcerated individuals with their consent. TJJD faces ongoing challenges related to high-risk populations, staffing shortages, and limited contract care options. Programs like the “credible messengers” initiative, where formerly incarcerated individuals return to mentor current youth, offer valuable guidance and support but are hindered by privacy restrictions that prevent TJJD from acknowledging or disclosing information about these mentors’ past involvement with the juvenile justice system. This limits how the program can demonstrate its success. HB 1988 permits TJJD to disclose information about individuals who were previously committed if they are at least 18 years old, have been discharged, and have given consent for disclosure. This bill prohibits TJJD from releasing any information the individual did not consent to, or sharing information for any purpose beyond what it was authorized for.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

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			By lifting these barriers, HB 1988 enhances TJJD's ability to highlight successful rehabilitation stories and expand impactful peer mentorship programs, ultimately promoting rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.	
HB 5398 By: Morales, Eddie | Metcalf | Vasut | Kerwin	Relating to the taking of certain aoudad sheep by using a helicopter.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5398 seeks to safeguard native West Texas wildlife by designating aoudad sheep, a non-native species known to cause substantial ecological damage and carry diseases, as a depredating species. Aoudad sheep, first introduced in the late 1940s, have become a dominant and invasive species and have increased in number by 1800% since 1963. While they provide hunting value, their rapid population growth, adaptability, and competition for resources threaten native species like desert bighorn sheep and mule deer. Additionally, aoudad sheep are carriers of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, a pathogen that causes fatal pneumonia in native sheep populations. Since 2019, infections traced to aoudad have resulted in the loss of over half the desert bighorn sheep population in affected areas. HB 5398 responds to these threats by designating aoudad sheep as a depredating species. This designation allows qualified landowners or their agents to contract with hunters or observers to manage these populations through aerial control using helicopters, under a wildlife management permit. The bill directs the Parks and Wildlife Commission to adopt the necessary rules to facilitate this change promptly after enactment. HB represents a proactive step toward restoring ecological balance and safeguarding Texas's native wildlife heritage.	**Favorable**
HB 3960 By: Paul	Relating to the effect of certain misrepresentations on certain insurance policies.	Insurance 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3960 seeks to clarify and standardize the definition and consequences of misrepresentations in life insurance applications to better combat fraud. To combat fraud in life insurance sales, all policies currently must include a contestability period of two years. This allows insurers to cancel the policy if they find that the applicant made significant misrepresentations regarding their health. After this period, however, insurers are required to demonstrate that the applicant intentionally misrepresented key facts or committed fraud. Currently, misrepresentations are not clearly defined in the statute, leading some courts to set an excessively high standard for rescinding life insurance policies, which fails to address fraudulent activities adequately. HB 3960 clarifies what misrepresentations are in relation to life insurance and when a life insurance policy may be rescinded. Misrepresentations include a false statement, omission, or other fact that would materially impact the insurer's decision to issue the policy. During the two-year contestability period, there is no requirement to prove fraud or	**Will of the House**

			intent to contest a misrepresentation. Insurers must provide a notice to rescind or terminate a life insurance policy within 90 days of discovering a misrepresentation and must refund any premiums paid towards the policy to the policyholder. Lastly, if there is a conflict in common law regarding the impact of misrepresentations in an insurance application, the provisions outlined in the bill should prevail. While HB 3960 provides necessary clarity on what constitutes a misrepresentation in life insurance applications, concerns remain about the broadness of the definition and how it may be interpreted. Without careful application, the statute could risk undermining consumer protections by allowing rescission of policies for minor or unintentional errors. Striking a balance between combating fraud and preserving fairness for policyholders will be essential during implementation.	
HB 3923 By: Bell, Keith	Relating to state employment opportunities for individuals who do not hold a bachelor's degree.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 3923 expands access to state employment by requiring the classification officer to reduce degree requirements where practical and expand career opportunities for workers without a bachelor's degree. Currently, many state agency job descriptions require a bachelor's degree even when the duties could be performed without one, limiting the applicant pool. HB 3923 directs the state classification officer to review state job requirements, identify positions where educational standards can be lowered without sacrificing job performance, and work to reduce unnecessary degree requirements. The officer must also evaluate ways to support career advancement for employees without a bachelor's degree and report findings to the Governor's Office and Legislative Budget Board. This measure aims to open more state jobs to skilled workers and improve upward mobility within the state workforce.	**Favorable**
HB 1407 By: Guillen	Relating to the provision of water or sewer service by public entities operating jointly or concurrently; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1407 expands the authority of public utility agencies in Texas, enabling more effective regional collaboration for water and wastewater services. Currently, many local governments manage utilities independently, leading to fragmented systems, unequal service access, higher costs, and delays in upgrades. HB 1407 allows multiple counties and public entities to jointly form a utility agency that can operate as a single, unified body. This approach facilitates coordinated planning, more efficient resource use, and greater access to funding for large-scale infrastructure projects. These regional solutions are modeled on successful Florida statutes that have improved service delivery for diverse communities, including small, rural, and disadvantaged areas. HB 1407 makes several important changes, including:	**Favorable**

			• **Expands Authority and Participation**: Public utility agencies may now include water and sewer service corporations. They are authorized to jointly acquire land, facilities, or utilities from private entities and are granted powers similar to municipalities (excluding taxing authority). • **Financial Flexibility**: Public utility agencies can issue various financial instruments, such as anticipation notes and special assessment bonds, to finance or refinance projects. However, they cannot use existing facilities as collateral without approval from participating members. • **Regulatory Oversight**: Rate-setting authority is transferred to the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC), which must ensure rates cover agency obligations. Ratepayers may appeal rate decisions, and agencies must provide proper notice of rate changes. • **Receivership and Utility Acquisition**: The PUC and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) may assign temporary management of failing utilities to public utility agencies or request court-appointed receivers. The PUC must prioritize and rule on agency applications to acquire such utilities and their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity (CCNs) within 120 days. • **Operational and Legal Provisions**: Agencies can contract, dispose of surplus property, and partner with entities like the North American Development Bank. Ownership of facilities includes the transfer of liabilities to the agency. While agencies generally lack eminent domain authority, exceptions exist for counties with populations over 1.2 million. • **Withdrawal and Governance**: Participating entities may withdraw from an agency with proper notice and debt assumption. Agencies are affirmed as retail utilities under the Water Code but excluded from definitions of other utility types. HB 1407 establishes a legal framework that fosters regional cooperation, improves infrastructure development, and strengthens oversight, ultimately promoting more equitable and efficient utility service across Texas.	
HB 1764 By: Button	Relating to the certification and regulation of certain out-of-state certified public accountants.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1764 streamlines the process for out-of-state certified public accountants (CPAs) to practice in Texas by removing duplicative credentialing requirements and aligning with updated national standards. Currently, out-of-state CPAs must meet detailed verification requirements to receive a Texas license or practice under privilege. HB 1764 simplifies this by eliminating the requirement for third-party verification through the National Qualification Appraisal Service and instead allows the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy to directly assess whether an applicant's education, examination, and experience meet Texas standards. The bill also clarifies the conditions under which out-of-state CPAs can practice in Texas without a license, and allows the board to deny this	**Favorable**

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			privilege if the individual does not meet Texas criteria. These changes are intended to improve mobility for qualified CPAs and expand the pool of qualified applicants while preserving public oversight and professional standards.	
HB 2221 By: Hull	Relating to certain trade practices related to life insurance, annuity contracts, and accident and health coverage.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2221 modernizes Texas's anti-rebating laws by aligning them with national standards, establishing uniform guidelines for value-added services across all types of insurance, and centralizing enforcement authority to reduce legal ambiguity and enhance consumer well-being. Anti-rebating laws prevent insurance companies from offering incentives to consumers to purchase insurance coverage. In 2007, Texas revised its anti-rebating laws to permit life and health insurers to offer specific services, such as wellness programs, grief counseling, and funeral planning, as long as these benefits are reasonably connected to the type of insurance purchased and are included in the policy. In 2021, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners modified its model act to allow additional benefits, termed "value-added services," to be offered to consumers without needing to be part of the policy. This change provides insurers with greater flexibility in policy modifications without excessive regulations. Furthermore, the current statute places anti-rebating laws for life and health insurers in a different section of the code from those for property and casualty insurers, and dictates that the mechanism for enforcement can include private causes of action for life and health insurers who breach these laws. This creates inconsistencies in the enforcement of anti-rebating laws. HB 2221 establishes uniform exceptions to existing rebate and discrimination laws for insurers regarding value-added services, as recommended by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Value-added services must be designed to reduce claim costs, provide liability education, and enhance consumers' health and financial wellness. Anti-rebating measures will be strengthened by prohibiting insurers from using terms such as "free", "no cost", or similar advertising for purchasing a policy or other applicable products. Insurers can offer or provide non-cash gifts, items, or services, or conduct raffles as long as it is deemed reasonable by the Commissioner of Insurance. By relocating the statute to the relevant chapter, it prevents unnecessary lawsuits. The mechanism for enforcement is replaced by several uniform prohibitions on misleading rebates and inducements, which the Commissioner of Insurance can adopt rules to enforce. HB 2221 modernizes and streamlines Texas's anti-rebating laws by creating consistent standards across several insurance types, allowing value-added services under clear guidelines, and shifting enforcement from the judiciary to the state to reduce legal uncertainty for insurers, benefiting the health and financial well-being of consumers.	**Favorable**

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HB 2214 By: Walle	Relating to notice requirements for a leased dwelling located in a floodplain.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2214 clarifies and narrows the flood disclosure requirement for landlords by exempting short-term leases and certain temporary residential tenancies related to property sales. Currently, landlords must disclose whether a leased dwelling is in a 100-year floodplain or has flooded in the past five years, but the requirement unintentionally applies to short-term leases and transitional situations involving buyers or sellers temporarily occupying the property. HB 2214 exempts leases shorter than 30 days and temporary residential tenancies tied to property sales, such as when a buyer moves in before closing or a seller stays after closing for up to 90 days. The bill also clarifies that required flood disclosures can be included in the lease packet rather than as a standalone document, as long as both parties sign the page containing the notice. HB 2214 preserves the original intent of providing meaningful flood risk information to tenants while eliminating burdensome or impractical requirements in leaseback scenarios.	**Favorable**
HB 2517 By: Barry | Leo Wilson	Relating to the applicability of premium and maintenance taxes to Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and Texas FAIR Plan Association.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2517 strengthens the financial stability of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and the Texas FAIR Plan Association by exempting them from certain insurance taxes. Currently, the TWIA and the Texas FAIR Plan Association are required to pay premium and maintenance taxes even though they are heavily regulated by the legislature, which reduces their available funds for catastrophic losses. Both organizations aim to provide coverage for individuals who have been denied by private insurance markets, which makes these taxes a financial burden that limits their ability to pay claims and increases the need for reinsurance. HB 2517 exempts TWIA and the Texas FAIR Plan Association from paying the property and casualty insurance premium tax and the fire and allied lines insurance maintenance tax to the Department of Insurance. This exemption would enhance both entities' capacity to pay claims and reduce their need for reinsurance, improving their overall financial stability.	**Favorable**
HB 2518 By: Barry | Leo Wilson	Relating to the use of installment premium payment plans on Texas Windstorm Insurance	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2518 protects Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) policyholders from paying additional costs by prohibiting the use of premium financial agreements. TWIA provides windstorm and hail insurance to owners who have been unable to obtain coverage through the standard market because of the threat posed by catastrophic hurricanes. Currently, TWIA policyholders can choose from several	**Favorable**

J.E. Walle

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	Association policies.		interest-free installment payment plans offered directly by TWIA to help make payments more manageable. However, some policyholders who are unaware of TWIA's lower-cost financing options opt for premium financing companies to pay their TWIA premiums, which incur additional fees that can be financially burdensome. HB 2518 prohibits premium financing arrangements for TWIA policyholders, as TWIA offers a variety of installment plans. This law safeguards policyholders from incurring extra insurance costs.	
HB 2213 By: Johnson | Morgan | Paul | Wharton	Relating to the composition of the board of directors of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2213 creates flexibility by allowing the understaffed Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA) board of directors to accept membership from more regions. The TWIA board of directors must contain at least three board members who reside in first tier coastal counties and three board members who reside more than 100 miles from the coast. All Houstonians live within 100 miles from the coast, but only those who live east of State Highway 146 live in a first tier coastal county. This makes most Harris county residents ineligible to serve either as board members in either of those two groups. This exclusion of Houstonites is counterproductive when the board periodically experiences unfilled seats. This bill changes the requirement from three board members who live more than 100 miles from the coast to three members who live outside of designated catastrophe areas. This would allow Houstonites who live east of state highway 146 to serve as board members under the first tier coastal county provision and those who live west of 146 to serve as board members under the provision that they do not live in a designated catastrophe area. This change would add a pool of 2.3 million people as potential TWIA board members without making any significant changes to the Texans that board represents.	**Favorable**
HB 5008 By: Bell, Keith | Wilson | Frank | Dyson | Virdell	Relating to the use of the skills development fund by certain entities.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development, S/C on Workforce 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 5008 expands access to customized workforce training by adding new eligible partners to the Skills Development Fund (SDF). Currently, the Texas Workforce Commission can collaborate with public junior colleges, technical colleges, and other organizations to provide job training programs through the Skills Development Fund (SDF). While the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) qualifies for this funding, the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) does not, even though TEES already partners with several community colleges for training programs.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

		2 Absent	HB 5008 adds TEES to the list of eligible training providers under SDF. TEES would still have to apply and qualify for SDF. HB 5008 would enable more collaboration to meet evolving workforce training needs in high-demand industries.	
HB 5092 By: Tepper	Relating to the operation and dissolution of the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority and to agreements between Texas Tech University and the authority.	Higher Education 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5092 allows the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority to work in collaboration with Texas Tech University in research related to national security and critical infrastructure. HB 5092 authorizes partnerships with federal agencies like the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, supports the creation of an applied research site, defines eligible technologies for tax exemptions, and exempts certain supporting real estate projects from state contracting rules. Additionally, HB 5092 requires the board appointments to have expertise in relevant fields and allows coordination with the Texas Tech University president, removes the requirement for governor approval of actions, and permits interagency agreements and property transfers to Texas Tech University. Lastly, HB 5092 updates the authority's dissolution process and exempts transferred facilities from inventory audits until they are operational. HB 5092 addresses the need to modernize the Lubbock Reese Redevelopment Authority's mission and operations to better support emerging national security and infrastructure research demands.	**Favorable**
HB 3421 By: Hayes	Relating to decedents' estates and other matters involving probate courts.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3421 updates and simplifies several probate court procedures to make estate administration more consistent and efficient. Certain probate requirements such as how documents are transferred between counties, how wills are validated, and how inventories are prepared, have created confusion or inefficiencies in the estate process. These issues can slow down estate proceedings and make it harder for courts and families to settle affairs smoothly. **Transferring Wills Between Courts** Estate cases can be transferred from one county to another. However, the current statute does not specify how a clerk should transfer an original will to the new court. HB 3421 specifies that the clerk should transfer the original will or a copy of it by a qualified delivery method (certified mail, courier, etc), which is already defined in statute. The applicant who requested the transfer of the case must pay the delivery fee. **Producing a Will in Court**	**Favorable**

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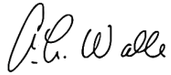
			Current law requires that a will be presented in court when requested. If the will cannot be presented, a party can prove that the will is valid by having the people who witnessed the deceased person sign it testify in court to this fact. HB 3421 eliminates the need for witnesses to testify in court by allowing the party to provide a notarized document that is signed by the will's testator (person who makes the will) and the witnesses stating that the will is valid. This is known as a self-proved affidavit. A will with a self-proving affidavit is self-proved and considered valid for court. **Possession of the Probated Will** Current statute does not specify how a clerk should treat the copies of a will when the original could not be presented in court. HB 3421 clarifies that the clerk is to keep copies and self-proved wills with the case records on file in their office. **Personal Representative of Estate Properties** A personal representative, or executor, is legally responsible for managing a deceased person's estate. This person must provide the court clerk with a detailed inventory list for the deceased person's belongings, debts, and money owed. The representative is not required to state whether the deceased person was married at the time of their death. This may create confusion about whether the property or debts belong to the estate or are community property that a spouse is entitled to. HB 3421 requires the personal representative to specify if the deceased person was married at the time of their death and if the property is separate or shared. Additionally, HB 3421 clarifies that the court can use the information provided by the personal representative to rule on a small estate without having to issue a citation. When the personal representative submits a financial report to the court about how they've handled the estate's money and property, the judge has the power to review that report. The court can approve, change, or reject a personal representative's financial report without having to notify other people involved in the case. This allows disputes to be resolved quickly and efficiently. **Temporary Administrator of an Estate** A judge may appoint a temporary administrator to manage a deceased person's estate. Current statute allows a decedent's heirs to contest this appointment within 15 days, but the heirs are not required to be notified of the appointment. This creates a barrier for heirs because they could lose their right to contest a temporary administration without being aware that there was an appointment to begin with. HB 3421 requires the temporary administrator to notify the decedent's heirs of the appointment within seven days so that the heirs have time to contest the appointment. **Statutory Probate Courts**	



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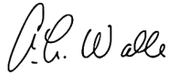
			Statutory probate courts handle cases involving wills, estates, and guardianship. These courts are not currently required to send court orders through the State's electronic filing system, though other courts are. HB 3421 adds Statutory Probate Courts to a list of courts that must provide parties with copies of orders using the electronic filing system. HB 3421 helps modernize probate procedures and ensures greater consistency across counties. By removing outdated requirements and clarifying legal responsibilities, it makes the process easier for both courts and the people managing estates.	
HB 3663 By: Martinez	Relating to the information required to be posted by the Texas Water Development Board on the board's Internet website regarding the use of the state water implementation fund for Texas.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3663 seeks to reduce administrative burdens on the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) by eliminating the requirement to post certain application information online for the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT). Currently, the TWDB must publish specific details about financial assistance applications for SWIFT on its website. However, similar posting requirements do not apply to other financial assistance programs overseen by the TWDB. As a result, TWDB staff spend significant time reviewing and redacting sensitive information to comply with state public information laws. HB 3663 removes the requirement for the TWDB to post nonconfidential information submitted through approved applications for financial assistance from the SWIFT. This would save considerable staff time and ensure that posting requirements for all programs are consistent.	**Favorable**
HB 3748 By: Manuel	Relating to reimbursing employees of the Department of Family and Protective Services for loss of or damage to personal property.	Human Services 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3748 allows the Department of Family and Protective Services to use existing funds to reimburse employees for property damage caused by clients, ensuring fair compensation for staff. Currently, DFPS lacks a formal process to reimburse employees for personal property damage caused by clients, leaving staff to absorb the cost of repairs or replacements themselves. This not only creates an unfair financial burden but also adds stress to an already demanding job, potentially impacting employee retention. HB 3748 authorizes DFPS to use existing resources to reimburse a present or former employee for the loss or damage of personal property caused by a client during the course of their duties. This provides a practical solution by alleviating financial strain on employees and fosters a more supportive and sustainable work environment for DFPS staff.	**Favorable**



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HB 3800 By: Orr | Shofner	Relating to an advisory board established to develop a resource guide that facilitates collaboration in identifying and addressing local health care workforce needs.	Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3800 addresses gaps in coordination across Texas's healthcare workforce system by establishing an advisory board to guide strategic partnerships between education and healthcare sectors, ensuring training efforts are aligned with statewide workforce demands. Currently, building and maintaining the healthcare workforce is a collective effort that involves 15 state agencies, local workforce boards, chambers of commerce, industry groups, and local government agencies. However, the Texas Healthcare Workforce Task Force reported gaps in coordination, leading to health profession shortages examined in silos that obscure the industry's overall view. This imbalance means some regions have strong collaborations for healthcare training, while others' programs struggle to meet current or future demand. HB 3800 mandates the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to create an advisory board aimed at developing a resource guide that promotes partnerships between higher education institutions and healthcare providers to address workforce demands, including training needs, shortages, and challenging workloads. The advisory board will consist of 14 members appointed by the executive director of TWC, who are affiliated with higher education institutions in both rural and urban areas, local workforce development boards in diverse regions, and statewide organizations representing hospitals, healthcare professionals, and public health clinics. HB 3800 strengthens Texas's healthcare workforce strategy by establishing an advisory board to enhance coordination and foster partnerships that align training programs with the state's healthcare needs.	**Favorable**
HB 3756 Geren | Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra	Relating to the powers of certain nonresident seller's permit holders who also hold a winery permit.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3756 creates a limited exception allowing certain non-resident seller's permit holders to also hold a winery permit under specific conditions. Under current law, holders of a non-resident seller's permit — out-of-state alcoholic beverage manufacturers authorized to sell to in-state distributors — are generally prohibited from owning interests in Texas wineries to prevent improper overlapping control between manufacturers and retailers. HB 3756 allows a narrow exception for nonresident sellers who also hold a winery permit that was issued on or before May 1, 2010, for a winery located in a municipality with a population between 130,000 and 150,000 and spanning three counties, one of which has a population between two and three million. The bill also clarifies that such non-resident sellers may not sell wine to their own affiliated winery. This measure provides a narrowly tailored fix to accommodate existing business arrangements without undermining broader regulatory safeguards.	**Favorable**

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HB 2613 By: Harris Davila	Relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2613 seeks to protect water park owners from frivolous lawsuits for injuries resulting from guest behavior when proper warnings are displayed. Under current law, water parks can be held liable for incidents that occur on their property, even if they have safety precautions in place. This can expose operators to frivolous lawsuits that increase insurance costs. HB 2613 limits liability for water park operators if a clearly worded warning sign is posted at or near the entrance. The limitation does not apply if the injury was caused by the park's negligence, unsafe conditions the operator knew or should have known about, improper employee training, or intentional harm. HB 2613 strikes a balance between protecting businesses that follow safety rules and ensuring accountability when harm results from preventable errors.	**Favorable**
HB 3782 By: Smithee	Relating to the type of newspaper required for publication of public notices.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3782 allows certain small counties to use digital newspapers instead of print newspapers to provide required public notices. This better aligns with current realities experienced by small newspapers and rural counties. Many current laws require governmental entities to provide public notice by newspaper. Due to financial constraints, the rise of digital news, and the decline of traditional print media, many governmental entities lack a news source that meets these current requirements. Under HB 3782, if a governmental entity exists in a small county without a weekly newspaper, they are allowed to provide public notice by a digital newspaper instead of a print newspaper, as long as the digital newspaper meets certain requirements. The digital newspaper must have an audited paid-subscriber base, have been in business for at least three years, employ staff in the entity's jurisdiction, report on local events in the entity's jurisdiction, provide news to people in the entity's jurisdiction, and update its news at least once each week. HB 3782 only applies to small counties without local newspapers that publish at least weekly. HB 3782 updates statute to meet current needs and provides a pathway for small counties to comply with the intent of the law without spending unnecessary county resources.	**Favorable**
HB 5246 By:	Relating to a governmental body's response to a	Delivery of Government Efficiency	HB 5246 restructures the Texas Space Commission (TSC), updating responsibilities to include aerospace economic development and abolishing the spaceport trust fund.	**Favorable**

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Bonnen	request for public information.	12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, Texas manages aerospace and space industry development across multiple offices, but funding mechanisms and governance structures are outdated. HB 5246 strengthens the Texas Space Commission by revising its board structure to improve member qualifications and establish a more predictable appointment process. HB 5246 also expands TSC's authority to oversee grants and research initiatives, and establishes clearer partnerships with universities and private industry through the Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium. The bill broadens the aerospace and aviation office's strategic focus beyond spaceports to the full aerospace sector. HB 5246 also abolishes the spaceport trust fund, reallocating its resources under general state revenue while protecting existing contractual obligations. These changes aim to position Texas as a national leader in civil, commercial, and military space and aerospace innovation.	
HB 4344 By: Hernandez	Relating to access to and use of criminal history record information by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4344 allows the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to perform criminal history background checks on current employees, which could provide better oversight over potential grid security issues. SB 1112 (88R) allowed the PUC to perform background checks of potential criminal history for all prospective employees. However, the bill did not explicitly authorize the PUC to perform these checks on individuals already employed by the PUC. Many PUC employees handle sensitive data regarding grid security, and the PUC would like better oversight over any related potential safety concerns. HB 4344 allows the PUC to obtain criminal history information regarding any employee with access to potentially sensitive data. The PUC is prohibited from releasing or disclosing this criminal history information, except as allowed under current statute. The PUC is required to destroy the information after it has been used for its authorized purpose. HB 4344 allows the PUC to more effectively manage grid security.	**Favorable**
HB 4044 By: Meyer | Turner | Capriglione | Martinez Fischer | Troxclair	Relating to certain expenditures by public institutions of higher education and university systems that are eligible for certain tax credits.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4044 would reauthorize higher education and university systems to participate in the Texas Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program. The program offers a 25% franchise tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. Because public universities are already exempt from franchise taxes, they would sell the value they get from the tax credit as a way to finance restoration projects on university land. Universities were eligible for this program between 2017 and 2022. HB 4044 would reauthorize university participation from 2026 to 2035 to incentivize the much-needed restoration of historic landmarks. Unlike local tax cuts, the State's budget is broad and robust enough to absorb this cost.	**Favorable**

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HB 4066 By: Bonnen	Relating to the repeal of the Texas Research Incentive Program.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4066 seeks to modernize and refocus state-supported research funding by eliminating the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP) and continuing to bolster new intentional funding streams with more effective, results-driven programs. The 88th Legislature approved $3 billion for the establishment and creation of the Texas University Fund. This larger pool of funding has virtually replaced the Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP). Since 2016, appropriations to TRIP have steadily declined, and the program's funding for each biennium has consistently fallen short of meeting demand. As of February 2025, this mismatch had created a backlog of unfunded applications totaling more than $400 million. HB 4066 would provide final payments to program recipients before phasing out the program. To ensure that institutions and their students continue to thrive, the state must focus its support on modern, well-funded programs that have demonstrated impact, rather than maintaining outdated programs that lack consistent financial backing.	**Favorable**
HB 2702 By: Raymond	Relating to prohibiting certain limitations on the operation of certain organizations that benefit veterans during a declared state of disaster.	State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2702 allows military veteran clubs to continue meeting during declared emergencies, except for natural disasters. This could prevent the loss of essential community lifelines for veterans with heightened mental health needs. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is an organization of U.S. war veterans who often meet with one another in VFW posts to enjoy community, participate in services, and process difficult experiences had while in military service. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Governor Abbott issued an executive order requiring any business that gets 51% or more of its revenue from alcohol sales to close. This forced many VFW posts to close, as many hold liquor licenses and operate bars that serve alcohol to VFW members. VFW members report that the temporary closure of their posts led to increased isolation, suicidal ideation, and negative coping mechanisms. HB 2702 exempts tax-exempt organizations benefiting U.S. veterans from any executive order, proclamation, or regulation issued by the Governor under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975 that restricts the operation or hours of a business that sells alcohol. This exemption does not apply to an executive order during a natural disaster. HB 2702 allows U.S. veterans to continue to enjoy important community bonding during emergency situations.	**Favorable**
HB 2807 By: Rose	Relating to the statewide intellectual and developmental	Human Services 7 Ayes	HB 2807 establishes the Statewide Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council to develop and monitor a strategic plan to guide improvements across state systems for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).	**Favorable**

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	disability coordinating council.	4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities reports that Texas regularly ranks near the bottom among states regarding its efforts to support IDD. In 2022, a strategic planning group for IDD, led by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), released the Texas Statewide IDD Strategic Plan, detailing goals and objectives aimed for completion by 2025. These objectives remain unmet, in part due to the group's informal structure and a lack of coordination in implementation. HB 2807 will establish a Statewide IDD Coordinating Council to ensure the development of a strategic plan for IDD services in Texas. The executive commissioner of HHSC will appoint council members and include representatives from state agencies, organizations that work with individuals with IDD, healthcare providers, individuals with lived experience with IDD, and higher education systems. The council will develop a recurring five-year IDD strategic plan and monitor its approach. The strategic plan must include identifying service gaps in care between state agencies or programs, recommendations to improve shared systems across agencies, workforce recommendations for those serving individuals with IDD, and improvements in care for those with co-occurring mental health conditions. Additionally, the council will also publish an annual inventory of state-funded IDD programs and services, as well as a biennial expenditure proposal. HB 2807 creates a formal structure through the Statewide IDD Coordinating Council to ensure Texas makes measurable progress in improving services for individuals with IDD by addressing longstanding gaps and promoting accountability through strategic planning and oversight.	
HB 2869 By: Metcalf	Relating to a financing mechanism allowing electric utilities to obtain recovery of costs associated with a weather-related event or other natural disaster; granting authority to issue bonds.	State Affairs 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2869 allows in-ERCOT utilities to apply for state-backed bonds to cover system restoration costs following a severe weather event. These bonds are already available to utilities outside of ERCOT, and can potentially reduce storm-related costs paid by electric customers. Severe weather events may cause expensive damage to electric utility infrastructure. Utilities often have to borrow money to cover these costs, but in-ERCOT utilities are currently barred from doing so with state-backed bonds. This leaves only the private bond market, which offers interest rates that are often much higher than those of state-backed bonds. These increased costs are ultimately passed on to customers. Under current statute, utilities outside ERCOT can already use state-backed bonds to cover severe weather costs. HB 2869 allows in-ERCOT electric utilities to apply for state-backed bonds to recover system restoration costs associated with weather-related events or other natural disasters. These bond applications would be filed with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), which would approve or deny the bond. If approved, the PUC must provide the bond within 150 days	**<u>Favorable</u>**

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			of application. If actual system restoration costs are ultimately higher or lower than the approved bond amount, the PUC and the bond recipient must reconcile the difference. By allowing lower-cost financing for ERCOT utilities recovering from storms, HB 2869 helps to alleviate costs for customers.	
HB 2898 By: Frank	Relating to requirements for certain meteorological evaluation towers.	State Affairs 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2898 aims to improve military training safety by requiring anyone planning to build a meteorological evaluation tower near a military base to report additional details to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). There may be some risk that specific aspects of this notification could lead to adverse impact on wind energy development. Meteorological evaluation towers are used to evaluate locations for future wind turbines, but are not currently required to give notice to nearby Air Force Bases that may be conducting airborne training operations in the same area. This creates risk of plane crash and property damage, and some training flights have been rescheduled as a result of unexpected evaluation towers in the planned flight path. Currently, a person who erects or intends to erect a meteorological evaluation tower must notify TxDOT and register the tower with the department. HB 2898 adds additional information to this requirement, such as tower height and location. Within 30 days of receiving this notice, TxDOT must notify all military bases located within 50 nautical miles of the tower, as well as any county judge in a county with such a base and the county judges of all adjacent counties. There are concerns that the requirement to notify county judges in adjacent counties could lead to the notification of county judges who live over 100 miles from the potential evaluation tower, far from any true impact. Far-reaching notification requirements could delay projects or trigger protests from unaffected persons. These concerns could be mitigated by limiting notification to only the military base impacted and by reducing the required notification distance.	**Will of the House**
HB 3181 By: Dutton	Relating to the enforcement of a court order for possession of or access to a child and related order modifications.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 3181 strengthens enforcement of court-ordered child possession and access by increasing consequences for repeated violations and ensuring timely makeup time for the parent who was denied access. Courts frequently face challenges in enforcing orders that guarantee a parent's right to visit or spend time with their child. When one parent repeatedly ignores those orders, the other parent may have limited options for recourse, and the child may lose valuable time with them. Current law allows for some penalties and makeup time, but leaves much of it to the court's discretion.	**Favorable**

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		0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3181 requires courts to treat repeated violations of visitation orders more seriously. If a parent is found in contempt of denying court-ordered possession or access more than once, that alone is enough to justify changing the existing custody or visitation order. The parent who was denied visitation will be awarded additional visitation. Current statute allows a respondent to have their attorney's fees waived if they are facing financial hardship. However, HB 3181 requires the respondent in a case for the denial of court-ordered possession (the violating parent) to pay their attorney's fees. HB 3181 provides stronger tools for courts to enforce visitation orders and protect the rights of both parents.	
HB 3250 By: Darby	Relating to the regulation of real estate appraisers and appraisal management companies.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3250 updates regulation of real estate appraisers and appraisal management companies by creating a stipend program for trainees, tightening eligibility standards, and revising disciplinary procedures. Currently, Texas regulates appraisers and appraisal management companies but faces challenges attracting new appraisers and maintaining oversight. HB 3250 creates a stipend program funded by gifts and donations to support appraiser trainees and supervisory appraisers, helping address workforce shortages. The bill tightens rules for who can serve as a controlling person for appraisal management companies and prohibits companies from employing or contracting with individuals who have had their licenses revoked unless reinstated. It also updates procedures for dismissing complaints, remits administrative penalties to general revenue, and clarifies the board's delegation authority to the executive director. These changes aim to improve professional standards, strengthen oversight, and support the growth of the appraisal workforce.	**Favorable**
HB 4153 By: Fairly	Relating to the applicability of uniform grant and contract management standards to certain Texas Water Development Board programs.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4153 aims to improve operational efficiency and ensure compliance with federal grant management standards by exempting certain Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) programs from the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Act. The inconsistencies between Universal Grant Management Standards, Texas Grant Management Standards, and TWDB grant standards create confusion for clients who may utilize or work with TWDB across multiple TWDB financial assistance programs. TWDB grant standards are more comprehensive than both the Universal and Texas Grant Management Standards, as they are specific to and consistent with the TWDB's statutory and programmatic guidance. HB 4153 exempts contracts related to the water assistance fund, rural water assistance fund, and the water loan assistance program, from requirements relating to the Uniform Grant and Contract Management Act.	**Favorable**

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			HB 4153 seeks to streamline grant administration, reduce delays, and enhance the delivery of critical water infrastructure funding.	
HB 2091 By: Martinez | Canales | Longoria | Guerra	Relating to the provision of financial assistance by the Texas Water Development Board for certain projects.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2091 aims to address water shortages in South Texas by creating a grant program administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). This program will provide financial assistance to political subdivisions, including drainage districts, for water supply projects, such as construction, acquisition, or improvements. The ongoing drought has led to disaster declarations in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy counties, with water levels in the Amistad and Falcon Dam reservoirs at historic lows, impacting the local economy and growth. In response, HB 2091 allows TWDB to offer grants from the water supply account. It requires the TWDB to set eligibility rules, ensuring drainage districts are not disqualified for not providing retail water services or lacking specific water use data. HB 2091 seeks to address the region's water crisis and support necessary infrastructure improvements.	**Favorable**
HB 2115 By: Ashby | Morales, Eddie	Relating to the rural sheriff's office and rural constable's office salary assistance grant programs.	Intergovernmental Affairs 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2115 strengthens the rural sheriff's and constable's office grant programs by increasing salaries for key law enforcement staff. Rural law enforcement agencies often struggle with low salaries and limited resources, which can lead to staffing shortages and high turnover. Existing grant programs help offset these challenges by supporting county efforts to raise pay for sheriffs, deputies, and jailers. However, telecommunicators (dispatchers) are not currently eligible to receive this grant money. HB 2115 builds on that support by adding telecommunicators to the list of positions eligible for grant-funded salary assistance and setting their minimum salary at $40,000. It also requires the county auditor to submit disbursement reports to the comptroller to ensure compliance. HB 2115 helps rural counties remain competitive in attracting and retaining qualified law enforcement staff while increasing transparency and oversight of grant usage.	**Favorable**

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HB 2542 By: Kitzman	Relating to the establishment of a work group to study and make recommendations on certain services needed by individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability.	Human Services 8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2542 addresses longstanding gaps in Texas's support for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by establishing a workgroup tasked with evaluating service needs and delivering informed recommendations to guide future policy and improve care across the state. The Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities reports that Texas regularly ranks near the bottom among states regarding its efforts to support IDD. The Texas Statewide IDD Strategic Plan has identified gaps in the continuum of care across state agencies and systems that deliver care. These gaps can lead to fragmented or inconsistent services, leaving individuals with IDD and their families without the comprehensive support they need to thrive. HB 2542 requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish a workgroup to conduct a study and make recommendations on services needed by individuals with IDD, including those with co-occurring mental and behavioral health needs. The workgroup members will be appointed by the executive commissioner of HHSC and include members from state agencies, organizations that work with individuals with IDD, healthcare providers, and individuals with lived experience with IDD. The workgroup must conduct a study to evaluate services needed by individuals with IDD, including accessibility, quality, financial stability, availability, and gaps in services. The study must be finalized in a written report to the Governor, Lt. Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and relevant committees by December 1, 2025, and afterwards be abolished. HB 2542 takes a critical step toward improving services for individuals with IDD by establishing a dedicated workgroup to assess current gaps and recommend solutions, ensuring future policies are informed by expert insight and lived experience.	**Favorable**
HB 2768 By: Capriglione | Romero	Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2768 creates a state information technology apprenticeship credential to expand the IT workforce pipeline for state agencies and reduce barriers for non-traditional candidates. Currently, most state IT jobs require a four-year degree, which limits the applicant pool. HB 2768 authorizes state agencies to partner with public junior colleges and technical institutes to offer a new state-recognized IT apprenticeship credential. The program must include classroom training and a one-year apprenticeship with a state agency, major IT project, or regional cybersecurity center. Graduates holding an associate degree plus the credential would qualify for state IT jobs that normally require a bachelor's degree. The bill also directs the State Auditor's Office to update job classifications accordingly. This measure aims to address IT workforce shortages by offering flexible, skills-focused pathways into public sector technology jobs.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

HB 3349 By: Tepper	Relating to the events trust fund and to abolishing the Pan American Games trust fund, Olympic Games trust fund, and motor sports racing trust fund.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3349 aims to make the Events Trust Fund (ETF) program more accessible to smaller Texas communities by adjusting eligibility requirements, increasing state and matching funds based on population size, and consolidating the fund structure for improved efficiency. The ETF program helps cities and counties cover the costs of major events that attract out-of-state visitors. To qualify, a community must win a competitive bid, demonstrate economic impact, and match some of the funding with local tax dollars. The current qualification structure for the ETF program places smaller communities at a disadvantage. For localities with limited resources, imposing burdensome requirements, such as mandating that event organizers consider out-of-state locations, is often impractical. Additionally, lower projected tax revenues from smaller-scale events can make it harder for these communities to qualify for significant support, even if the local impact would be substantial. To address these concerns, HB 3349 creates a more equitable framework by increasing state matching rates for events held in communities with populations under 500,000, using a tiered formula that offers the highest multipliers to the smallest localities. It also removes the out-of-state site selection requirement for qualifying smaller events, allowing them to bypass one of the program's most difficult eligibility barriers. The bill further streamlines administrative processes by clarifying deadlines for cost submissions, revenue projections, and final reporting. It simplifies how local tax revenues are remitted by allowing direct deposits from general local funds instead of requiring remittance from specific tax streams. Finally, HB 3349 abolishes the Pan American Games trust fund, the Olympic Games trust fund, and the motor sports racing trust fund, consolidating those under the broader ETF program. HB 3349 modernizes the ETF's structure to give smaller communities a greater chance to benefit from significant events, boosting economic development in underrepresented regions.	**Favorable**
HB 3352 By: King	Relating to the inclusion of information about construction or maintenance work zones in the curriculum of driver education and driving safety courses.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3352 requires driver education and driving safety courses to include information about construction and maintenance work zones, including dangers and legal penalties. Currently, Texas law does not mandate that driving courses specifically cover work zone safety. HB 3352 directs the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules requiring that all driver education and driving safety courses teach the risks of violating traffic laws in construction or maintenance zones and the penalties under the Transportation Code for offenses in those zones. The Department of Public Safety must be consulted when developing these rules.	**Favorable**

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OK for Distribution

			These changes aim to improve driver awareness and safety in work zones, helping protect roadway workers and the public.	
HB 4406 By: Phelan	Relating to the reporting of direct campaign expenditures by certain persons and political committees.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4406 requires PACs to disclose campaign expenditures made in opposition to a candidate or officeholder. Supporters of HB 4406 argue that Texas elections have grown increasingly influenced by megadonors and political committees (PACs) without public interest in mind, and that large sums of money are being spent on political advertisements attacking candidates. Currently, a PAC is required to include the name of each candidate or officeholder who benefits from a direct campaign expenditure. HB 4406 would require PACs to specifically disclose the names of each candidate for whom the expenditure was made to support or oppose. This additional reporting detail brings more transparency to Texas elections and could lead to less voter misinformation.	**Favorable**
HB 1593 By: Campos | LaHood | Cole | Garcia Hernandez| Martinez	Relating to an advisory committee to study suicide prevention and peer support programs in fire departments in this state.	Intergovernmental Affairs 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1593 creates an advisory committee to study suicide prevention and peer support programs for Texas fire departments and report recommendations to the Legislature. Firefighters face significant mental health risks due to the high-stress and often traumatic nature of their work. While PTSD is covered under Texas workers' compensation and most firefighters have health insurance, there is no coordinated statewide strategy to help them access early mental health care. Firefighters may face barriers in accessing health care providers who are equipped to treat PTSD. HB 1593 establishes a temporary advisory committee to study the need for suicide prevention and peer support initiatives in fire departments. The committee will include firefighters, fire chiefs, and mental health professionals appointed by the key fire service organizations. The committee is required to submit its recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor by September 1, 2026. The committee will be disbanded in January 2027. HB 1593 takes a practical first step toward improving mental health support for firefighters by bringing together experts to study the issue and provide recommendations for legislative action.	**Favorable**
HB 1899 By: Longoria |	Relating to the required age for a license or permit relating to the conduct of a public	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 1899 lowers the minimum age requirement for obtaining professional licenses related to fireworks and pyrotechnics. This bill lowers the minimum age to obtain a fireworks manufacturer, distributor, or jobber license from 18 to 21 years old. It applies the same age requirement to licenses for pyrotechnic operators, pyrotechnic special effects operators, and	**Favorable**

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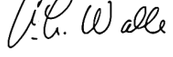
Lopez, Ray	fireworks display.	0 Absent	flame effects operators. The bill also lowers the age from 21 to 18 for fireworks display permits. It is important to note that while this bill expands eligibility for these licenses to all legal adults, the existing training requirements for licensure remain in effect. HB 1899 broadens access to professional licenses in the fireworks and pyrotechnics industries by aligning the minimum age requirements with the established age of legal adulthood in Texas, while maintaining existing training prerequisites.	
HB 3133 By: Bhojani | Talarico | Fairly | Button | Harris Davila	Relating to user reports of explicit deep fake material on social media platforms.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3133 strengthens protections against explicit deep fake content on social media platforms by creating a clear reporting and investigation process for users. Currently, there is no statute requiring platforms to respond quickly to reports of explicit deep fake material—defined as altered visual material that did not occur in reality which shows a real person engaging in sexual conduct or exposing themselves—which can be used to exploit or harass the individuals depicted. HB 3133 requires social media platforms to provide an accessible complaint system and respond to user reports of explicit deep fake material within 48 hours. Platforms must notify the complainant of the investigation status within seven days, and conduct a full investigation within 30 days, or 60 days if delayed due to circumstances beyond the platforms' control. If a platform determines that the reported material is an explicit deep fake, it must implement measures to ensure the same material is not reposted on the platform again.	**Favorable**
HB 4432 By: Dean	Relating to the qualifications of members of the board of directors of the Texas Mutual Insurance Company.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4432 revises the qualifications for Texas Mutual Insurance Company board members to fill vacancies while still maintaining safeguards against conflicts of interest. The Texas Mutual Insurance Company, originally known as the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund, was established by the legislature in 1991 as a last resort option for Texas employers who struggled or were unable to find workers' compensation coverage elsewhere. Currently, individuals are ineligible to serve on the Texas Mutual Insurance Company's board of directors if they or a family member, within the second-degree affinity, have a financial interest in an entity or person required to be registered or licensed under the Insurance Code. Similarly, board members are also disqualified from serving if they or a family member, within the second-degree affinity, are registered or licensed under the Insurance Code, or if they are employed by a person registered or licensed under the Insurance Code. While the restrictions were intended to prevent conflicts of interest, the number of entities that register under the Insurance Code has significantly expanded, resulting in a limited pool of eligible board candidates and vacancies.	**Favorable**



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			HB 4432 revises the eligibility requirements for serving on the board of directors of the Texas Mutual Insurance Company. Prohibitions would be placed on those who have a first-degree familial relation or affinity with a licensed insurance agent or serve as a staff member in any other capacity for an insurer writing workers ' compensation insurance. Additionally, those who have a first-degree familial relation or affinity with someone who owns, controls, or has a financial interest in the management of an insurer writing workers' compensation would be barred from board membership. HB 4432 clarifies eligibility restrictions, while still preventing conflicts of interest, to fill vacancies and enhance the Texas Mutual Insurance Company's effectiveness in the workers' compensation marketplace.	
HB 4960 By: Phelan	Relating to political advertising distributed or broadcast as part of a mass text message campaign and civil penalties for required disclosures on certain political advertising.	State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4960 increases civil penalties for failing to include required disclosures in political advertising, and subjects mass text message campaigns to existing political advertising regulations. This provides voters with increased transparency and more information when casting their votes. Political campaigns are increasingly using mass text messaging to advertise and engage with potential voters. While they are a valuable tool, these mass text message campaigns lack clear regulations and are not subject to the same disclosures required of most other political advertising. Most other forms of political advertising are required to disclose that it is political advertising, the full name of the person who paid for the political advertising, and the political committee authorizing the advertising. Without these disclosures, mass text message campaigns have led to confusion, misinformation, and a lack of transparency for voters attempting to make informed decisions at the ballot box. HB 4960 updates existing political advertising regulations to include mass text message campaigns. The bill also increases the existing maximum civil penalty from $4,000 to $10,000 for failing to include required disclosures on certain political advertising. HB 4960 establishes that each individual text message in a mass text message campaign that fails to include required disclosures is a separate violation. HB 4960 is not retroactive and applies only to political advertising done on or after the bill's effective date. HB 4960 brings transparency to modern approaches to political advertising, better informing voters.	**Favorable**
HB 3214 By: Richardson Campos | Gates |	Relating to eligibility for a master plumber license.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 3214 expands eligibility for a master plumber license by reducing the required journeyman experience from four years to two, or one year if paired with approved training. **HB 3214 was developed in partnership with unions, who are supportive of the bill so long as the original language is not changed on the Floor.**	**Favorable**

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Curry		1 Absent	Under current law, an individual must work as a journeyman plumber for at least four years before applying for a master plumber license. HB 3214 shortens this timeline by allowing applicants to qualify after two years of journeyman experience, or after one year if they have completed a U.S. Department of Labor-approved or board-accepted training program. This change aims to accelerate career advancement opportunities and address workforce shortages in the plumbing industry, while maintaining examination and supervision requirements.	
HB 3915 By: Martinez | Harris | Canales | Longoria | Guerra	Relating to the projects eligible for financial assistance from the flood infrastructure fund.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3915 broadens the definition of a "flood project" under the Flood Infrastructure Fund to include multipurpose flood and drainage infrastructure that also contributes to water supply. Prompted by severe drought and water shortages in Hidalgo, Cameron, and Willacy Counties, HB 3915 supports projects such as the Delta Region Water Management Project. This project aims to capture and treat drainage water to alleviate regional water scarcity, but currently lacks adequate funding. By expanding eligibility for the fund, HB 3915 would encourage investment in infrastructure that addresses flooding and develops alternative water sources by treating floodwater, stormwater, runoff, or wastewater.	**Favorable**
HB 3508 By: Wharton	Relating to an insurer's responsibility to review and audit a third-party administrator.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3508 promotes flexibility and efficiency for insurance providers by allowing them to conduct virtual audits, rather than on-site audits, of third-party administrators. Insurance companies often utilize third-party providers for administrative and operational services, including claims processing, reporting, and benefit management. They are required to conduct biennial audits of these companies; however, during the COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement was temporarily altered to include virtual audits. This bill removes the requirement for insurance companies that administer benefits for more than 100 parties to conduct on-site audits, instead allowing those audits to be virtual. Insurance companies still have a vested interest in ensuring the integrity of their third-party partners. Allowing them the flexibility afforded to them during the pandemic merely allows for more frictionless insurance operations.	**Favorable**
HB 2145	Relating to the installation of	Delivery of Government	HB 2145 requires new state-owned parking lots and garages to include electric vehicle (EV) charging stations based on usage needs and future projections.	**Favorable**

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By: Bhojani	electric vehicle charging stations at certain state-owned parking lots and garages.	Efficiency 7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	There is currently no requirement for EV infrastructure in state-owned parking facilities. HB 2145 directs the Texas Facilities Commission to ensure that any state-owned parking lot or garage designed on or after September 1, 2025, includes a sufficient number of electric vehicle charging stations. When determining the number and type of chargers, the commission must consider factors like the number of registered electric vehicles, employee use, parking lot usage patterns, and expected charging demand. The commission, in consultation with the State Energy Conservation Office, must adopt rules establishing specific installation guidelines. This measure aims to modernize state infrastructure and accommodate the growing use of electric vehicles.	

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