Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report (Part 2 of 2) — Calendar for May 12, 2025

General State Calendar (continued)				
HB 3520 By: Spiller	Relating to automobile liability insurance requirements for transportation network company drivers.	Insurance 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3520 lowers insurance costs for transportation network company (TNC) drivers by reducing coverage requirements between accepting a ride and picking up a passenger, shifting more financial risk onto drivers and lessening protection for crash victims. Currently, automobile liability insurance for TNC drivers, such as those working for Uber and Lyft, is typically more expensive than standard auto insurance due to the higher risk associated with frequent driving and transporting multiple passengers. These increased costs reflect the greater likelihood of accidents, injuries, and claims that come with operating in high-traffic areas and during peak travel times. HB 3520 seeks to reduce the cost of automobile liability insurance for TNC drivers by applying reduced coverage standards during prearranged rides when no rider is in the vehicle. This reduces protection for individuals injured in a crash during that period and shifts greater financial responsibility onto the driver instead of the rideshare company. HB 3520 aims to lower insurance costs for TNC drivers by reducing coverage requirements during the period after accepting a ride but before picking up the passenger, ultimately decreasing protection for crash victims and shifting financial risk from rideshare companies to individual drivers.	**Unfavorable**
HB 2060 By: Campos	Relating to a study on the coverage of certain infants under Medicaid.	Public Health S/C on Disease Prevention & Women's & Children's Health 9 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV	HB 2060 requires the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to study and report on Medicaid coverage for newborns, ensuring compliance with federal guidelines and improving continuous coverage for eligible infants. The Deficit Reduction Act of 1984 guarantees automatic Medicaid enrollment for babies born to Medicaid-enrolled mothers and continues through their first year. However, many newborns are still not receiving this coverage, and delays in coverage should be investigated. HB 2060 mandates the HHSC to examine compliance with federal Medicaid guidelines for covering infants of Medicaid recipients. The study will assess HHSC's Medicaid coverage for these infants, including eligibility determinations,	**Favorable**

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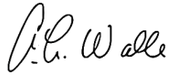
		0 Absent	residency requirements, and identification procedures. It will also evaluate whether HHSC maintains continuous coverage until infants are one year old and conducts timely eligibility redeterminations. HHSC must report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and legislature by September 1, 2026, summarizing the study and offering legislative recommendations to enhance Medicaid coverage for eligible infants. HB 2060 seeks to address gaps in Medicaid coverage for newborns by requiring a comprehensive study and report to improve compliance with federal guidelines and ensure continuous coverage for eligible infants.	
HB 4731 By: Tepper	Relating to the designation of a portion of State Highway Loop 88 in Lubbock County as the First Responders Memorial Loop.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4731 renames the portion of State Highway Loop 88 under construction as of September 1, 2025 as the First Responders Memorial Loop.	**Favorable**
HB 4991 By: Canales	Relating to open meetings and public information training for certain public officials and attorneys regarding the open meetings and public information laws.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4991 strengthens legal compliance with Texas public information and open meetings laws by requiring attorneys advising public officials or public information coordinators to complete formal training. Currently, there is no explicit requirement that attorneys representing public entities complete state-approved training on open meetings or public information laws. HB 4991 closes this gap by mandating that any attorney employed or engaged to assist a public official, public information coordinator, or governmental body must complete the relevant training within 10 days of their engagement. The bill prohibits compensation for time spent on training unless the attorney is a government employee and also requires current attorneys to complete the training by October 1, 2025. This measure aims to ensure legal advisors are properly informed of their obligations, improve compliance across public entities, and reduce the risk of legal missteps tied to outdated or incomplete legal guidance.	**Favorable**
HB 1991 By: Guillen	Relating to information regarding certain charges for services provided by municipally owned	Intergovernmental Affairs 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV	HB 1991 increases transparency for customers of municipally owned utility systems by requiring municipalities to publicly post and update information about utility charges online.	**Favorable**



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	utility systems.	0 Absent	Currently, municipalities can impose charges for operating, maintaining, replacing, or improving utility systems, but there is no statewide requirement to publicly share this information in a timely or accessible manner. This lack of transparency can leave customers unaware of rate structures or changes that affect their utility bills. The bill requires municipalities that impose such charges to publish the terms and conditions of those charges on both the utility system's and the municipality's websites. Any changes must be reflected online within 30 days of adoption. HB 1991 ensures utility customers have access to current and accurate billing information, enabling them to better understand and plan for utility costs.	
HB 5596 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the calculation of the voter-approval tax rate for certain municipalities that receive municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue.	Ways & Means 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5596 creates a tax rate formula, only for the City of Galveston, for use in instances of misspent hotel occupancy tax revenue. However, concerns have been raised about the necessity of this bill, particularly given that the author herself acknowledged during committee hearings that there have been no instances of HOT revenue misuse by the City of Galveston. Certain municipalities are authorized to impose a hotel occupancy tax, commonly referred to as a "HOT tax," through state law and local ordinance. Revenue from this tax is statutorily restricted to specifically defined uses that directly promote tourism, conventions, and the hotel industry. Additionally, certain eligible coastal communities are permitted to use HOT revenue for other designated purposes, such as beach patrols and the maintenance of beaches. HB 5596 defines "misspent hotel occupancy tax revenue" by an eligible coastal municipality as revenues not used according to the purposes outlined statute, specifically funds spent outside of a contract or agreement with the municipality's park board and funds spent on unauthorized purposes by the city's park board for general municipal spending. HB 5596 also creates a voter approval tax rate calculation to account for any misspent HOT tax, so residents wouldn't pay more taxes than raised by the misspent funds. HB 5596 is a solution in search of a problem. The proper use of funds is already laid out in statute. The bill author contends that there has been no misuse of funds.	**Will of the House**
HB 2014 By: Kerwin	Relating to the election of the board of directors of the Somervell County	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional	HB 2014 restructures the governance of the Somervell County Hospital District by formally establishing a seven-member elected board of directors with staggered four-year terms, enhancing local accountability and continuity in leadership.	**Favorable**

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	Hospital District.	Government 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Previously, the district's governance structure lacked formal statutory clarity regarding the election process and board composition. HB 2014 codifies the Somervell County Hospital District into statute, creates a seven-member elected board, and sets staggered four-year terms beginning with a phased transition in 2026. Two members elected in 2026 will serve two-year terms, three will serve three-year terms, and all directors elected from 2027 onward will serve full four-year terms. Elections will occur on the uniform election date in May. HB 2014 ensures orderly transitions, maintains experienced leadership over time, and improves the district's ability to manage and deliver healthcare services to the community.	
HB 2142 By: Simmons	Relating to a study by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs on the feasibility of using certain models to address homelessness in this state.	Intergovernmental Affairs 6 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2142 directs the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs to study the feasibility of using small housing units and collaborative community partnerships to address homelessness in Texas. Texas continues to face challenges in reducing homelessness, with a need for innovative, scalable, and cost-effective housing solutions. The bill author believes that models leveraging partnerships with educational institutions and local stakeholders, combined with supportive services, may offer a sustainable approach to reducing homelessness. HB 2142 requires the department to evaluate a model based on small dwelling units and partnerships with institutions of higher education, local governments, and private entities. The model must also consider the delivery of community development services through higher education programs. A report with study findings and recommendations must be submitted by December 31, 2026. HB 2142 enables the state to explore practical, collaborative solutions that may improve housing stability for homeless populations. The results will inform future legislative strategies and help identify effective tools for addressing homelessness in Texas.	**Favorable**
HB 2673 By: Lujan	Relating to the repeal of certain provisions authorizing cemeteries in certain municipalities and counties.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2673 unnecessarily repeals legislation passed last session that seeks to allow for more burial sites in urban areas, so that loved ones could more easily visit those who passed away. The current statute already strikes an appropriate balance and allows for local authorities to choose how land is used. HB 783 (88R), which applies only to the ten most populous counties, allows new cemeteries to be developed within city or county limits if the cemetery developer applies to the applicable city or county and its governing board authorizes the cemetery. This legislation was passed because residents in densely populated areas were being forced to bury their loved ones over an hour away from their homes. However, some developers have raised concerns that this limits the available	**Will of the House**

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			space for new housing development in densely populated areas. HB 2673 would repeal the law set by HB 783 (88R) and would no longer allow new cemeteries within these cities and counties. While concerns have been raised about potential impacts on available land for housing, cities and counties already have the authority to approve or deny cemetery applications. Local governments are best positioned to understand the needs and priorities of their communities and should be trusted to make land use decisions without unnecessary state interference. Stripping them of this discretion undermines local control and assumes the state knows better than those closest to the issue.	
HB 2731 By: Muñoz	Relating to the regulation of roadside vendors and solicitors in certain counties.	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2731 allows certain Texas counties to regulate roadside vending and solicitation more effectively to enhance public safety in high-traffic unincorporated areas. Across many Texas counties, unregulated roadside vending and solicitation can create dangerous conditions for both vendors and drivers. The lack of clear local authority to control these activities, particularly near busy roads, has made it difficult for counties to respond to public safety concerns. HB 2731 revises population thresholds to expand regulatory authority to counties with over 500,000 residents (lowered from 1.3 million) and to border counties with populations over 200,000 (lowered from 870,000). It allows commissioners courts in these counties to regulate the sale of items, placement of vendor structures, and solicitation of money on public highways, roads, right-of-ways, or parking lots in unincorporated areas. It also removes the rule that counties could only regulate roadside activities on roads with speed limits of 40 miles per hour or higher, allowing them to make rules for any road, no matter the speed limit. HB 2731 empowers more counties to implement roadside safety measures tailored to local needs, reducing traffic hazards and improving public safety in growing and border communities.	**Favorable**
HB 2417 By: Campos	Relating to the eligibility of certain wrongfully imprisoned persons for compensation and for the expunction of arrest	Criminal Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2417 ensures access to compensation for certain wrongfully imprisoned individuals whose convictions are overturned and records expunged. Under current law, some wrongfully convicted individuals remain ineligible for compensation even after their convictions are overturned and expunged, even if the state prosecutor supports expunction. This has led to instances where individuals who were clearly wronged by the criminal justice system receive no redress.	**Favorable**

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	records and files in the case.		HB 2417 allows a court to expunge arrest records when a conviction is reversed and the prosecuting attorney recommends expunction, and makes individuals in these circumstances eligible for compensation. This applies retroactively to offenses occurring before the bill's effective date, allowing a three-year window to apply for restitution. HB 2417 ensures that deserving individuals can access compensation following a wrongful conviction and expunction.	
HB 2399 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the requirements for certain court orders in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship filed by the Department of Family and Protective Services.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 6 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2399 seeks to improve transparency and judicial accountability in child welfare proceedings by requiring courts to provide detailed written findings when deciding not to return a child to their parents. The bill author has raised concerns that court decisions to keep children in state care instead of returning them to their parents often lack detailed justification. Decisions are often justified by broadly referencing the record, which leaves parents, attorneys, and advocates without a clear understanding of the court's reasoning. This lack of transparency can complicate efforts to appeal decisions or make progress in a case. HB 2399 requires that, in both initial removal decisions and subsequent permanency hearings, courts must include a dedicated section in their written orders that lays out the factual basis for deciding not to return the child home. This section must be specific and cannot simply cite or reference the record. Additionally, this section of the order may not be used as evidence in a final trial. While the bill strengthens judicial transparency and supports due process, there are concerns that requiring detailed written findings could lengthen proceedings or place an added burden on already overworked courts.	**Favorable with Concerns**
HB 2301 By: Campos | Garcia, Josey | Noble	Relating to searches of the state registry of paternity.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2301 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to provide state paternity test results within 10 days, reducing delays in finalizing adoptions. Currently, adoption agencies must notify potential fathers about the possibility of their child being placed for adoption. However, adoption agencies have reported concerns that delays in producing state paternity test results have slowed the adoption process. HB 2301 requires the DSHS's vital statistics unit to provide a certificate of paternity search results within 10 days of receiving a request. This deadline applies to requests made by authorized individuals, courts, or agencies.	**Favorable**

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			HB 2301 aims to accelerate the adoption process by requiring state paternity test results to be provided within 10 days, reducing adoption delays and streamlining the sharing of crucial information with potential fathers.	
HB 3335 By: Cole	Relating to the authority of a county to dispose of surplus and salvage property to a civic or charitable organization.	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3335 allows counties to donate surplus or salvage property to local civic or charitable organizations more easily, helping reduce waste and support community efforts. Before donating salvaged property, counties must first try to sell it through a competitive bid or auction, even if no bids are expected. This requirement makes it harder for counties to dispose of unused items in ways that could benefit local communities. In some cases, the cost to place the item up for bid is more than the county can expect in return. HB 3335 removes the requirement to attempt a sale before donating and instead allows counties to donate property directly if they determine the donation serves a public purpose. They can maintain oversight, and the receiving organization offers adequate consideration, like covering transportation or disposal costs. HB 3335 makes it more practical for counties to support local civic and charitable organizations, reduce waste, and save money by avoiding unnecessary auction processes.	**Favorable**
HB 3234 By: Cortez	Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate construction and renovation of structures owned by certain counties.	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3234 expands existing law to allow more counties to construct or renovate their facilities without interference from local regulations imposed by other political subdivisions. Currently, only counties with populations of 3.3 million or more are exempt from certain regulatory requirements when building or renovating facilities located within another political subdivision. The bill author seeks to address the limitations this places on slightly smaller counties that still face similar challenges when managing county-owned properties outside their jurisdiction. HB 3234 lowers the population threshold from 3.3 million to 1 million, allowing more counties to benefit from this exemption. It applies specifically to buildings or facilities owned by a qualifying county but located within another local government's boundaries. HB 3234 allows more counties greater control over their public infrastructure projects, helping them avoid delays or added costs caused by overlapping or conflicting regulations.	**Favorable**

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HB 3320 By: Oliverson | Lalani	Relating to a property and casualty self-insurance pool for certain religious institutions; authorizing fees; providing administrative penalties.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3320 allows religious institutions in Texas to form self-insurance pools as an affordable alternative to traditional insurance, with regulatory safeguards to ensure financial stability and accountability. Property owners face rising insurance premiums due to a volatile property and casualty insurance market, including religious institutions. HB 3320 allows religious institutions in Texas to form self-insurance pools for property and casualty coverage as a more affordable alternative to traditional insurance. Self-insurance pools must obtain a certificate of authority from the Texas Department of Insurance before offering coverage. These pools are authorized to provide coverage for building damage, premises liability, and other risks, with members jointly liable for pool liabilities, while requiring actuarially justified rates, a procedure for rate disputes, and oversight by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). The commissioner will ensure that pool members maintain a minimum net worth and asset-to-liability ratio, allowing for possible waivers after three years of operation and a $3 million surplus. Additionally, the pool must maintain minimum earned premiums and submit certain financial guarantees, including a safekeeping receipt or surety bond, for its first year and subsequent years of operation. Finally, the board of trustees for the pool must file financial statements and actuarial reports with TDI, and the board is authorized to refund any excess funds to members, provided the refund complies with specified financial conditions and TDI notification requirements. HB 3320 provides a cost-effective insurance alternative for religious institutions in Texas by allowing them to form self-insurance pools with regulatory safeguards in place. However, because this option requires state resources, it could be further tailored to smaller and more rural organizations to ensure good stewardship of public funds.	**Favorable with Concerns**
HB 5573 By: Bhojani | Capriglione | Phelan | Thompson | Turner	Relating to the reporting of violations of law and wasteful spending under the whistleblower protection laws.	State Affairs 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 5573 extends whistleblower protections to public employees who report wasteful spending by their employers. This could encourage reporting of violations, increase accountability, and discourage waste. Certain whistleblower protections exist to protect public employees who report violations committed by their employers. However, no such protections exist for the reporting of wasteful government spending. HB 5573 prohibits a state or local governmental entity from suspending, terminating, or taking disciplinary action against a public employee who, in good faith, reports wasteful spending violations by the employing governmental entity, another public employee, or an elected officer. The bill establishes that a whistleblowing employee who sues for being retaliated against bears the burden of proof unless the retaliation occurred within 90 days of the report of the violation.	**Favorable**

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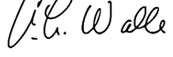
			The bill further establishes an affirmative defense for the employer if they would have acted against the employee regardless of the whistleblowing. Government entities and elected officials should be held to a high standard for their conduct and spending. Employees should feel secure in reporting violations to ensure wasteful spending is held accountable.	
HB 4848 By: Harris Davila | Perez, Vincent	Relating to requiring that competency-based baccalaureate degree programs be offered at certain public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4848 aims to expand access to affordable, flexible, and workforce-aligned competency-based baccalaureate degree programs by requiring each public higher education system to ensure that at least one institution within the system offers such a program in high-demand fields. As higher education costs rise, students and families seek more affordable, flexible options. Competency-Based Education (CBE) offers a solution by allowing students to advance based on subject mastery rather than time spent in class. This model benefits working adults, parents, and those with prior experience or needing new skills. However, CBE access is uneven, often misaligned with high-demand careers, and still too costly for many. To address these challenges, HB 4848 requires that each public university system, with approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), ensure at least one of its institutions offers competency-based baccalaureate degree programs in each high-demand field of study, as defined by THECB rule. HB 4848 caps the total cost of such degree programs for enrolled students at $10,000. Beginning in the 2027–2028 academic year, this cap must be adjusted annually for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the previous year. The THECB is authorized to adopt any rules necessary to implement these provisions. HB 4848 seeks to improve degree completion rates, reduce student debt, and better align postsecondary education pathways with workforce needs.	**Favorable**
HB 4748 By: Curry	Relating to state agency purchasing methods and procedures, including a state agency multiple award contract	Delivery of Government Efficiency 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 4748 authorizes state agencies to award contracts to multiple vendors for the same goods or services, rather than being limited to a single “best value” contractor. Currently, Texas procurement law allows state contracts to be awarded only to a single vendor offering the best value. This creates delays and risks when that vendor withdraws or fails to deliver, as agencies must restart the procurement process. HB 4748 creates a multiple award purchasing procedure, allowing state agencies to contract with more than one	**Favorable**



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	purchasing procedure.	1 Absent	vendor when necessary to ensure adequate delivery, service continuity, or product compatibility. Agencies must justify the use of this approach in writing, disclose evaluation criteria in the solicitation, and place orders in a way that still delivers best value to the state. This bill aims to improve flexibility, reduce disruption, and enhance resilience in the state procurement process.	
HB 4769 By: Phelan	Relating to the sale of alcoholic beverages in areas annexed by certain municipalities.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4769 allows the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) to adopt rules for electronically delivering official documents to improve efficiency and modernize communication. By statute, TDLR currently relies heavily on traditional mediums such as certified mail to send notices, orders, and other regulatory correspondence — a process that can be slow and inefficient. HB 4769 allows the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules permitting electronic delivery of any department correspondence, including legal notices, orders, and pleadings. These changes aim to streamline agency operations and improve delivery speed for Texans.	**Favorable**
HB 4795 By: Noble | Campos	Relating to duties of the vital statistics unit of the Department of State Health Services in relation to certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship, including in regard to the electronic transmission of certain information.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4795 streamlines the process for requesting legal records related to custody and adoption cases by requiring the Department of State Health Services to implement an electronic system, helping reduce delays and inefficiencies. Currently, obtaining information from the State's paternity registry is slow and outdated. The process relies on physical mail, manual records, and limited payment methods, which can drag timelines out for weeks. In cases where multiple parties request the same records, there's no way to identify or reuse past searches, forcing staff to redo work and compounding delays in sensitive family court matters like adoption. HB 4795 directs the vital statistics unit to create an electronic process that allows the Department of Family and Protective Services to submit and receive these requests digitally, using existing resources. It also updates certificate requirements to allow for digitized signatures and clarifies how results must be presented. By cutting down on duplicate work and removing paper-based barriers, HB 4795 helps ensure children and families can move through the legal system faster and with fewer obstacles.	**Favorable**
HB 2086	Relating to a motion for determining a	Judiciary & Civil	HB 2086 improves how Texas courts handle people who repeatedly file meritless lawsuits, aiming to reduce abuse of the legal system and improve court efficiency.	**Favorable with**

By: Plesa	plaintiff is a vexatious litigant.	Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Vexatious litigants are individuals who abuse the legal system by filing excessive or frivolous lawsuits, which can drain court resources and burden defendants. Currently, defendants have to file a motion within a limited time before courts can determine if a plaintiff is vexatious. The bill author has raised concerns that judges sometimes struggle to apply current rules for dealing with these kinds of lawsuits, because the statute that sets the process they must follow is ambiguous, and people are finding new ways to abuse it. HB 2086 updates the law so courts can step in on their own to hold a hearing, except in family law cases, to decide if someone is a vexatious litigant. It pauses the case while that decision is being made, gives clearer deadlines for court responses, and tightens the standards used to label someone a vexatious litigant. It also makes it easier for courts to require those individuals to pay costs or post money before continuing their case. HB 2086 aims to stop excessive or frivolous lawsuits earlier and make sure the court system works better for everyone. However, there have been concerns raised that it could limit access to the courts for self-represented individuals with legitimate claims because they might not fully understand how to navigate the court process.	**Concerns**
HB 2234 By: Dutton	Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 6 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2234 raises the age of criminal responsibility in Texas from 17 to 18, ensuring that 17-year-olds are treated within the juvenile justice system rather than the adult criminal system, aiming to improve rehabilitation outcomes and reduce recidivism among youth. Currently, Texas is one of four states that automatically prosecute 17-year-olds as adults, despite growing evidence that youth incarcerated in adult facilities face higher risk of abuse, lack access to rehabilitative services, and are more likely to reoffend. These practices strain correctional systems and result in long-term negative impacts on public safety and youth outcomes. HB 2234 makes statutory changes across the Family Code, Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and other relevant laws to uniformly raise the minimum age of adult criminal responsibility to 18. It updates numerous provisions where age is a factor, including sentencing, custody, court procedures, sex offender registration, and driver's license eligibility. The bill also requires the Texas Juvenile Justice Department to establish an advisory committee to monitor the implementation of the law and support county juvenile systems during the transition. By shifting 17-year-olds into the juvenile system, HB 2234 addresses the developmental differences between teens and adults, allowing youth to access rehabilitative services that reduce recidivism. It promotes safer incarceration practices,	**Favorable**

			relieves adult facilities of the burden of segregating minors, and aligns Texas with national best practices on juvenile justice.	
HB 2203 By: Bumgarner	Relating to liability for land surveying services in or in connection with certain construction or services contracts.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2203 ensures land surveyors receive the same legal protections as architects and engineers under construction contracts, safeguarding them from unfair indemnity and liability clauses and clarifying their professional duties. Currently, Texas law protects architects and engineers from being forced to assume liability for damages caused by third parties in construction contracts. However, land surveyors, though equally essential to construction projects, are excluded from these protections. The bill author has raised concerns that this created a legal vulnerability, exposing surveyors to disproportionate financial and legal risks beyond their control or scope of work. HB 2203, as amended in the committee substitute, revises multiple sections of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code and the Local Government Code to extend existing legal safeguards to land surveyors. It explicitly includes land surveyors in provisions that void contract clauses requiring them to indemnify or defend owners or other parties against liability arising from others' negligence. It also applies a standard of care requiring land surveying services to be performed with the skill and care of a competent professional under similar circumstances. HB 2203 ensures land surveyors cannot be contractually burdened with responsibility for damages they did not cause, ultimately supporting fairness, professional accountability, and a balanced allocation of risk in construction contracting.	**Favorable**
HB 4916 By: Canales	Relating to the assignment of a motor vehicle title by a dealer.	Transportation 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4916 eliminates a redundant step in the auto sales process. Currently, a dealer must formally assign a motor vehicle title to the dealer before transferring the title to a buyer, even if the dealer's name is already listed on the title. This forces dealers to reassign a title even when they are reselling the vehicle. This bill eliminates the requirement to issue a new title in the event of a sale, so long as the name on the title matches the name on the license issued to the dealer.	**Favorable**
HB 5624 By: Buckley | Metcalf	Relating to the liability of a motorized off-road vehicle entity for injuries arising from	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 9 Ayes	HB 5624 creates limited liability protections for businesses that operate or sponsor motorized off-road vehicle activities, aiming to support outdoor recreation while ensuring participant safety.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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	certain activities.	2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Operators of motorized off-road vehicle areas face liability risks even when participants voluntarily engage in inherently dangerous activities. Current law does not offer specific protections for these businesses, which can discourage the growth of recreational opportunities and increase insurance burdens. The bill author has expressed the need for a clearer framework to protect responsible operators while still holding them accountable for negligence. HB 5624 establishes that motorized off-road vehicle entities are not liable for participant injuries if a specific warning sign is posted and the injury stems from risks inherent to the activity. However, liability still applies in cases involving gross negligence, intentional harm, unsafe conditions not inherent to the activity, or improperly maintained equipment or untrained staff. HB 5624 provides legal certainty for operators while preserving important protections for participants, helping balance public safety with economic support for recreational businesses. However, anytime we limit liability protections in a way that prevents people from holding businesses accountable through lawsuits, it's a cause for concern	
HB 4505 By: Bell, Cecil | Buckley | Cole	Relating to the establishment of the workforce housing capital investment fund program to fund the development of workforce housing in this state; authorizing a fee.	Intergovernmental Affairs 6 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4505 establishes the workforce housing capital investment fund program to provide zero-interest loans for developing single-family housing for lower-income working families, helping address the housing affordability crisis across Texas. Texas faces a growing shortage of affordable workforce housing, particularly for families earning 30 to 80 percent of the area median income. Rising construction costs, land prices, and labor shortages have strained the housing supply, leaving many working families unable to secure homeownership or stable housing. HB 4505 requires the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) to contract with a qualified nonprofit selected through a one-time competitive process to administer the fund. The fund will provide zero-interest loans to experienced nonprofit homebuilders for planning, land acquisition, permitting, infrastructure, and broadband development for workforce housing. Eligible applicants must meet strict criteria, including a 15-year track record of building homes for low-income families. Money for the fund will come from donations, grants, money set aside by the legislature, loan repayments, and any interest the fund earns. This program directly targets the housing gap for underserved income groups by enabling community-based nonprofits to scale up housing development, while offering a sustainable financing model that reinvests repaid funds into future projects.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

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HB 139 By: Dean | Harless | Hull | Gerdes | Tepper	Relating to employer health benefit plans that do not include state-mandated health benefits.	Insurance 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 139 creates a lower-cost health plan for employers at the expense of timely access to care, fair provider payments, and transparency in physician rankings and pharmacy practices. Texas families must trust that their employers provide health insurance covering essential treatments and medications. Texas law requires certain benefits in fully insured plans, including maternity care, diabetes treatment, and cancer screenings. These mandated benefits ensure access to essential care, improving health outcomes for families statewide, and according to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, add at most 5% to health policy costs for employers. HB 139 seeks to reduce the cost of health insurance by establishing an Employer Choice of Benefits (ECOB) Plan. This plan would provide employers with cheaper health insurance while sacrificing essential patient and provider protections. The ECOB plan would circumvent federal and state network adequacy requirements, significantly limiting patient choice and access to care by exempting itself from standards that ensure provider availability and the inclusion of essential community providers. ECOB plans would be permitted to impose longer and more burdensome prior authorization processes than are currently allowed under Texas law, delaying patient care and increasing administrative burdens for physicians with proven approval records. ECOB plans would be exempt from Texas's prompt pay law, enabling them to unilaterally set payment terms for physicians and providers, creating financial uncertainty that could jeopardize practice stability and diminish patient access to care. ECOB plans would have the ability to rank and tier physicians using biased, non-transparent methods, potentially misleading patients and undermining trust in provider quality ratings. Additionally, ECOB plans and their pharmacy benefit managers would be exempt from state regulations that allow them to direct patients to affiliated pharmacies and impose retroactive fees on independent pharmacies without any transparency limitations. HB 139 may lower upfront insurance costs for employers, but it does so by eliminating critical protections that ensure timely, affordable, and equitable care for Texas patients. By exempting ECOB plans from key patient and provider safeguards, it risks undermining access, transparency, and stability across the state's healthcare system.	**Unfavorable**
HB 5093 By: Bhojani | Moody | Hayes | Schofield |	Relating to disclosure under the public information law of certain contact information of a notary public	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 5093 allows the secretary of state to release certain contact information for notaries public, improving transparency and public access to notarial services in Texas. Currently, most personal information related to license holders, including notaries public, is protected from public disclosure under the Public Information Act. While this protects privacy, it can also make it harder for individuals or	**Favorable**

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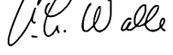
Johnson	that is maintained by the secretary of state.	0 PNV 0 Absent	businesses to locate and contact notaries when needed. Notaries serve an invaluable purpose as they ensure the authenticity of legal documents such as deeds, wills, and affidavits. HB 5093 clarifies that the secretary of state may disclose a notary public's home address, phone number, or email address, even though that information is typically protected under public records law. HB 5093 balances individual privacy and the public's need to access notarial services, making it easier to identify and reach commissioned notaries while maintaining broader protections for sensitive personal data.	
HB 5302 By: Schatzline | Hull | Manuel | Gerdes | Harris	Relating to the establishment of the Texas Post-adoption Assistance Program.	Human Services 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5302 establishes the Texas Post-adoption Assistance Program to partner with nonprofit organizations and provide adoptive families in Texas with financial assistance for therapeutic and emotional care needs. In Texas, many adoptive families experience financial and emotional challenges due to inadequate support and limited access to services, particularly for children with significant behavioral or emotional needs. Currently, no system integrates private donations, nonprofit organizations, and state matching funds to deliver targeted post-adoption support. HB 5302 establishes the Texas Post-adoption Assistance Program to provide financial support for post-adoption-related expenses, encouraging the adoption of children from the foster care system. Funding for the program may include private and public sector funds. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations whose missions include supporting families, women, or children can apply for certification with the Comptroller to provide post-adoption assistance in partnership with the state. Certified organizations must adhere to strict guidelines, which include annual audits, donor transparency, and allocating at least 97% of donations to post-adoption grants, or risk losing certification. Post-adoption assistance grants are available to Texas residents who adopt children from the state foster care system and commit to remaining in Texas. Grant amounts are $2,000 for one child and $1,500 per child for multiple adoptions, with annual awards based on available funds through certified nonprofit organizations. Recipients can access funds through a state-administered account system and may reapply annually if they continue to meet eligibility requirements. The use of post-adoption assistance grants is restricted to expenses related to therapeutic services and activities that promote the child's emotional, psychological, or behavioral well-being. HB 5302 creates a structured, transparent system that leverages public-private partnerships to provide targeted financial support for adoptive families, helping them meet the ongoing therapeutic and emotional needs of children adopted from the Texas foster care system.	**Favorable**



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HB 5402 By: Geren	Relating to fiscal impact statements for legislation imposing mandates on health benefit plan issuers.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5402 seeks to provide more information to legislators when evaluating the impact of health insurance mandates by requiring the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to prepare a fiscal impact statement for each bill or joint resolution that requires a health benefit plan issuer to provide new health benefits, increase payments to health care providers, or implement new contractual or administrative requirements. While this intent is good, it is unclear whether these impact statements would be able to provide sufficient depth or context to be valuable. Fiscal notes for legislation creating new health insurance mandates currently only capture costs to the state and costs to political subdivisions of the state, namely local governments. HB 5402 requires the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to prepare a fiscal impact statement for each bill or joint resolution that requires a health benefit plan issuer, including commercial or private insurance companies, to provide new health benefits, increase payments to health care providers, or implement new contractual or administrative requirements. The statement must estimate the effect of a bill or joint resolution on health benefit plan issuer expenditures and on premiums and other costs paid by enrollees. However, an overemphasis on premiums may not help legislators make informed decisions. For example, if premiums decline but deductibles or copays rise, the proposed fiscal notes may lack such context. Moreover, HB 5402 would only show up-front costs, overlooking the potential long-term savings from preventive care and improved health outcomes of potential proposed mandates. Instead, Legislators would benefit from a more comprehensive, multisystem fiscal analysis.	**Will of the House**
HB 5606 By: Wilson	Relating to a sick leave pool for public school employees.	Public Education 13 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5606 mandates that districts establish a "sick leave pool," a creative solution to support teachers who have exhausted their sick leave. However, there are concerns that a district mandate may not be the best approach. Teachers who retire cannot transfer their unused personal days to eligible teachers in their district. Texas does not have statewide sick leave, just personal days, but some districts do have their own designated sick days. HB 5606 requires districts to establish a “sick leave pool” in which retired teachers can donate their unused personal days to a communal bank for use by teachers who have exhausted their own sick days. Without altering the total amount of sick days that districts plan to give teachers, this policy allows more benefits to be used by public education employees. When severe medical conditions can quickly outpace someone’s allotted leave, a sick leave pool could provide relief.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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			However, some teachers' unions stress that districts should have the option to institute these policies, rather than being mandated by the state. Overall, support for this policy comes down to weighing the potential benefits to teachers over the downsides to school finance and district administration.	
HB 2333 By: Hopper	Relating to certain statutes of limitations for criminal offenses, including the statutes of limitations for felony offenses relating to an election conducted in this state.	Criminal Jurisprudence 7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2333 extends the statute of limitations for felony election offenses from three years to five years, creating new opportunities for politically motivated prosecutions and expanding the reach of state power over election-related conduct. Current law limits the timeframe for prosecuting felony election offenses to three years, which appropriately balances the need for accountability with the importance of timely investigations. However, the bill author has stated that this is sometimes too short a period for offenses to be properly investigated. HB 2333 increases the statute of limitations period for felony election offenses from three years to five. It does not apply to offenses already barred by the current statute of limitations. Lengthening the statute of limitations raises concerns about the potential for politically motivated prosecutions. Because election offenses inherently involve political actors and activities, extending the timeframe to file charges beyond a single election cycle increases the risk that prosecutions could be driven by partisan interests rather than objective evidence of wrongdoing. This could undermine public trust in both the electoral and judicial systems, especially if prosecutorial discretion is used selectively or perceived as a tool for political retaliation.	**Unfavorable**
HB 4630 By: Kitzman	Relating to the regulation of artesian water wells by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4630 modernizes the regulatory framework for artesian wells by eliminating outdated statutes and aligning oversight responsibilities with current groundwater management practices. Artesian wells naturally discharge water to the surface due to subterranean pressure, without mechanical pumping. The statutes currently regulating these wells were enacted before the creation of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), and local authorities are now responsible for managing aquifers and groundwater use within their jurisdictions. As a result, regulatory overlap has led to duplicative monitoring efforts and inefficient use of resources. The House Committee on Natural Resources, in its interim report to the 88th Texas Legislature, recommended revising these outdated laws to better reflect the role of modern water management entities.	**Favorable**

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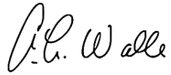
			HB 4630 limits the application of certain statutory provisions for artesian wells only to those drilled outside the boundaries of a groundwater conservation district, subsidence district, or other conservation and reclamation district with authority over water well regulation. However, two provisions continue to apply regardless of location. First, if an artesian well produces water containing minerals or other substances harmful to vegetation or agriculture, it must be securely capped, have its flow controlled to prevent damage to adjacent land, or be plugged appropriately to stop the water from rising above the first impervious layer below the surface. Second, an artesian well that is not tightly cased, capped, and equipped with mechanical controls to prevent water from flowing over the surface or leaking through subsurface strata is considered a public nuisance and may be abated by the executive director of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). HB 4630 also repeals several outdated requirements. It eliminates the mandate for drillers to keep and submit detailed geological records to the TCEQ by registered mail. It removes the requirement for well owners or operators to file a sworn report within one year of drilling, describing the use and extent of the well's operation. Finally, it repeals the annual reporting requirement for artesian wells used for non-domestic purposes. HB 4630 reduces regulatory duplication, eliminates unnecessary bureaucracy, and reinforces the authority of local groundwater districts, while maintaining essential protections to safeguard water quality and land integrity.	
HB 4701 By: Leo Wilson | Shaheen | Shofner	Relating to college entrance examinations considered for admission to certain public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4701 authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to determine which college entrance exams may be used for admission to general academic teaching institutions. Instead of moving away from standardized testing, this bill merely shifts which tests colleges may use for admissions, which is unnecessary. Additionally, there are concerns that this bill may be a prelude to requiring a non-evidence-based test adopted by conservative legislatures in other states. For decades, standardized exams such as the SAT and ACT have served as uniform and objective tools for evaluating students from various educational backgrounds. They offer a common benchmark that helps ensure fairness and comparability, particularly when students come from schools with differing curricula, grading scales, and academic resources. Although many colleges and universities opted to drop ACT/SAT requirements or make the tests optional in the years after the COVID-19 pandemic, many institutions still consider these scores in the admissions process. HB 4701 removes the current provision allowing applicants to qualify for automatic admission by meeting specific ACT or SAT thresholds. Instead, the bill authorizes THECB to establish which entrance exam scores may be used, under rules	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**



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			adopted by the board. This change would apply to all applicants, those qualifying for automatic admission and those applying through traditional review processes. However, shifting exam requirements may have unintended consequences, particularly for underserved students lacking access to certain tests or the resources needed to adjust to evolving standards. Ensuring equity in access and opportunity must remain a priority throughout implementation. Stakeholders have also expressed concerns about the need for transparency and consistency in selecting alternative assessments. Without clear, rigorous standards, colleges could face challenges in maintaining fairness and academic expectations across institutions. It will be essential for THECB to uphold the integrity, reliability, and equity of the admissions process as new testing options are considered. There are also concerns that Texas may follow Florida's lead in adopting a controversial, non-research-based alternative called the Classic Learning Test (CLT), which emphasizes the "classical" Western and Christian canon. It was created in 2015 and had primarily been used by Christian colleges and a few private institutions before Florida's state university system approved it for undergraduate admissions in 2023. If HB 4701 was really about helping students who don't excel in traditional standardized tests, as the author claims, the bill could have allowed additional tests that colleges may use for testing. But instead, the bill directs the THECB, a 10-member board appointed by the governor, to start from scratch while eliminating an option for students who do excel at the SAT/ACT.	
HB 2583 By: Hull	Relating to a group health benefit plan policy or contract holder's obligation to pay premiums on behalf of an individual after the individual's eligibility for group coverage terminates.	Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2583 enables health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to waive premium payments for former employees, assisting employers in avoiding unnecessary costs. Currently, employers are required to pay health insurance premiums for employees who leave their jobs until the end of the month, without any flexibility for delays or errors in notification. This can result in employers being charged an extra month's premium for a plan that no longer benefits the employee. HB 2583 permits HMOs to waive a group contract holder's responsibility for paying premiums for an enrollee after their eligibility ends, provided the enrollee did not receive any covered services after the eligibility termination.	**Favorable**

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HB 2983 By: Cook | Geren | Gerdes | Martinez | Perez, Mary Ann	Relating to impoundment, storage, and notification fees for vehicles stored at vehicle storage facilities; authorizing fee increases and decreases; requiring the adjustment of authorized fees.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2983 adjusts vehicle storage facility fees to reflect inflation and operational costs, but raises concerns about affordability and disproportionate impacts on low-income Texans. Currently, the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) may adjust impoundment and daily storage fees based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), but it cannot apply these adjustments retroactively or to the maximum notification fee, which remains capped at $50. HB 2983 addresses these gaps by requiring TCLR to adopt a one-time CPI-based adjustment to all three fees to account for inflation from 2005 to 2019. It also authorizes biennial CPI-based adjustments to the maximum notification fee and sets a higher $70 daily storage rate for electric or hybrid passenger vehicles due to increased handling costs. While the bill aims to modernize the fee structure and support the financial viability of storage facilities, there are concerns that raising these fees could disproportionately burden low- and middle-income Texans. For working-class individuals who rely on their cars for employment, childcare, and basic mobility, the cost of recovering a towed vehicle — especially when paired with increased storage or notification fees — can pose significant financial hardship. In many cases, a single tow could derail a person's ability to get to work or maintain stability, exacerbating cycles of poverty in communities already facing economic strain.	**Unfavorable**
HB 4924 By: Canales	Relating to certain electronic documentation for the transfer of a motor vehicle title.	Transportation 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4924 reduces paper waste and enhances efficiency by eliminating paper duplicates of electronic signatures sent to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The DMV currently requires drivers to print out electronic signatures, even when the DMV requires those same documents be sent to the department electronically. This bill prohibits the DMV from making any requirement that mandates physical copies of an electronic signature if the electronic documents are already required to be sent to the department.	**Favorable**
HB 3339 By: Ward Johnson | Reynolds	Relating to a study on maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women in this state.	Public Health S/C on Disease Prevention & Women's & Children's Health 13 Ayes	HB 3339 addresses the rising maternal mortality and morbidity rates among Black women in Texas by mandating a study conducted by the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the Department of State Health Services. The 2024 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report revealed that Black women experienced the highest maternal death rates in an analysis of	**Favorable**

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		0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	pregnancy-associated deaths, with disparities in fatalities continuing to grow. Further demographic-specific studies are needed to understand this alarming trend better. HB 3339 mandates a study by the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the Department of State Health Services to assess maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women in Texas, focusing on factors such as race, socioeconomic status, and health coverage. The study will also examine the impact of social determinants of health, chronic conditions, and implicit bias in healthcare on these disparities. The agencies must develop recommendations based on their study to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity disparities among Black women, emphasizing strategies for prevention, education, healthcare provider training, and the implementation of successful programs from other states. The agencies must submit a report by September 1, 2026, summarizing the study results and recommendations to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and relevant legislative committees. HB 3339 aims to address the growing disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women in Texas by requiring a comprehensive study and the development of recommendations to improve outcomes and reduce healthcare inequities.	
HB 3793 By: McLaughlin	Relating to procedures for a commissioners court to close, abandon, or vacate certain county roads.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3793 expands the permissible uses of land when a county closes or abandons a county road. Currently, counties have limited discretion in handling property after closing or abandoning a public road, typically requiring it to be conveyed to adjacent landowners. While this approach is generally effective in rural areas, issues can arise when the road borders a planned residential subdivision within a municipality, potentially leading to fragmented ownership, inadequate maintenance, and safety concerns. This bill allows counties to either petition the adjoining municipality to annex the county road or convert the property to public use, such as hiking and biking trails, if the land would become a public nuisance, abuts single family residential lots in a planned residential subdivision, and is located wholly or partly outside the corporate limits of a municipality. HB 3793 aims to promote flexibility for counties experiencing this issue.	**Favorable**
HB 3631 By: Hunter	Relating to a credit against required recapture payments for certain school	Public Education 11 Ayes	HB 3631 exempts coastal counties from recapture equal to the amount they pay for windstorm and hail insurance. Public school districts in Texas coastal counties face significant financial strain due to the high cost of windstorm and hail insurance, which places added pressure on already limited budgets.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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	districts for the cost of windstorm and hail insurance under the public school finance system.	0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	This bill would exempt districts in first and second tier coastal counties from recapture payments equal to the amount they pay in windstorm and hail insurance. It is unclear how much this would cost the state. Recapture is an important part of education funding that helps distribute funds equally across all districts, rich and poor. Instead of creating carveouts from crucial recapture payments, legislators should seek traditional education funding avenues — allotments or grants — to support coastal schools. However, in the absence of a dedicated allotment, recapture reductions could provide relief for the coastal districts who face geographic challenges beyond their control.	
HB 4882 By: Shofner	Relating to newborn or infant testing for congenital cytomegalovirus.	Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4882 seeks to enhance the early detection of congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) in newborns by requiring mandatory testing in Texas birthing facilities. Congenital CMV is a viral infection that can lead to childhood hearing loss and is transmitted from mother to baby during pregnancy. Although newborns in Texas undergo hearing screenings, they are not routinely tested for congenital CMV. Consequently, many children with congenital CMV remain unidentified, and affected babies are often asymptomatic at birth. HB 4882 mandates that Texas birthing facilities test newborns for congenital CMV through a certified program before discharge, allowing exceptions for parental refusal, transfer, prior testing, or early discharge. Parents must be informed of this requirement at admission and of their right to decline. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will maintain data on newborns tested for congenital CMV, ensuring confidentiality and access to hearing loss data. HB 4882 aims to improve the early detection of congenital CMV in newborns and help prevent undiagnosed hearing loss by requiring mandatory testing in birthing facilities with clear guidelines for parental consent and data management.	**Favorable**
HB 5509 By: Bumgarner | Rosenthal | Leo	Relating to the suspension or revocation of a hotel's certificate of occupancy by a municipality for suspected human	Intergovernmental Affairs 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5509 allows municipalities to revoke or suspend a hotel's certificate of occupancy if there is credible suspicion of human trafficking, giving cities a way to act faster to stop ongoing exploitation and keep people safe. Texas continues to face a serious human trafficking problem, consistently ranking among the top states for reported cases. The bill author has raised concerns that hotels are a common setting for trafficking because of their transient guests and limited oversight. Although law enforcement works to investigate these crimes, cities often lack direct	**Favorable with Concerns**

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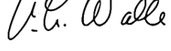
Wilson | Thompson	trafficking.		authority to intervene before a case moves through the courts. This can delay action and leave vulnerable individuals exposed to ongoing harm. HB 5509 authorizes a city to take steps to revoke or suspend a hotel's occupancy permit if it is notified of a trafficking investigation or has reason to believe trafficking is happening at the location. Hotel owners are guaranteed a public hearing and a chance to respond, and the same procedures used for other types of businesses must be followed. The bill does not allow for private lawsuits based on this authority. HB 5509 strengthens local tools for prevention and allows for quicker responses to protect public safety by giving cities a clear process to address suspected trafficking at hotels before a criminal case is resolved. However, there are no other instances in which the state could suspend licenses for suspicion rather than confirmation of guilt. This is especially harsh for business owners who are unaware that human trafficking is taking place on the premises.	
HB 5499 By: LaHood	Relating to towing fee studies and the amount of nonconsent towing fees in certain political subdivisions; authorizing an increase in existing fees; authorizing a fee.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5499 standardizes nonconsent towing fees in large Texas counties by requiring local governments to conduct regular fee studies and adjust allowable charges based on transparent data, but raises concerns about preempting local authority and increasing financial strain on low-income individuals. Currently, local governments may set their own nonconsent towing fees, but a lack of standardization and transparency can lead to inflated or inconsistent pricing. HB 5499 addresses this by mandating that political subdivisions conduct or contract for a towing fee study at least every two years. Based on the study, local governments must publish the results and adjust nonconsent tow fees to reflect fair market value. If they fail to do so, the state's default towing fee — set by rule — applies instead, and the local authority loses the ability to adjust its fee until a new study is completed. The bill applies only to political subdivisions in counties with populations over 750,000 and allows a small administrative fee per tow to cover study costs. While the bill aims to improve transparency and reduce legal risks for towing companies, there are concerns that it could preempt local control and undermine the ability of municipalities to respond to the specific needs of their communities. By forcing adherence to state-imposed defaults if procedural requirements aren't met, HB 5499 may shift too much authority to the state. Additionally, critics argue that towing already disproportionately affects low- and middle-income individuals, particularly those who rely on cars for work, school, and essential activities. Even modest increases in towing costs or delays in vehicle recovery can create significant financial hardship, especially in areas with high rates of poverty or limited access to public transit.	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**



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HB 5430 By: Wilson	Relating to the declaration of a candidate's ineligibility on the basis of filing an application for a place on the general primary election ballot or for nomination by convention with more than one political party.	Elections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5430 prohibits candidates from filing for nomination with more than one political party in the same voting year, promoting electoral clarity and consistency in the nomination process. Currently, political candidates can file for a place on the general primary ballot under multiple political parties, which can create confusion for voters and undermine the integrity of the party nomination process. HB 5430 establishes that a candidate who files for nomination with more than one political party in the same voting year is ineligible for a place on any general primary ballot, for nomination by convention, or to run as an independent or write-in candidate in the succeeding general election. The bill authorizes the secretary of state to determine a candidate's ineligibility and notify the candidate accordingly, allowing them to withdraw. If the candidate does not withdraw, their name will be omitted from all relevant primary ballots. Though this issue could be addressed by party rule, codifying the restriction in state law ensures consistency and enforceability across all jurisdictions and political parties. By clarifying candidate eligibility rules, HB 5430 reinforces transparency and order in the election system and prevents the strategic manipulation of party nominations in primary elections.	**Favorable**
HB 5561 By: Money | Jones, Jolanda | Cook | Moody | Smithee	Relating to the diversion of certain foster youth from the juvenile justice system, including through emergency behavior intervention by certain persons providing foster care services.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5561 aims to reduce the criminalization of foster youth living in general residential operations (GROs) by requiring local juvenile justice systems to prioritize diversion and limit confinement to circumstances of last resort. Youth in foster care, especially those in congregate care like GROs, are disproportionately involved in the juvenile justice system, often due to trauma-related behaviors that are misinterpreted as delinquency. Studies show that 90% of foster youth who experience five or more placements will enter the justice system, and youth in GROs are 2.5 times more likely to be referred than those in family-based settings. Detention can worsen outcomes for these youth, who already face increased risks of mental health issues, recidivism, and disrupted development. Reform is needed in how the juvenile justice system handles foster youth in GROs, as current policies do not adequately reflect their needs or experiences. HB 5561 requires juvenile boards to adopt policies that focus on keeping youth in GROs out of the justice system, especially those accused of low-level or non-violent offenses. If a child in a GRO is found to have likely committed such an offense and qualifies for deferred prosecution, but formal charges are not required, the case must be referred to a community-based juvenile service provider instead of a prosecutor. The bill also limits detention of these youth to only when absolutely necessary. Additionally, GRO staff must be trained in crisis response to reduce law enforcement involvement, and juvenile boards must track data on referrals, outcomes, and the GROs where the children reside.	**Favorable**

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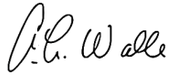
			By establishing clear diversion requirements and limiting detention, HB 5561 directly addresses the overrepresentation of foster youth in the justice system and ensures that trauma-related behavior is met with services and support rather than prosecution.	
HB 5611 By: Oliverson	Relating to the authority of an emergency services district to provide preventive health care services.	Intergovernmental Affairs 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5611 allows emergency services districts to provide preventive health care through EMS providers or first responders to improve access to care in underserved areas. Currently, emergency services districts cannot implement mobile integrated health care community paramedicine programs. As a result, emergency services districts and taxpayers may incur higher costs due to unnecessary emergency medical transport, while at-risk individuals in rural and suburban communities miss preventive and supportive health care services. HB 5611 permits emergency services districts licensed or contracted with EMS providers or first responders to offer preventive health care services, including immunizations, screenings, and routine checkups, to lessen reliance on 9-1-1 for non-emergency care. These districts can also contract with state or local governments to provide such services, make improvements, and adopt necessary regulations. In counties with fewer than 60,000 residents, districts must secure approval from the county commissioners court before offering preventive care. By enabling emergency services districts to offer preventive health care services, HB 5611 reduces unnecessary emergency medical costs and enhances access to routine care for underserved communities.	**Favorable**
HB 5043 By: McQueeney	Relating to the issuance of a license or provisional license to certain military service members, military veterans, and military spouses to engage in a business or occupation in this state.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5043 creates a provisional licensing process to help military service members, veterans, and spouses more quickly begin working in Texas while their out-of-state occupational licenses are under review. Currently, these individuals may apply for a Texas license if they hold a substantially equivalent license in another state, but delays in verification — sometimes lasting months — can prevent timely employment. HB 5043 requires state agencies to issue a provisional license upon receiving an application or the required notice and information, allowing the applicant to begin work while the agency processes their request. The provisional license expires either when the full license is granted or denied, or after 180 days. This change aims to reduce barriers for transitioning military families and ensure they can contribute to the Texas workforce without unnecessary delays.	**Favorable**



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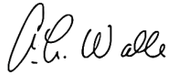
HB 5064 By: Davis, Aicha | Davis, Yvonne | Rose | Smithee | Thompson	Relating to the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 67 in Dallas and Ellis Counties as the Eddie Bernice Johnson Memorial Highway.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5064 renames a portion of U.S. Highway 67 to honor Eddie Bernice Johnson.	**Favorable**
HB 3733 By: Orr	Relating to fees charged by county clerks for certain property records.	Intergovernmental Affairs S/C on County & Regional Government 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3733 aligns mandates on county clerk fees for electronic copies of real property records with current law. Currently, state law outlines certain fees for county clerks to charge, one being $0.10 per page for electronic copies of real property records. However, this exceeds the actual cost of production, which is in contradiction with another state law that prohibits charges for providing public information from exceeding the actual cost of producing that information. HB 3733 excludes real property records from the mandatory electronic copy fee imposed by county clerks for noncertified documents. It mandates that fees for electronic copies adhere to state public information laws and attorney general rules, ensuring they reflect the actual production cost. HB 3733 promotes transparency, reduces financial barriers, and ensures compliance with state public information laws by aligning fees for electronic copies of real property records with actual production costs.	**Favorable**
HB 3781 By: McLaughlin	Relating to the provision of financial assistance by the Texas Water Development Board for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3781 aims to expand access to state financial assistance under the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) by allowing the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to fund water and sewer projects in communities not complying with current model subdivision rules. Currently, the TWDB is prohibited from providing financial assistance through the EDAP to communities that do not comply with the agency's model subdivision rules. These rules, designed to ensure the orderly development of water and sewer infrastructure, were adopted in the 1990s. However, many communities in rural or border regions were developed before these rules existed and now suffer from long-standing infrastructure deficiencies. Despite their apparent need for assistance, these legacy communities are effectively disqualified from receiving EDAP funding solely due to technical	**Favorable**



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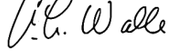
			noncompliance with regulations that did not apply at the time of their development. This has created a gap in service equity for economically distressed areas. HB 3781 authorizes TWDB to consider applications for EDAP financial assistance for water supply and sewer service projects, even if the community to be served is not currently compliant with the model subdivision rules. The bill permits funding for projects in areas where the rules are enforced but where the community is noncompliant, only because it was developed before the rules were adopted and not platted accordingly. HB 3781 seeks to ensure legacy communities are not unfairly disqualified from receiving essential infrastructure funding and aims to improve water and sewer systems in historically underserved, economically distressed areas.	
HB 3219 By: Shofner | Harris | Hefner | Virdell | Pierson	Relating to a statewide order issued by the commissioner of state health services authorizing a pharmacist to dispense ivermectin.	Public Health 8 Ayes 5 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3219 allows pharmacists to dispense ivermectin without a prescription, potentially encouraging its misuse for COVID-19 treatment. Ivermectin is approved for treating certain parasitic infections and in topical forms for conditions like head lice and rosacea, while various forms are also approved for animals –such as horses – to address parasites. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has received reports of individuals needing medical attention, including hospitalization, after using ivermectin products intended for animals, in response to the growing belief that the drug may serve as an alternative treatment for COVID-19. The FDA has consistently not approved ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 in either humans or animals. HB 3219 authorizes licensed pharmacists to dispense ivermectin without a healthcare provider's prescription, and protects pharmacists from criminal or civil liability, as well as professional disciplinary action, when dispensing ivermectin without a prescription. The bill allows the executive commissioner of Health and Human Services and the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to establish rules for its implementation. Permitting pharmacists to dispense ivermectin without a prescription under HB 3219 may heighten misuse and self-medication, leading to adverse health consequences, such as hospitalization. This bill could jeopardize public health safety by circumventing medical oversight and encouraging unapproved use of the drug for COVID-19.	**Unfavorable**
HB 32 By: Button |	Relating to the eviction from real property of certain	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	HB 32 aims to speed up the eviction process, risking reducing legal protections for tenants. This bill is likely to lead to less uniformity in eviction hearings, with some of the most concerning outcomes denying tenants any opportunity to	**Unfavorable**



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Geren | Moody | Smithee | Leach	persons not entitled to enter, occupy, or remain in possession of the premises.	7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	present their case before a judge. Additionally, the bill shifts the burden of proof onto the tenant, effectively assuming the landlord's position is accurate from the outset. The bill author argues that evictions in Texas can take 30 to 60 days or more, which landlords argue results in substantial financial strain due to lost rent and delayed property turnover. However, in reality, these timelines are much shorter. In 2023, the average length of time from a landlord filing an eviction case to its judgment was 21 days in Harris County. In Dallas County, it was just 18 days from filing to judgment. These findings don't support claims from the Texas Apartment Association and other supporters of this bill that the current eviction process is physically and financially burdensome for landlords to reclaim possession of their property. **HB 32 upends due process protections for tenants.** HB 32 imposes stricter timelines for hearings and writs, prohibits tenants from filing counterclaims in eviction suits, limits continuances, and restricts local courts from adopting conflicting rules. It also authorizes plain clothed law enforcement to physically remove the tenant and return possession of the property to the landlord. It also places deadlines on appeals and service. **HB 32 is the opposite of innocent until proven guilty.** HB 32 creates a separate summary disposition process that allows a judge to render a judgment in favor of the landlord if the tenant does not dispute the landlord's statements within 4 days. This places the burden of proof on the tenant because the landlord's statements are presumed factual. This could lead to a judgment in favor of the landlord without a trial. While HB 32 has been framed as a solution to the unlawful possession of a residence, known as squatting, it makes concerning, sweeping changes to the eviction process for leaseholding renters, undermining due process and shifting the burden of proof from the landlord to renters. By prioritizing speed over fairness, the bill may lead to preventable evictions and greater housing instability for already cost-burdened, low-income Texans. The lasting negative physical and mental impacts of eviction far outweigh any claimed financial loss landlords may face from following the current eviction process.	
HB 4515 By: Cook	Relating to the eligibility of certain criminal defendants for an order of	Corrections 8 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 4515 allows individuals convicted of state jail felony possession of marijuana to petition for an order of nondisclosure (OND) after five years, helping reduce barriers to employment and housing for low-level, nonviolent offenders.	**Favorable**

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	nondisclosure of criminal history record information.	0 PNV 1 Absent	Criminal records, even for minor drug offenses, can significantly hinder a person's ability to secure jobs, housing, and stability. Although Texas law permits some individuals to seal eligible criminal records through ONDs, certain low-level felony drug offenses remain ineligible. This lack of access to record sealing can prolong the consequences of a conviction long after the sentence is served, increasing the risk of recidivism and limiting second chances for rehabilitation. HB 4515 allows individuals convicted of a state jail felony for possession of marijuana to petition the court for an OND of their criminal history. This eligibility applies to individuals who were either placed on community supervision or completed their sentence, provided they meet existing conditions under nondisclosure law. By narrowly targeting low-level marijuana possession convictions and setting a defined five-year waiting period, HB 4515 offers a focused pathway for eligible individuals to move beyond a criminal record.	
HB 5348 By: Kitzman	Relating to acquiring real property interests for environmental mitigation required for water projects.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5348 seeks to enhance environmental accountability in water development projects, particularly those involving reservoirs. It requires entities to report to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) if they fail to mitigate environmental impacts through conservation easements. Currently, entities constructing reservoirs on unique sites must offer landowners the option to place a conservation easement on their property as part of mitigation efforts. If landowners reject the offer and a mutual agreement cannot be reached after good-faith negotiations, the entity may acquire the property voluntarily or involuntarily. Concerns have arisen about the adequacy of these measures, especially for large projects like the Marvin Nichols Reservoir, which may require up to 130,000 acres for mitigation. HB 5348 applies certain provisions, previously limited to reservoirs designated as unique for construction by the legislature, to all water development projects. Specifically, it extends the requirement for entities proposing to construct a project to attempt environmental mitigation by offering a landowner a contract to maintain the property through an easement, rather than acquiring the fee simple title to the property. It also authorizes the landowner to reject the offer and allows the constructing entity to obtain the fee title through voluntary or involuntary means if a good-faith attempt to reach an agreement on the easement fails. HB 5348 removes the restriction that the landowner must be located outside the designated reservoir site and mandates that any entity that does not use an easement for mitigation must submit a report to the Texas Water Development Board explaining why an easement was not used.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

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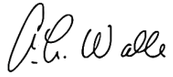
			HB 5348 expands conservation easement requirements in water projects to enhance environmental mitigation and protect natural resources.	



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