Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report — Calendar for Friday, May 16, 2025

General State Calendar — Senate Bills				
SB 458 Sponsor: Dean By: Schwertner	Relating to an appraisal process for disputed losses under personal automobile or residential property insurance policies.	Insurance 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	SB 458 strengthens consumer protections in insurance disputes by requiring personal automobile and residential property insurance policies to allow an appraisal process for resolving disagreements over loss amounts. Although not in statute, the appraisal process has traditionally been used to resolve disputes over the amount of loss in personal automobile and residential property insurance claims. Appraisals offer a more affordable alternative to litigation, allowing individuals to have their vehicles repaired more quickly after a collision and their homes restored after damage. However, in 2015, a major auto insurer eliminated the appraisal option for partial vehicle losses in their insurance claims. Since Texas law doesn't clearly require appraisal rights in insurance policies, state regulators couldn't, and still can't, force insurers to include them. SB 458 mandates that personal automobile and residential property insurance policies include an appraisal clause to address disputes regarding loss amounts. The appraisal decision is binding for both parties unless fraud, accident, or significant error is involved, and it must follow the appraisal terms outlined in the policy. The inclusion of an appraisal clause would apply to a broad range of automobile and residential property insurers and would exclude policies issued by the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association and commercial insurance policies, which provide coverage to businesses. The Commissioner of Insurance must adopt rules for implementing the bill's provisions, including mandating appraisals for total loss and damage and considering the qualifications and selection of appraisers who resolve disputes between appraisers. By mandating the inclusion of appraisal clauses in personal automobile and residential property insurance policies, SB 458 guarantees that Texas consumers have a fair way to resolve disputes regarding loss amounts without resorting to litigation.	**Favorable**
SB 482 Sponsor: Harless	Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for the offenses of assault and	Criminal Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 3 Nays	SB 482 enhances penalties for assaulting or harassing utility workers, aiming to strengthen protections for those providing essential services during emergencies. Utility workers play a critical role in disaster response, working under dangerous conditions to restore power, water, and communication networks. Despite their vital role, these workers have increasingly faced harassment and physical threats	**Favorable**

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By: Alvarado	harassment committed against certain employees or agents of a utility.	0 PNV 0 Absent	while performing their duties. Unlike law enforcement and emergency medical personnel, they currently lack specific legal protections under Texas law, leaving them exposed to greater risk during critical operations. SB 482 increases the penalty for assault causing bodily injury to a utility worker from a Class A misdemeanor to a third-degree felony if the offender knew or should have reasonably known the victim was a utility worker (for example, if the worker wore a uniform or badge). This bill also raises the penalty for harassment of a utility worker from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor. By elevating penalties and closing gaps in existing law, SB 482 seeks to discourage threats and violence against utility workers during critical public service. However, there are concerns that harsher penalties alone may not meaningfully deter such conduct, as research from the National Institute of Justice reports that increased punishment does little to deter crime.	
SB 927 Sponsor: McQueeney By: Hancock	Relating to the issuance of Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal specialty license plates.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on Defense & Veterans' Affairs 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	SB 927 recognizes the distinguished service of Navy and Marine Corps personnel by authorizing a specialty plate for recipients of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. The Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal is awarded to junior servicemembers in recognition of professional excellence, meritorious achievement, and leadership. SB 927 aims to honor recipients of the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal by directing the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to issue specialty license plates featuring the medal's emblem and the phrase "Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal." By adding this specialty plate, SB 927 ensures Texas service members receive formal public recognition for their contributions and valor.	**Favorable**
SB 984 Sponsor: King By: Bettencourt	Relating to access to individualized investigational treatments for patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses.	Public Health 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	SB 984 expands access to individualized investigational treatments for patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses by allowing qualified healthcare facilities to provide treatments based on the patient's genetic profile. In 2015, Texas implemented the Right to Try Act, allowing terminally ill patients to access investigational treatments that have passed phase one clinical trials but are not yet approved by the FDA. However, patients with rare diseases often cannot utilize the Right to Try Act, since many of the associated treatments for rare diseases cannot be as easily studied	**Favorable**

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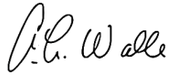
			in clinical trials. This limitation is primarily due to the small patient population affected by the illness and the need for emerging therapies to be customized to each individual's genetic profile. Most rare diseases are genetic, so individualized investigational treatments based on a patient's DNA may provide the best treatment option for those who have exhausted all other alternatives. SB 984 expands access to individualized investigational treatments by allowing qualified healthcare facilities to provide them to patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses, given that the patient has exhausted all other FDA-approved options. To qualify, a patient's physician must recommend the rare treatment based on the patient's genetics, and the patient must sign a consent form acknowledging the risks involved. The treatment must be specifically tailored for that individual based on their genetic information and delivered at a facility that complies with existing safety and healthcare regulations to conduct the prescribed treatment. The patient's heirs must not be held financially responsible if the patient dies while receiving an individualized investigational treatment, and manufacturers and providers will not be held liable for any resulting harm to the patient if they act in good faith and with reasonable care. Additionally, insurers, hospitals, and government agencies are allowed, but not required, to cover or provide these treatments. Lastly, healthcare providers are protected from professional or licensing penalties for recommending individualized investigational treatments as prescribed in the bill's provisions. SB 984 addresses the limitations of the Right to Try Act by offering a pathway for patients with rare diseases to access personalized investigational treatments while ensuring legal protections for patients, providers, and healthcare facilities involved in the process.	
SB 651 Sponsor: Lopez, Ray By: West	Relating to the requirement that a veterans county service office report to the commissioners court or a designated county executive official.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on Defense & Veterans' Affairs 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	SB 651 allows veterans county service offices (VSCOs) to report to a designated county executive instead of only the commissioners court, giving counties flexibility to structure oversight in a way that fits their operations. State law requires counties with populations over 200,000 to maintain a VSCO to assist veterans in accessing benefits. Currently, these offices must report directly to the commissioners court. This reporting structure has created compliance issues in some counties and may not reflect the modern or diverse administrative frameworks, especially in larger jurisdictions where day-to-day oversight is often delegated. SB 651 permits VSCOs in counties with 200,000 or more to report either to the commissioners court or to a designated county executive official. This bill does not alter service obligations or the core function of these offices, but simply expands the available administrative structure options.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

		1 Absent	By modernizing the reporting structure, SB 651 ensures continued accountability while allowing counties to better align operations.	
SB 1620 Sponsor: Bonnen By: Huffman	Relating to the establishment of the Texas forensic analyst apprenticeship pilot program.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	SB 1620 addresses the statewide shortage of forensic science professionals by establishing a pilot apprenticeship program to expand workforce capacity in accredited crime laboratories. Forensic science is essential to the effectiveness of the criminal justice system, but there is a growing shortage of qualified forensic analysts, creating a challenge that impacts the delivery of justice. SB 1620 aims to build a more sustainable forensic science workforce by creating the Texas Forensic Analyst Apprenticeship Pilot Program, administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) in collaboration with the Texas Forensic Science Commission (FSC), to place apprentices in publicly funded accredited crime laboratories. The program: • Authorizes OCA to contract with universities and crime labs for apprentice training; • Requires FSC to adopt eligibility rules, prioritize analyst retention, and consult with the Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors to determine apprenticeship needs; and • Allows FSC to award and oversee apprentice placements through contracts with accredited labs. By creating a structured apprenticeship model, SB 1620 ensures Texas can meet long-term forensic staffing needs through targeted training and retention.	**Favorable**
SB 2124 Sponsor: Barry By: Zaffirini	Relating to publication of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's annual report.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 2124 would extend the statutory reporting deadline for the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee (TGPC) and relevant state agencies to prepare the Joint Groundwater Monitoring and Contamination Report. Currently, TGPC is required to publish its annual report by April 1, which documents the committee's activities and findings related to groundwater monitoring and contamination during the previous calendar year. This report involves closing out the prior calendar year's activities, collecting and analyzing large volumes of environmental data, and conducting certain scientific assessments. These time-intensive processes do not lend to the report's current deadline. SB 2124 extends the reporting deadline from April 1 to June 1. By allowing additional time, SB 2124 aims to ease the administrative burden on state agencies, enable more thorough data analysis, and improve the report's overall quality, accuracy, and reliability.	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

SB 2448 Sponsor: Ashby | Spiller | Lambert By: Sparks	Relating to the establishment of the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	SB 2448 establishes the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program to support workforce readiness in rural communities through technical assistance and collaboration across state agencies. Rural areas in Texas often face resource challenges that limit their ability to develop a skilled workforce locally, even as rural small businesses represent nearly a quarter of all Texas businesses and contribute significantly to the state's economy. SB 2448 creates a grant program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in consultation with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The program provides grants to nonprofit organizations with experience delivering technical assistance to rural institutions. The nonprofits may only use the funding for local school districts and colleges to align and deliver workforce training and education programs that address skills gaps in areas like healthcare, agriculture, and technology. TWC must submit an annual report to the Legislature on the program's effectiveness. SB 2448 strengthens the infrastructure for rural workforce development by integrating the efforts of key education and labor agencies, supporting program delivery through qualified nonprofits, and directing resources toward local efforts that connect students and workers with high-wage, high-demand careers. This coordinated approach provides rural communities with targeted tools to meet workforce needs and advance long-term economic success.	**Favorable**
SB 841 Sponsor: Harless By: Hughes	Relating to the beneficiaries of trust funds paid or received in connection with an improvement on specific real property.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	SB 841 clarifies the rights of construction project participants to assign and enforce claims to trust funds when subcontractors or suppliers are not paid. Currently, payments made in connection with a construction project are treated as trust funds to ensure that subcontractors and suppliers are compensated. If a subcontractor or supplier receives payment but fails to pay vendors further down the chain, those unpaid parties have historically had the right to claim against the trust funds. However, recent court decisions have disrupted this long-standing practice, creating uncertainty around whether claims to unpaid trust funds can be reassigned and enforced by third parties. SB 841 clarifies that a qualified assignee—a vendor—who receives an assignment from an entity, like an artisan, laborer, mechanic, contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier, is a beneficiary of trust funds related to a construction project. It establishes clear criteria for when a transfer of rights is valid: the assignment can only happen after the assigning party is paid; the assignee must be a party directly involved in the project; and written notice of the assignment must be given to both the property owner and contractor within seven days.	**Favorable**

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			By restoring the legal foundation for reassigning claims to unpaid trust funds, SB 841 provides a clear and enforceable framework that restores accountability without disrupting legitimate payment flows and reduces ambiguity for contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers.	
SB 843 By: Kolkhorst Sponsor: Buckley	Relating to a Texas Education Agency database of school district and open-enrollment charter school bonds, taxes, and bond-related projects.	Public Education 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 843 would increase transparency and accessibility of public finance data by requiring the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to create a database that provides detailed information about public school funding. The bill requires TEA to establish and maintain a searchable online database containing current information on: • Each bond planned, proposed, or issued by a school district, including ballot language, projected tax rates, election outcomes, lists of funded projects, accounting of bond proceeds, and data on capital projects (such as facility budgets and sizes); • Each bond issued by an open-enrollment charter school, including a list of funded projects and an accounting of bond proceeds; • Proposed or approved maintenance tax rates, including ballot language and the results of any tax rate elections; and • A function to generate reports disaggregated by geographic area and a mechanism to propose updates or corrections to the data. School districts and charter schools would be required to submit the relevant data to TEA, and the agency may contract with a third party to support database development and maintenance. It is worth noting that much of this information is already collected by school districts and the TEA but not necessarily aggregated in a single, user-friendly location. SB 843 would create a new reporting structure and central repository, and aims to improve transparency on education-related debt and taxation.	**Favorable**
SB 402 Sponsor: Little By: Paxton	Relating to the payment of certain ad valorem tax refunds.	Ways & Means 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	SB 402 would authorize the creation of a form to improve the efficiency of the property tax refund process. Currently, if an appeal determines that a taxing unit overcharged property taxes in error, the taxing unit is required to issue a refund. The comptroller provides a form allowing the property owner to designate the recipient of that refund. However, a conflicting law states that a taxing unit must send a property tax refund to the person's mailing address listed on the appraisal roll, unless the person submits a written request for it to be sent elsewhere.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

			SB 402 directs the Comptroller to create a form allowing a person to request that a property tax refund be sent to an address other than the one listed on the appraisal roll. The form must also include a notice outlining the penalties for submitting an application containing false information. SB 402 streamlines processes to ensure that taxpayers access their refunds.	
SB 2662 Sponsor: Harris By: Perry	Relating to the enforcement of drought contingency plans by water and sewer utilities and the Public Utility Commission of Texas.	Natural Resources 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 2662 aims to enhance the authority of investor-owned water and sewer utilities to implement and enforce drought contingency plans. Texas continues to face mounting pressure on its groundwater and surface water resources due to rapid population growth, coupled with persistent drought conditions. While public water suppliers, such as municipalities and special utility districts, have the power to enforce ordinances that manage water use during droughts, investor-owned utilities (IOUs) lack comparable enforcement tools. This gap has led some IOUs to exceed their permitted water allocations during drought periods, and further stress the already limited water supplies. SB 2662 makes several changes to empower IOUs to enforce drought contingency plans. It authorizes the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) to regulate all water and sewer utility tariffs under its jurisdiction, including rates and terms of service. It also expands the authority of municipalities to exercise exclusive original jurisdiction over water and sewer utility tariffs within the municipality's corporate limits. SB 2662 requires utilities to include drought contingency plans, mandated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), in their tariff filings to the PUC. Noncompliance with a drought plan becomes valid grounds for utilities to reduce, impair, or discontinue service. Additionally, the legislation removes the outdated May 1, 2005 deadline for incorporating specific water use reduction targets into drought plans. These plans must now contain enforceable measures, such as fines or service limitations, to ensure compliance. However, there are already consumer safeguards, overseen by the PUC. Furthermore, the PUC is now included alongside TCEQ and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in the development of target goals and model drought contingency programs. These models must be updated at least every five years and reflect best practices in drought planning and enforcement. SB 2662 aims to strengthen the statutory authority of both IOUs and the PUC to ensure consistent and enforceable drought management practices, helping to safeguard water resources during times of scarcity.	**Favorable**
SB 2053	Relating to creating the Governor's	State Affairs	SB 2053 creates the Governor's Medal of Service, an award to honor exceptional service to the people of Texas.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

Sponsor: Metcalf By: Birdwell	Medal of Service award to recognize service to the people of Texas.	15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Texas currently has several civilian awards, such as the Governor's Medal of Courage and the Outstanding Women in Texas Government. SB 2053 creates the Governor's Medal of Service to be awarded to a Texas resident who is honorably retired from a position of public service in state or local government, has contributed to Texans in an extraordinary way through the individual's work in the private sector, or has contributed to Texans in an extraordinary way as a member of the Texas Legislature. The Governor can award up to two such awards each year. The bill authorizes the Governor's office to solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations for any expenses related to the administration and establishment of the award. This award could be used to honor those who have made significant contributions to the people of Texas.	
SB 2332 Sponsor: Hefner By: Parker	Relating to aircraft owned and operated by the Department of Public Safety.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 2332 grants DPS full authority over aircraft maintenance, scheduling, and basing–bringing state law into alignment with federal aviation regulations. Currently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is charged with operations of the custody, control, operation, and maintenance of all aircraft owned or leased by the state. In the early 2000s, TxDOT performed approximately 90% of the maintenance on DPS aircraft. Since then, DPS's aviation operations have expanded dramatically– from 10 aircraft to 27, and from 3,000 to 14,000 annual flights. To meet this growing demand, DPS has been forced to decentralize its aircraft maintenance, with TxDOT still performing maintenance on 10% of the aircraft. According to the bill author, this fragmented model complicates oversight and runs contrary to aviation industry standards, which emphasize centralized maintenance for safety and efficiency. It also places increasing strain on TxDOT, limiting its ability to manage its own fleet and support other state agencies. SB 2332 establishes that DPS is responsible for maintaining and scheduling the aircraft it owns and operates, and can base these aircraft wherever it considers necessary throughout the state. Second, it creates an exception in Chapter 2205, which governs rules around state aircraft pooling; this chapter states that planes can only be used for state officers and employees for state purposes and not for political purposes. The provisions created in SB 3223 would not be subject to these rules. There are concerns that these aircraft could be used for border security operations in ways that raise oversight or accountability issues. Additionally, the exemption provided in this bill is troubling, as state-owned planes should not be used for political purposes under any circumstances.	**Will of the House**

OK for Distribution

SB 2112 Sponsor: Villalobos By: Kolkhorst	Relating to the punishment for certain criminal offenses related to cultivated oyster mariculture; increasing a criminal penalty.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	In order to protect coastal ecosystems, SB 2112 expands criminal penalties for regulatory violations within the aquaculture industry of oyster cultivation. The cultivated oyster mariculture industry has grown rapidly along the Texas coast, prompting the need for clear rules to protect marine ecosystems and maintain industry integrity. Although the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has established regulatory rules, the bill sponsor has raised concerns that the low penalties associated with violating these rules have made it tough to enforce regulations. In response, SB 2112 would increase penalties for violations related to cultivated oyster mariculture. Specifically, the bill elevates a violation for not having a permit or defined prohibited actions, including placing a cultivated oyster in a natural oyster bed, from a Class B to a Class A misdemeanor if the defendant has a prior conviction for these violations within five years. At the same time, it reduces the penalty for violating agency rules from a Class B to a Class C misdemeanor for first-time offenses. Still, it raises the penalty to a Class B misdemeanor if the offender has two or more prior convictions within five years. This tiered penalty system emphasizes criminal punishment as the primary enforcement mechanism, regardless of whether the violations are technical, administrative, or procedural. SB 2112 aims to provide a more significant deterrent against regulatory violations, thereby strengthening the protection of Texas coastal ecosystems, public waters, and aquatic species. However, there are concerns that harsher penalties alone may not meaningfully deter violations, as research from the National Institute of Justice reports that increased punishment does little to deter crime.	**Favorable with Concerns**
SB 745 Sponsor: Gerdes By: Kolkhorst	Relating to enhancing the criminal penalty for the offense of intoxication manslaughter in certain circumstances.	Criminal Jurisprudence 7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 745 increases penalties for intoxication manslaughter involving multiple deaths, emphasizing punishment over prevention while limiting judicial discretion. Under existing law, intoxication manslaughter is a second-degree felony punishable by 2 to 20 years in prison. Regardless of how a defendant pleads, a judge may impose consecutive sentences in cases involving multiple deaths. However, there are concerns about judges being the only ones to hold this discretion. SB 745 increases the penalty for intoxication manslaughter from a second-degree felony to a first-degree felony, raising the sentencing range from 2 to 20 years to 5 to 99 years or life if more than one person is killed during the same criminal transaction.	**Unfavorable**

OK for Distribution

			By mandating an automatic penalty enhancement based solely on the number of deaths, SB 745 removes judicial discretion, does not address the underlying causes of impaired driving, and relies on a punitive approach that research from the Department of Justice shows does not effectively deter crime.	
SB 1247 Sponsor: Metcalf By: Perry	Relating to consolidating certain nonresident hunting licenses.	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	SB 1247 seeks to modernize and simplify the structure of nonresident hunting licenses in Texas by consolidating multiple license types into a more efficient system. Texas currently offers several distinct types of nonresident hunting licenses, including general, special, and spring turkey hunting licenses. This fragmented system can create confusion among hunters, lead to administrative inefficiencies, and complicate enforcement. Additionally, inconsistencies in license categories and pricing structures may result in unequal access or inadvertent noncompliance. The lack of a unified framework also limits TPWD's ability to adapt licensing to changing wildlife management needs and cross-border agreements. SB 1247 simplifies the structure of nonresident hunting licenses in Texas by making the "nonresident general hunting license" the primary license type. It eliminates both the nonresident special hunting license and the nonresident spring turkey hunting license, along with their related rules and fees. The bill clarifies that nonresidents must hold a general hunting license to hunt alligators in Texas. The bill also renames the nonresident five-day special hunting license as the "nonresident five-day hunting license," specifying that it cannot be used to hunt species like deer, turkey, or alligator. Under SB 1247, nonresidents may purchase multiple five-day licenses per year, and the fee cap for this license is adjusted to 50 percent of the general license fee. These changes aim to reduce redundancy, promote fair pricing, and support the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in managing hunting regulations more effectively. This benefits both hunters and TPWD by making regulations easier to follow and enforce. While it reduces specialized license options, potentially limiting flexibility for some hunters, it creates a more streamlined and modern licensing structure aligned with current wildlife management goals. Ultimately, SB 1247 represents a significant step towards a more user-friendly, efficient, and adaptable system for nonresident hunting licenses in Texas.	**Favorable**
SB 1789 Sponsor: McQueeney	Relating to electric service quality and reliability.	State Affairs 12 Ayes 0 Nays	SB 1789 requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to adopt minimum standards for transmission and distribution poles, requires utilities to submit related annual reports, and authorizes the PUC to apply certain enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance. These measures could greatly enhance public safety while reducing the risk of power outages and higher rates due to storm recovery costs.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

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By: Schwertner		0 PNV 3 Absent	Uninspected and unmaintained electric transmission and distribution poles significantly increase the risk of wildfire, power outage, and increased storm recovery costs that are passed onto ratepayers. However, there are currently no basic standards for pole inspections, repairs, reinforcements, or replacements. SB 1789 requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to adopt standards for the structural integrity of transmission and distribution poles. These standards must (1) require an electric utility, municipally owned utility, or electric cooperative to inspect, maintain, remediate, and replace their poles on a timeline established by the PUC and to maintain records of those actions, (2) account for geographic and weather characteristics, (3) consider relevant national guidelines, (4) establish a classification system for pole assessment and maintenance, and (5) consider the characteristics of transmission and distribution utilities in Texas. The bill requires the PUC to allow a utility to complete any required inspection, remediation, or replacement of poles installed before the rules' effective date according to a reasonable timeline approved by the PUC that allows the utility to prioritize high-risk poles. SB 1789 requires each utility to submit annual reports to the PUC concerning the implementation of these standards and the records of required actions taken by the utilities. If a utility fails to comply with the standards adopted by the PUC and then the utility's system is damaged by a weather-related event or natural disaster, SB 1789 permits the PUC to reduce the utility's return on equity (ROE) for infrastructure installed to repair or replace the damages. This means that if a utility fails to comply, its ability to make money from its rates will be diminished. SB 1789 also revises existing enforcement measures available to the PUC for utilities that have shown poor reliability. The bill lowers the threshold for instances of system interruptions required for PUC to enforce any actions against a utility and requires the PUC to consider the duration of service interruption when determining the appropriate enforcement action. Due to heightened statewide risks of severe storms, wildfires, and aging electrical infrastructure, there is a great need for statewide standards for transmission and distribution poles. SB 1789 would establish these standards and ensure compliance through annual reporting and enforcement measures. This could increase public safety, improve grid reliability, and decrease the risk of costs from natural disasters and severe storms being passed onto ratepayers.	

OK for Distribution