Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report — Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Postponed Business until 9:00 AM			
SB 552/HB 1762 By: Huffman/Leach	Relating to changing the eligibility of certain persons to receive community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 28.**	**Unfavorable**
Postponed Business until 10:00 AM			
HB 2145 By: Bhojani | Capriglione | Hunter | Anchía | Garcia, Linda	Relating to the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at certain state-owned parking lots and garages.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HJR 112 By: Frank | Leach | Capriglione	Proposing a constitutional amendment protecting the right of parents to raise their children.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 29.**	**Favorable**
HB 1804 By: Tepper	Relating to compliance with the filing requirements of certain reports of political contributions and expenditures and financial statements, including as a qualification for public elective office; providing an administrative penalty.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **April 29.**	**Favorable**
HJR 110 By: Tepper	Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the filing of required political funding reports and personal financial statements to be eligible to hold certain public elective offices.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 1194 By: Manuel | Bumgarner | Jones, Jolanda | Virdell | Ward Johnson	Relating to the period during which an order for emergency protection remains in effect.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 1531 By: Howard	Relating to the definition of facility for purposes of workplace violence prevention requirements.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**

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HB 5008 By: Bell, Keith | Wilson | Frank | Dyson | Virdell	Relating to the use of the skills development fund by certain entities.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 3421 By: Hayes	Relating to decedents' estates and other matters involving probate courts.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 5398 By: Morales, Eddie | Metcalf | Vasut | Kerwin	Relating to the taking of certain aoudad sheep by using a helicopter.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 1407 By: Guillen	Relating to the provision of water or sewer service by public entities operating jointly or concurrently; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 426 By: Bernal | Dorazio | Swanson | Bonnen	Relating to Medicaid and child health plan program coverage and reimbursement for childhood cranial remolding orthosis.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 2.**	**Favorable**

Major State Calendar

HB 1535 By: Kitzman	Relating to the Trinity River Authority of Texas, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1535 seeks to ensure continued oversight and strengthen accountability for the Trinity River Authority of Texas (TRA) by implementing key governance and operational reforms. Although TRA is not subject to abolishment under the Texas Sunset Act, a recent review by the Sunset Advisory Commission identified several areas where the authority could adopt best practices to improve transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Currently, many river authorities, including TRA, have not adopted several standard good government practices commonly applied during Sunset reviews. These include measures related to board member training, conflict-of-interest policies, and other transparency-focused procedures.	**Favorable**

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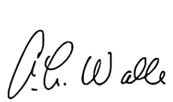
			To address these gaps, HB 1535 requires board member training, designates the board's presiding officer to be appointed by the governor, and establishes clear grounds for the removal of board members. HB 1534 also ensures public access by requiring opportunities for public testimony before the board , reinforcing the separation of policy-making from day-to-day management, and mandates creating and maintaining a formal complaint system. A transition process is also included to ensure current board members meet the new training requirements. In addition, HB 1535 adds an at-large member to the TRA board, reduces the length of board members' terms from six years to four years, aligning TRA with recent constitutional amendments that limit terms for governing boards of constitutionally created conservation districts. HB 1520 includes provisions to manage the transition to the new term length, confirming compliance with all legal, procedural, and regulatory requirements. It also requires the board to hire a general manager responsible for overseeing the authority's daily operations. These reforms will enhance TRA's efficiency, accountability, and transparency, thereby strengthening its governance and long-term sustainability to better serve the community.	
HB 123 By: Dutton | Manuel | Buckley | Leo Wilson | Ward Johnson	Relating to measures to support kindergarten readiness and early literacy and numeracy skills for public school students and to funding to support those measures.	Public Education 12 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 123 seeks to establish strong, evidence-based literacy and numeracy education for Texas students. However, it likely lacks the resources needed for effective implementation. Many program details are left to agency rule, which is usually the right path, but there's understandable skepticism about the TEA's ability to assign more responsibilities to teachers in a way that is manageable, beneficial for students, and avoids an overemphasis on privatization, vendors, or outside tutors. Secondly, if this bill were presented as a limited or trial program, the funding would make sense. However, it's a statewide rollout. Depending on implementation, this bill could become a large undertaking without adequate funding, placing increased responsibilities on districts without sufficient resources. **Texas schools are failing to provide adequate literacy and mathematics education.** Texas is facing a severe literacy crisis. Less than half (46%) of Texas third graders are reading on grade level and only 20% of students who were behind in third grade catch up within three years. Students who don't learn to read by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school and four times more likely to become incarcerated. The numbers for numeracy, the ability to use mathematical concepts in daily life, are likewise poor among young Texas children. Only 43% of Texas students are on grade level for math. All in all, these numbers mean that Texas schools are failing to provide adequate literacy and mathematics education.	**Will of the House**

			The problem isn't just that Texas students are falling behind — it's that the state lacks good data about how much they are behind. There are mandatory readiness assessments in kindergarten and a STAAR test at the end of third grade, but we have no reliable, statewide data about students' progress in first and second grade. **Other states have found success implementing progress monitoring and targeted interventions for students.** The "Mississippi Miracle" saw the state go from 49th in the nation for fourth-grade reading scores to 9th in the nation using research-backed instruction that emphasized phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension. Similar gains were made in mathematics. They also implemented targeted interventions for low-performing students. Other states like Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida have followed Mississippi's lead on literacy and numeracy and seen similar success. This bill attempts to replicate this success. **HB 123 requires assessment instruments and interventions.** Currently, schools aren't required to assess students' literacy or numeracy after kindergarten until students take the STAAR in 3rd grade, which can leave parents and teachers in the dark as the need for intervention grows. HB 123 mandates a series of 'instruments' — chosen from a list curated by the TEA with mandatory public input — in kindergarten through third grade. Districts can select from the TEA curated list so long as they administer an instrument to assess a student's abilities three times each year, generally once at the beginning, middle, and end of the year. Students would still take the traditional STAAR at the end of third grade. These progress checks must be based on scientific research and assess the foundational literacy and numeracy skills of each student. These checks are not intended to function like traditional standardized tests. Instead, they are meant to be significantly shorter in length, usually less than 30 minutes, provide immediate results and information, and do not carry the same level of test security. That said, the bill is not prescriptive on the length and form of these instruments. Superintendents must report all results to the TEA and each student's parent or guardian. This type of progressive check may allow both the state and individual families to have a more accurate understanding of educational growth. Parents are allowed to opt out of these instruments.	

			Some schools have already taken a similar approach — using assessments and progress monitoring to allow interventions to improve student outcomes. However, these methods are often resource-intensive and not all districts have the resources or expertise to do so. **HB 123 requires interventions for 'at risk' students.** Schools must provide learning interventions for students who fail two consecutive reading literacy instruments. The requirements for these interventions are broad and allow the TEA to determine specific guidelines in rulemaking. However, the intervention must include effective instructional materials administered by a trained individual who may make use of technology to deliver or supplement instructions. The commissioner must approve at least one optional computerized product for this purpose that must be free for districts to use. The interventions must continue until a student performs satisfactorily on an instrument or moves to fourth grade. The intervention cannot interrupt foundation curriculum instruction nor a student's physical education or recess. Parents are able to opt out of these interventions. **HB 123 expands literacy and math academy training for school employees.** These academies, which were first created in 2015 and mandated by HB 3 (88R), are meant to ensure that teachers use best practices for all literacy and math instruction. However, there have been some mixed results as far as the program's usefulness, especially for more seasoned teachers. Districts administer these trainings in diverse ways, in person and online, through colleges and through districts. Currently, only literacy academies are required for K-3rd grade teachers who administer reading instruction. Math academies are optional. HB 123 would require that all K-8th grade teachers attend a mathematics academy by the 2031-2032 school year. **HB 123 creates intervention training for teachers.** HB 123 directs the TEA to create both math and literacy 'intervention academies' for teachers who provide targeted intervention for students. The bill directs the TEA to develop a method for evaluating these academies and allows the agency to create an advisory board for the administration of these academies. **Funding increases to implement the program** The bill changes the Early Education Allotment so that all K-3rd grade students, not just bilingual and educationally disadvantaged students, will generate these funds for their district. These funds may be used to fund literacy and math academies; however, there is no guarantee that this money will be enough to cover the expenses. Literacy Academies can	

			cost approximately $3,000 per teacher. If Math Academies were funded at a similar rate, the total cost to school districts would reach $960 million — three times the program's biennial fiscal note. Even if the Math Academies operated at half the cost of their literacy counterparts, funding this component alone would exceed the entire budget allocated to HB 123. HB 123 mandates a stipend for literacy and numeracy academies but doesn't specify the amount or extend it to teachers who complete the training during contracted days — which applies to most teachers. Additionally, the bill creates a new $250 Early Literacy Intervention Allotment for any student who is receiving reading intervention. However, this allotment is limited to a maximum of 15% of K-3 students in a district, and students who receive a dyslexia allotment are not eligible. HB 123 expands the Additional School Days program, which incentivizes districts to provide summer instruction, by making K-3rd students who receive reading interventions generate funding for the program. **Other Changes in HB 123 —** • **A private tutoring grant program:** HB 123 gives parents of eligible students $400 to buy tutoring from approved providers. Students may receive this grant twice —once in 1st grade and again in 2nd or 3rd. If the student doesn't improve, the district must have the cost of the tutoring services deducted from their entitlement. The TEA has broad authority to run the program, but makes no stipulations about the qualifications of the tutors. • **Changes to Pre-Kindergarten:** HB 123 requires that all pre-k teachers must be either certified to teach PreK or supervised by someone who meets general statutory requirements and, when appropriate, certified in effective instruction for bilingual students. • **Allows public money to advertise Bluebonnet Learning:** HB 1605 (88R) directed the TEA to approve High-Quality Instructional Materials and to develop its own materials, now known as Bluebonnet Learning materials. This system has drawn criticism for its over-emphasis on Christianity. HB 123 allows the commissioner to use funds dedicated to the creation of these materials for "communication" about these materials with districts, parents, and classroom teachers. On a basic level, this state should ensure that every student learns to read and do basic math, but at the moment we are derelict in that duty. Inaction all but guarantees inadequate early education leads to high school dropouts, incarceration, and lifetimes of stolen opportunity. Whether or not HB 123 solves this problem depends, in large part, on whether or not the bill provides the support necessary to fully implement sound educational policies.	



OK for Distribution

General State Calendar		
These bills were **originally scheduled for yesterday's calendar**. A full analysis is available in LSG's Floor Report for **May 5**.		
HB 1773 By: Bhojani | VanDeaver | Lopez, Janie | Walle | Dutton	Relating to allowing the board of trustees of certain school districts to create a nonvoting student trustee position on the board.	**Favorable**
HB 1871 By: Dyson | Wharton | Louderback | Wilson | Cook	Relating to the punishment for the criminal offense of attempted capital murder of a peace officer; increasing a criminal penalty; changing eligibility for parole and mandatory supervision.	**Unfavorable**
HB 2035 By: Oliverson	Relating to notice provided by a chemical dependency treatment facility to the parent, managing conservator, or guardian of a minor refused admission to the facility.	**Favorable**
HB 2448 By: Moody	Relating to the waiver of a defendant's arraignment.	**Favorable**
HB 2492 By: Bowers | Morales, Christina	Relating to the period for which a person arrested for certain crimes involving family violence may be held after bond is posted.	**Favorable**
HB 1411 By: Allen	Relating to the use of personal leave during school holidays by certain school district employees.	**Favorable**
HB 4753 By: Gates | Tepper | Lalani | Dorazio | Bell, Keith	Relating to the municipal issuance of a document verifying that a certificate of occupancy has been issued for certain buildings.	**Favorable**
HB 4666	Relating to certain reports required to be prepared or submitted by or in collaboration with the Health and Human Services Commission.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

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By: Manuel		
HB 4529 By: Hefner	Relating to the regulation of child-care facilities that maintain a certificate to operate issued by the United States Department of Defense.	**Favorable**
HB 1499 By: Walle | Bell, Keith	Relating to the creation of an environmental product declaration grant program for certain manufacturers of ready-mixed concrete.	**Favorable**
HB 1610 By: Leach	Relating to the nonsubstantive revision of certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, including conforming amendments.	**Favorable**
HB 2028 By: Hickland	Relating to the Internet and other electronic posting of notices and agendas for meetings under the open meetings law.	**Favorable**
HB 1506 By: Ashby	Relating to the issuance of a license to carry a handgun to certain retired county court judges.	**Will of the House**
HB 886 By: Vasut | Lambert | Plesa	Relating to a one-time supplemental payment of benefits under the Employees Retirement System of Texas.	**Favorable**
HB 3546 By: Martinez	Relating to the authority of an independent school district to change the date of the general election for officers.	**Favorable**
HB 796 By: Bell, Cecil | Spiller | Gerdes | Leo Wilson | Metcalf	Relating to the authority of the legislature or a state court to declare certain federal actions to be unconstitutional federal actions, including the effect and enforcement of such a declaration.	**Unfavorable**
HB 223	Relating to competitive requirements for a procurement by a municipality for lobbying, government relations, or similar services.	**Unfavorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

By: Capriglione | Tepper | Spiller		
HB 1475 By: Schofield	Relating to requiring notice to the attorney general in an action under the Election Code seeking a temporary restraining order.	**Unfavorable**
HB 3556 By: Vasut | Metcalf	Relating to the construction of structures exceeding a certain height in certain counties containing National Wildlife Refuges and in adjacent counties; authorizing injunctive relief.	**Unfavorable**
HB 4638 By: Bonnen	Relating to the Texas Pharmaceutical Initiative.	**Favorable**

General State Calendar (continued)

HB 111 By: Capriglione	Relating to the applicability of the public information law, including the disclosure of information in the possession, custody, or control of certain governmental bodies.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 111 unfairly targets local governments and boards by narrowing which government entities qualify for exemptions to public information act requests. This legislation has raised serious concerns about requiring certain entities to violate attorney-client privilege, and exposing sensitive communications. Currently, under Texas law, the Public Information Act gives the public broad access to government records, with some defined exemptions for sensitive or confidential materials. HB 111 removes or limits these protections but singles out only local entities, such as municipalities, county commissioner's courts, and school boards — forcing them to disclose more internal documents, such as attorney client communications. These protections remain in place for state government entities. The bill also gives the Attorney General broad power to narrowly construe attorney-client privilege claims to the detriment of these entities, reducing their ability to shield legal advice and internal deliberations. This compromises candid internal discussions, and makes it harder for local governments to manage sensitive matters without fear of premature public exposure or legal vulnerabilities.	**Unfavorable**
HB 180 By: Guillen | Morales, Eddie	Relating to border protection agreements between this state and the United Mexican	Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on State-Federal Relations	HB 180 aims to strengthen Texas' border security by allowing the Governor to engage directly with Mexican states, raising concerns about state overreach into federal oversight of foreign affairs, immigration, and border security.	**Will of the House**

	States.	6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	The bill author contends that the State's lack of authority to directly collaborate with the Mexican states on border security has created gaps in immigration enforcement. HB 180 authorizes the Governor to directly negotiate border security agreements with the United Mexican States. It also authorizes the Governor to appoint a team of officials to meet regularly with federal Mexican officials to conduct negotiations. This bill is ineffective without the voluntary cooperation of the Mexican states. While some level of cooperation with Mexico on border security may be beneficial, HB 180 is largely symbolic and offers little practical impact. More concerning, it blurs the constitutional line between state and federal authority, potentially legitimizing state overreach into matters explicitly reserved for the federal government.	
HB 342 By: Hayes | Cook | Hopper | Bumgarner	Relating to the combination of certain election precincts.	Elections 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 342 authorizes commissioners' courts and political parties to consolidate precincts, which could reduce the number of polling places. HB 342 allows commissioners' courts for general or special elections and political parties conducting primary elections to combine precincts when voter counts are low and costs would otherwise be unreasonable. The bill also allows limited circumstances for combining precincts in a county of less than 1.2 million if a suitable polling location cannot be secured and the voters of the combined precincts would still be adequately served. There are serious concerns that this bill could lead to a further reduction in polling places across Texas, forcing many voters to travel longer distances to cast their ballots. Texas has already closed hundreds of polling places in recent years, and we do not need legislation that could contribute to even more closures. Additionally, the bill lacks transparency: counties are not required to provide proof when claiming that no suitable polling location is available, raising accountability concerns.	**Unfavorable**
HB 1027 By: Shaheen	Relating to the provision of telepharmacy services.	Public Health 11 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1027 expands access to pharmacy services in underserved areas by removing restrictive mileage limits, eliminating monthly on-site visit requirements, and lifting the ban on dispensing Schedule II controlled substances through telepharmacies. Currently, Texas has 631 towns that lack a pharmacy, which affects around one million residents. Prohibitions on telepharmacies operating within 22 miles of a community pharmacy exacerbate this problem. Additionally, telepharmacies are hindered in processing prescription requests due to their restriction on dispensing Schedule II controlled substances and the necessity for pharmacists to conduct monthly on-site visits to remote dispensing sites, despite existing safety regulations that ensure adequate oversight.	**Favorable**

			HB 1027 increases pharmacy access in Texas by prohibiting the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (TSBP) from adopting mileage restrictions relating to the location of telepharmacy sites, including mandating monthly on-site visits from a pharmacist. Additionally, provisions prohibiting a telepharmacy system from dispensing Schedule II controlled substances are repealed. HB 1027 removes outdated regulatory barriers to telepharmacy services, helping expand access to critical medications and pharmacy care for Texans living in underserved and rural communities.	
HB 1178 By: Cunningham | Bumgarner | Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra	Relating to the creation of a temporary educator certificate for educators certified by other states.	Public Education 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 1178 helps address the teacher vacancy crisis by allowing certified teachers from other states to receive a one-time, temporary certification to teach in Texas schools. Currently, certified educators from other states must apply and pass the Texas certification exams before they can teach in Texas schools, unless the state in which they are certified requires significantly similar certification examinations of their own. Texas does not have a reciprocity agreement for teacher certification with any other state. Although the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) may issue temporary certifications, they are not obligated to. This bill ensures that certified teachers from other states are granted a temporary certification for one year, permitting them to teach in Texas without taking — and paying for — a certification exam. Military spouses are afforded a three-year certificate instead of a single year. 56% of new teachers were uncertified in the 2023-24 school year and districts are desperate to hire qualified educators. This bill removes a bureaucratic roadblock by giving out-of-state teachers a year of certification before they would have to pass Texas certification exams.	**Favorable**
HB 610 By: Leo Wilson | Bumgarner | Capriglione | Canales	Relating to a severance payment to a superintendent of a school district.	Public Education 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 610 prevents school districts from wasting public funds by disincentivizing exorbitant superintendent severance packages. Currently, there is no cap on superintendent severance pay. Instead, any severance pay that exceeds one year's salary is deducted from the state's Foundation School Program (FSP) contribution to that district. This disincentive has not prevented some districts from awarding severance packages upwards of $900,000. HB 610 aims to further disincentivize large severance packages by decreasing the threshold at which funding will be deducted from the FSP to six-months salary. This would also apply to equivalent administrators at charter schools.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

			In a time where schools are struggling to pay teachers, build and repair facilities, and fund special education, no district should be awarding exorbitant severance packages to administrators.	
HB 1277 By: González, Mary	Relating to the study of plant disease and pest outbreaks by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.	Agriculture & Livestock 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1277 aims to strengthen Texas agriculture by mandating an annual study on the outbreaks of plant disease and pests. Plant disease and pests pose a significant and escalating threat to both global and Texas crop production, causing extensive economic losses and jeopardizing food security. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, up to 40% of global crop production is lost annually due to pests, with plant diseases and invasive insects costing the global economy roughly $220 billion and $70 billion, respectively. In Texas, agricultural producers are increasingly challenged by these threats. Despite the growing threat, there is a lack of data on the patterns, causes, and resolutions of outbreaks, limiting the State's ability to respond to these threats proactively. HB 1277 mandates the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to conduct an annual study on each plant disease and pest outbreak in the State. The study must include key details such as the outbreak's duration, resolution, and other relevant information. The bill requires the publication of an annual report by January 1 each year on the Extension Service's website, beginning immediately. Additionally, by January 1, 2028, the Extension Service must publish a summary report synthesizing findings across multiple years and offering policy recommendations. This summary report is to be provided to the Governor, Agriculture Commissioner, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives. HB 1277 is a crucial step towards equipping Texas with the necessary data and insights to proactively address the growing threats of plant diseases and pests to the State's vital agricultural communities.	**Favorable**
HB 1615 By: Leach	Relating to the nonsubstantive revision of certain local laws concerning water and wastewater special districts, including a conforming amendment.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Texas Legislative Council is required by statute to make updates to the Texas Statutes. This involves renumbering, rearranging, and removing repealed statutes so that they are easier to understand and use. Local laws for special districts were once only published in the volumes of legislative session laws and were not easily accessible. HB 1615 is one in a series of bills in the Texas Legislative Council's project to codify the local laws that govern special districts in statute, similar to how general laws are. This session's project revises laws governing the Willacy County Navigation District, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, the Franklin County Water District, and the Escondido Watershed District. It makes no substantive changes to the law. HB 1615 promotes clarity and accessibility to the Texas statutes for professionals and members of the public.	**Favorable**

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HB 1620 By: Leach	Relating to nonsubstantive additions to, revisions of, and corrections in enacted codes, to the nonsubstantive codification or disposition of various laws omitted from enacted codes, and to conforming codifications enacted by the 88th Legislature to other Acts of that legislature.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Texas Legislative Council is required by statute to make updates to the Texas Statutes. This involves renumbering, rearranging, and removing repealed statutes so that they are easier to understand and use. The Legislature enacts hundreds of bills at once, which may contain incorrect cross-references, amend the same statute multiple times, or contain duplicate chapter and section numbers. HB 1620 is a general code update bill to clear inconsistencies in the statute caused by recently enacted legislation. It makes no substantive changes to the law. HB 1620 promotes clarity and accessibility to the Texas statutes for professionals and members of the public.	**Favorable**
HB 5342 By: Landgraf	Relating to the provision of behavioral health crisis services, including the operation of crisis centers and mobile crisis outreach teams; authorizing a fee.	Public Health 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5342 creates the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund to support 988 call centers and future program needs. A 2024 report by the National Alliance on Mental Illness reveals that Texas' five call centers for the 988 suicide hotline have received over 380,000 calls, marking the second-highest call volume in the country. These five centers currently depend on federal grant funding, which cannot guarantee a timely and effective call response. HB 5342 establishes the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline trust fund, administered by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), to finance resources for 988 services, crisis outreach, care for uninsured individuals, crisis team personnel growth, and support for data activities. The HHSC's executive commission is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) outlining the trust funds' deposits and expenditures. HHSC must provide the Legislature and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with an annual report on the usage of crisis centers. Additionally, HHSC, in collaboration with the Commission on State Emergency Communications, can authorize a 988 suicide and crisis line service fee on phone lines to supplement funding for suicide prevention and crisis services. If the fee is implemented, the executive commissioner of HHSC will set the fee amount and can adjust it based on 988's call volume and infrastructure needs, and revenue from the fee cannot be used to pay for expenses reimbursable through other insurers or governmental programs. The executive commission of the HHSC must provide an annual report to the	**Favorable**

			Legislature and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing the revenue generated by the fee if implemented. HB 5342 provides sustainable funding for the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline by establishing a trust fund and authorizing a service fee, ensuring enhanced support for mental health crisis services in Texas.	
HB 4885 By: Moody	Relating to the disclosure of confidential juvenile records to a managed assigned counsel program.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4885 permits managed assigned counsel (MAC) programs to access juvenile case information, ensuring fair and informed counsel appointments for indigent youth. Access to juvenile case information is limited to prosecutors, the child's parents, and the child's attorney to protect minors' privacy. However, this limitation hinders MAC programs, which are responsible for appointing and supervising legal representation for indigent defendants, from effectively carrying out their duties. HB 4885 adds MAC programs to the list of entities permitted to inspect or copy confidential juvenile records, allowing them to fulfill their legal responsibilities during delinquency proceedings. This bill also clarifies that juvenile records shared with a MAC program for these purposes are exempt from certain redaction requirements involving underage victims. By providing MAC programs with access to necessary case information, HB 4885 aims to improve the quality and oversight of legal representation in juvenile cases while preserving core confidentiality protections, enabling them to assess eligibility, screen counsel for potential conflicts, and oversee appointed counsel.	**Favorable**
HB 4751 By: Capriglione	Relating to the establishment and administration of the Texas Quantum Initiative.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4751 establishes the Texas Quantum Initiative to position Texas as a national leader in quantum computing, networking, and sensing, supporting economic growth and technological innovation. Texas does not currently have a formal statewide framework or dedicated initiative specifically governing or supporting quantum research, development, or commercialization. HB 4751 would create a formal statewide initiative — overseen by an executive committee with members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker — to develop a strategic plan, attract quantum research projects, expand workforce development, and build a quantum technology supply chain. It sets up a dedicated Quantum University and Business Innovation Fund to support matching grants, university projects, and business incentives. By leveraging public-private partnerships, research institutions, and industry, the initiative aims to accelerate Texas's leadership in the emerging quantum sector, create jobs, and drive long-term economic competitiveness.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

HB 4689 By: Hickland	Relating to municipal annexation of an area adjacent to contiguous or connecting railroad rights-of-way.	Land & Resource Management 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4689 allows cities to annex properties along their boundaries that are separated from the city by railroads if the property owner agrees. This could provide more flexibility for city expansion and economic development. Under current law, areas in a city's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) must be adjacent to the city for the area to be annexed. If these areas are separated from the city by a railroad that doesn't overlap with a city roadway, cities cannot cross the railroad to annex them. This often makes railroads de facto city borders in cities wishing to expand, which was never the intent of the railroad placement. Under HB 4689, if a city's boundaries meet a railroad, they may annex an area in their ETJ that also meets with that same railroad. This may only be done if the property owner agrees to the annexation. HB 4689 gives cities more flexibility to expand their tax base and gives ETJ property owners more flexibility to opt into city services. These city services could be especially beneficial for key economic corridors parallel to city boundaries, such as industrial or logistics hubs near railroads.	**Favorable**
HB 4530 By: Romero	Relating to the dedication and management of water rights placed in the Texas Water Trust.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4530 seeks to enhance environmental and conservation efforts by ensuring consistent oversight of both surface and groundwater rights dedicated to the Texas Water Trust. The Trust enables the voluntary donation, lease, or purchase of water rights to support aquatic ecosystems and preserve natural habitats for future generations. Currently, only surface water rights placed into the Trust require review and approval by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), while groundwater rights lack equivalent oversight due to regulatory limitations, including the rule of capture and the absence of permits from Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs). HB 4530 updates the Parks and Wildlife Code and Water Code to establish review procedures for all water rights entering the Trust. Surface water rights will continue to be reviewed by TCEQ with support from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), while groundwater rights will now require review and approval by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), which must also notify relevant local water authorities. HB 4530 closes a critical oversight gap, ensuring that all water rights dedicated to environmental purposes are properly vetted, improving transparency and strengthening the long-term sustainability of water resources.	**Favorable**
HB 4488	Relating to the creation and	Appropriations	HB 4488 is the "Funds Consolidation Bill" for the 89th Legislative Session.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

By: Bonnen	re-creation of funds and accounts, the dedication and rededication of revenue and allocation of accrued interest on dedicated revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money from use for general governmental purposes.	23 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	The bill abolishes all funds, accounts, and revenue dedications created or re-created by the 89th Legislature, effective August 31, 2025, or the date the creating act takes effect, unless specifically exempted. The bill excludes certain funds such as federal, trust, bond, and constitutionally protected accounts. All interest and earnings from qualifying accounts must be deposited into the general revenue fund for unrestricted governmental use. HB 4488 updates statutory references to apply to the 89th Legislature, extends the availability of excess dedicated revenues for general use to August 31, 2027, and delays the expiration of those provisions to September 1, 2027. It also updates the Transportation Code by pushing deadlines for eliminating specialty license plate accounts and adjusting the timing for the deposit of associated fees into a trust fund outside the general revenue fund. HB 4488 overrides any conflicting acts of the 89th Legislature that attempt to create or dedicate funds or earnings unless explicitly exempted, ensuring consistency in fiscal policy. HB 4488 is a standard appropriations bill that is passed every Session in order to clean up outdated funds and accounts to streamline the state's budgeting process.	
HB 2149 By: Tepper	Relating to nonconforming land uses after the adoption of or change to a zoning regulation or boundary.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2149 prohibits cities from enforcing zoning changes without an agreement with an affected property owner. It also makes several changes on how cities may address nonconforming land use that results from rezoning. These changes threaten local control, needed development, and public and environmental health. Under current law, if a city zoning change results in the property's use becoming non-conforming or no longer permitted, the property owner is presented with two options to ultimately stop operations: (1) a buy-out from the city, in which the city pays the property's fair market value after the zoning change, plus certain associated costs, or (2) the owner continues business as usual (as a nonconforming use) until they recoup the costs of Option 1. If the owner does not like either of these options, they may seek declaratory relief from the courts, who may be able to prevent a city from enforcing a zoning change. However, some property owners find this arrangement unfair and want to continue to operate their business in the same way they always have, regardless of city zoning changes. **HB 2149 severely undermines city zoning authority.** HB 2149 prohibits a city from unilaterally terminating a nonconforming use. A property owner must agree to stop the nonconforming use, and if the property owner does not agree, the city has no way to make them stop. If the property owner agrees, the existing rules apply; they are given the same two options of a buyout or cost recuperation, except the compensation is calculated as the fair market value of the property before the zoning change, not after. The property owner can also challenge the zoning change in court, but the bill doesn't require them to do so to continue the use. They	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**

			can simply say no and keep doing what they've been doing. The legal challenge would be in addition to refusing to reach agreement with the city. **HB 2149 allows a property owner to re-establish a non-permissible land use for up to 5 years.** Under HB 2149, cities may rezone an area but choose not to require newly nonconforming land use to stop. Currently, in these cases, if a property owner voluntarily stops nonconforming use for over six months, they may not resume the nonconforming use in the future. Under HB 2149, this grace period is extended to 5 years. This provision does not apply to a property owner who has entered into an agreement with the city to stop the nonconforming use. Under HB 2149, a city cannot prohibit a property owner from repairing or renovating a nonconforming property, and allows a property owner to modify or expand the nonconforming property if it is necessary for the health and safety of the property or occupants. HB 2149 is not retroactive and only applies to actions that occur on or after the bill's effective date. **HB 2149 undermines local control and could negatively impact public health and discourage necessary housing development.** HB 2149 virtually removes the authority of a city to enforce zoning to manage urban growth and development, ensuring land use is compatible and beneficial to the community. By requiring property owner consent for land use restrictions, the bill significantly undermines cities' regulatory authority and effectively eliminates their ability to manage zoning changes. HB 2149 could allow a single property, such as a concrete batch plant, to indefinitely stall critical community redevelopment. Furthermore, giving property owners 5 years to resume nonconforming use on a property could lead to the discouragement of all development in the area. Developers may choose to wait 5 years before building in an area out of fear that a formerly industrial property next door will suddenly resume operations. Current statute already strikes the right balance between local control and fair compensation for property owners.	
HB 2041 By: King	Relating to the criminal offense of passing certain vehicles on a highway.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2041 enhances road safety by broadening protections to include animal control and parking enforcement vehicles. "Move Over, Slow Down" rules require drivers to either reduce their speed or move one lane over when certain vehicles — such as police cars, tow trucks, or garbage trucks — are stopped on the side of the road. This bill adds animal control vehicles, when stopped for the purposes of removing roadkill carcasses, and parking enforcement vehicles to the list of applicable vehicles under this rule. HB 2041 fosters a safer environment for a wider range of public service workers performing essential duties along Texas roadways.	**Favorable**

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HB 2071 By: Hull | Frank | Manuel | Noble | Rose	Relating to certain policies and procedures for health care specialty consultations in certain child abuse or neglect investigations and assessments.	Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2071 seeks to improve transparency in child abuse and neglect investigations by requiring the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to disclose all medical records used by the Forensic Assessment Center Network to the child's parent, guardian, or attorney. The Forensic Assessment Center Network was established by DFPS to provide 24-hour access to pediatricians for case consultations related to suspected child abuse and neglect and foster care medical inquiries. Currently, there is no requirement for the network to share medical documents it uses or generates with the child's parent or guardian. HB 2071 mandates that DFPS provide all medical records, including images, utilized and generated by the Forensic Assessment Center Network to the child's parent, guardian, or attorney. If a blind review process is used to settle disagreements among physicians regarding an assessment, DFPS is required to disclose the information used for resolution, including the names of the physicians, their opinions, assessments performed on the child, and all medical records to the child's parent, guardian, or attorney. Additionally, physicians may only conduct a specialty consultation if they have not been involved in reviewing the case, including as part of an investigation review team or a multidisciplinary team. Lastly, DFPS, referring providers, hospitals, or the Forensic Assessment Network cannot prevent access to the medical records and documentation necessary for obtaining a second opinion. Provisions to mitigate provider conflicts cannot be interpreted to restrict access to a child's medical records. HB 2071 enhances transparency by requiring DFPS to disclose all medical records used in assessments and consultations, prohibits prior reviewers from serving as consultants, and ensures parents or guardians can access records needed for a second opinion.	**Favorable**
HB 1813 By: Bucy | Buckley	Relating to a parental right to information concerning a public school special education program and certain requirements for persons serving as special education representatives and hearing officers at impartial due	Public Education 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1813 enhances the protections afforded to disabled students and their families by ensuring that their representatives in due process hearings are well-informed. When parents of special education students contend that their child is not receiving their rights under federal and state law, they can seek recourse through a due process hearing. At these hearings, they can be represented by a lawyer or by a non-attorney representative. To qualify as a non-attorney representative, a person must have special knowledge or training with respect to the landscape of children with disabilities. Ultimately, it is up to the hearing officer to determine whether someone meets the requirements to serve as a non-attorney representative in a particular hearing. Theoretically, these representatives must know about special education due process rules, hearings, and procedures and about special education laws. In practice, however, parents report receiving representation from individuals with inadequate or faulty knowledge regarding special education.	**Favorable**

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	process hearings; authorizing a fee.		HB 1813 establishes some protections regarding non-attorney representatives. First, it requires that all such representatives complete a training course, to be developed by the TEA, that covers special education law. Family members of students are exempt from this requirement. The bill also bars individuals from serving as representatives if they have engaged in false, misleading, or deceptive acts or practices. HB 1813 enhances the integrity of the due process hearing procedure to better support families.	
HB 2282 By: Lopez, Janie | Harless | Cook | Bowers | Tepper	Relating to the amount of the reimbursement fee paid by a defendant for a peace officer's services in executing or processing an arrest warrant, capias, or capias pro fine.	Criminal Jurisprudence 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 2282 increases warrant processing fees, potentially deepening financial hardship for low-income Texans while offering limited accountability for how the funds are used. Texas law enforcement agencies are currently reimbursed $50 when a warrant, capias, or capias pro fine is executed or processed. The bill author has stated that this amount, unchanged for decades, no longer reflects the true cost of warrant processing and that taxpayers are forced to reabsorb millions in unreimbursed expenses. HB 2282 increases the reimbursement fee from $50 to $75 for executing or processing arrest warrants, capias, or capias pro fines. These funds are not earmarked for law enforcement and instead go into city or county general revenue, where they can be used for any purpose. While HB 2282 seeks to shift financial responsibility from taxpayers to convicted individuals, it may have unintended consequences. According to Texas Appleseed, in 2015 over 95% of all arrest warrants issued in Texas were for fine-only misdemeanors. These cases often involve individuals who miss court dates not out of defiance, but because they cannot afford to pay their fines and fear incarceration. Many of these warrants are never actually executed by law enforcement, but rather just entered into computers that trigger automated payment demand letters. Raising the fee to $75 risks worsening the financial strain on low-income Texans, while offering little assurance that the increase will meaningfully reimburse law enforcement costs.	**Unfavorable**
HB 2248 By: Smithee	Relating to the public information law.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2248 strengthens Texas' public information laws by requiring faster responses, increasing accountability, and limiting fees when agencies mishandle records requests. Under current law, governmental bodies must respond to public records requests promptly but face few direct penalties if they fail. HB 2248 clarifies timelines for notifying requestors when no responsive information exists or when withholding is based on prior determinations. It bars agencies from charging fees if they delay clarifications, miss deadlines, or if the attorney general rules the information must be disclosed. More importantly, it allows requesters to recover court costs and reasonable attorney's fees if they prevail in litigation against agencies that fail to comply, raising	**Favorable**

			the stakes for agencies to meet legal obligations. The bill also allows requesters to file complaints with the attorney general if an agency fails to respond, triggering required open records training and faster legal resolution. This bill aims to improve transparency and strengthen accountability for public records access.	
HB 2243 By: Oliverson | Allen | Buckley | Ashby	Relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention.	Public Education 14 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2243 proposes the creation of a commission ostensibly aimed at improving teacher job satisfaction, but instead diverts money away from schools that urgently need direct support. 78% percent of Texas teachers report having considered leaving the profession in the past year. In the face of such widespread dissatisfaction, lawmakers should be focused on improving the working conditions in classrooms. HB 2243 would establish the Texas Commission on Teacher Job Satisfaction and Retention, composed of 13 members: five appointed by the Governor, four by the Lieutenant Governor, and four by the Speaker of the House. Of these, at least three must be current or former teachers with a decade of classroom experience, and one must be a school administrator. The bill allows for hiring support staff through the Texas Education Agency and permits the commission to contract with outside consultants. The estimated cost over the biennium approaches $1 million. The commission is charged with submitting a report to the Governor and Legislature by the end of 2026. The bill also tasks the commission with evaluating whether teacher job satisfaction would improve if Texas declined federal education funding. This expensive commission is redundant. The State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) already includes a teacher advisory group and has proven effective at convening stakeholders, as demonstrated by SB 1267 (87R), which achieved substantive policy changes without establishing a costly new commission. Additionally, the Teacher Vacancy Task Force, established in 2022 to examine teacher retention and recruitment challenges across Texas, released its report in 2023 with a host of recommendations. It is unclear why another analysis is required. Even more concerning is the bill's directive to explore rejecting federal funding, an ideological non-starter that mischaracterizes federal support as an obstacle rather than a critical lifeline for Texas schools. At a time when school districts remain severely underfunded and teacher pay continues to lag, HB 2243 reflects misplaced priorities. Teacher satisfaction is driven by higher salaries, smaller class sizes, and robust campus support, not by expensive commissions with vague mandates.	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**

HB 2522 By: Dean	Relating to fingerprinting requirements for the issuance of dealer general distinguishing numbers to certain persons.	Transportation 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2522 relieves an administrative burden by relaxing the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) rules regarding fingerprinting for car dealers. In 2022, TxDMV adopted rules requiring car dealership managers to be fingerprinted as a way to combat fraud. The requirement that this person be present at each location where vehicles are sold has created a significant regulatory burden for larger dealerships with multiple locations. This bill allows large retailers that operate 75 or more locations in Texas to designate a single manager to be fingerprinted and serve as the registered employee of record for all locations within a 100-mile radius. Doing so preserves fraud deterrence — managers are still cataloged using fingerprints — but makes dealership operations less cumbersome.	**Favorable**
HB 2310 By: Ordaz | Buckley | Leo Wilson	Relating to developing a strategic plan for the improvement and expansion of early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities.	Public Education 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2310 supports early learning and educational opportunities for young children with disabilities by directing the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), the Texas Education Agency (TEA), and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop and implement a strategic plan to help those children. Three different state agencies oversee different early childhood services for children with disabilities. The TEA oversees the prekindergarten and special education programs, TWC oversees the child care services program and the state's child care quality rating and improvement program, Texas Rising Star, and HHSC oversees the early childhood intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Without a cohesive support strategy, families may not be getting optimal care. This bill directs these three agencies to develop and implement a strategic plan. The plan should consider tuition-free prekindergarten programs, early childhood special education settings, and child-care programs receiving TWC subsidies. The bill also directs these agencies to develop recommendations for policy changes. An initial plan must be published by September 2026 and the plan must subsequently be updated every four years. Families who struggle to care for children with disabilities deserve a state government that provides cohesive support. This bill ensures strategic collaboration between the agencies responsible for providing that.	**Favorable**
HB 2513	Relating to a paid leave of absence for	Homeland Security, Public	HB 2513 ensures that extended firefighter shifts count as a single workday for military leave purposes, helping military-serving firefighters preserve their earned benefits.	**Favorable**

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By: Tepper	public employees serving as fire protection personnel who are engaged in certain military service.	Safety & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on Defense & Veterans' Affairs 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	Under current law, public employees who serve in the military are entitled to 15 days of paid military leave each fiscal year. However, many firefighters work 24- or 48-hour shifts, and each shift is currently counted as multiple workdays, causing their military leave to be depleted faster than that of employees on a standard schedule. As a result, firefighters often must use their own vacation or personal time to meet military obligations. HB 2513 specifies that for firefighters entitled to military leave, a 24- or 48-hour shift is treated as one workday for leave calculations. It applies to firefighters who serve in the Texas military forces, U.S. military reserves, or a state or federally authorized urban search and rescue team. This change ensures firefighters are not penalized due to the unique structure of their work schedule and allows them to serve in the military without sacrificing personal leave. By redefining how firefighter shifts are counted for military leave, HB 2513 prevents extended shifts from prematurely exhausting a firefighter's military leave entitlement.	
HB 2300 By: Lalani	Relating to the distribution of hookahs; creating a criminal offense.	Public Health 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2300 prohibits the sale of hookah pipes to individuals under 21 years of age and establishes penalties as a Class C misdemeanor. According to the Texas School Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use, nearly one-third of students in grades 7-12 have reported using some form of tobacco, and one-sixth of Texas students are current users. Currently, hookah lounges and cafes have limited regulatory oversight and can often bypass strict age restrictions and public health regulations by marketing themselves as dining or social spaces. HB 2300 prohibits the sale, gift, or provision of hookah pipes to individuals under 21 and is punishable by a Class C misdemeanor unless they are a military member over the age of 18. Individuals must prove their age to purchase a hookah pipe by providing a driver's license, passport, or other government-issued identification card. Retailers and staff must be trained to check the identification of those who appear to be under 30 years old. HB 2300 strengthens public health protections by closing a regulatory gap, ensuring that hookah pipes are subject to the same age restrictions as other tobacco products.	**Favorable**
HB 1902 By: Cook |	Relating to creating the criminal offense of jugging.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on New	HB 1902 creates a new criminal offense specifically targeting "jugging," equipping prosecutors with a more precise tool to combat a growing form of organized theft.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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Bonnen | Moody | Smithee | Louderback		Offenses and Changed Penalties 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Jugging refers to a scheme in which individuals stake out banks or ATMs, follow people after they withdraw cash, and then steal the money. Offenders often use rental cars or vehicles with fake or altered license plates to avoid detection. Although jugging has not been treated as a distinct crime under current law, law enforcement officials emphasize that it is more coordinated and methodical than typical robbery or burglary. They report that cases have become increasingly common across Texas, often involving repeat offenders who exploit gaps in existing statutes. HB 1902 establishes a state jail felony offense for individuals who, with the intent to commit theft, knowingly follow someone from a financial institution or commercial business without significantly deviating from that person's route and possess two or more criminal instruments. The offense is enhanced to a third-degree felony if a vehicle is burglarized and to a first-degree felony if a robbery is committed. This bill also clarifies that offenders can be charged with jugging in addition to other applicable criminal offenses. By creating a specific offense for jugging, HB 1902 aims to give prosecutors a more effective means of addressing this calculated and increasingly frequent criminal activity. Although this bill intends to address a real and growing public safety issue, concerns remain about the bill's broad scope and potential overlap with existing criminal statutes. The conduct targeted by the bill, such as robbery or burglary, is already chargeable under current law. The creation of a separate offense and the provision permitting the stacking of offenses could result in redundancy or prosecutorial overreach. Increased penalties do not lead to deterrence. Additionally, the bill's definition of jugging may be overly vague, potentially over-criminalizing individuals and sweeping in conduct that does not warrant felony-level punishment.	
HB 3719 By: Hunter	Relating to the availability of dates of birth under the public information law.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3719 clarifies that dates of birth are generally public information under Texas public information law, except where specifically protected by other laws or privacy rules. Currently, there's ambiguity about whether governmental bodies can withhold dates of birth when responding to public records requests. HB 3719 removes this uncertainty by explicitly stating that dates of birth cannot be withheld unless protected under Section 552.102 (personnel information), federal HIPAA privacy rules, or other constitutional or statutory laws. This aims to improve consistency and transparency in public records access while still honoring defined privacy protections.	**Favorable**
HB 4284 By: Geren	Relating to an excessive discount on certain alcoholic beverages.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures	HB 4284 removes the vague prohibition on "excessive discounts" in alcoholic beverage sales to eliminate undefined standards that create regulatory risk for businesses.	**Favorable**

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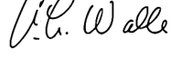
		12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	Currently, Texas law prohibits alcoholic beverage manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors from offering excessive discounts to retailers, but the statute provides no clear definition of what qualifies as “excessive.” This ambiguity exposes businesses to potential enforcement even in routine, good-faith pricing practices — such as running closeout sales to clear inventory. HB 4284 repeals this outdated and subjective restriction while maintaining other key safeguards against undue influence or financial entanglement between tiers.The bill would modernize Texas alcohol regulation, improve fairness and legal clarity, and allows businesses to compete more effectively without fear of arbitrary penalties.	
HB 4327 By: Moody	Relating to wrongful death actions for the benefit of siblings of the decedent.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4327 expands Texas wrongful death law to allow siblings to file a claim, addressing a gap in the current statute that excludes them from seeking legal recourse for the loss of a brother or sister. Under current Texas law, only a deceased person's spouse, children, or parents are allowed to file a wrongful death lawsuit. This may be limiting for individuals who do not have a surviving relative in these categories or who did not have children. Sometimes, a sibling may have been the deceased's closest living relative or main caretaker, but they currently have no right to pursue legal action to recover damages. HB 4327 allows siblings to file a wrongful death lawsuit when a loved one dies due to someone else's fault. It specifies half-siblings, adopted siblings, and stepsiblings to recover compensation from the liable party. HB 4327 fairly expands eligibility for wrongful death claims to include siblings, recognizing the meaningful loss they may experience.	**Favorable**
HB 3743 By: Olcott	Relating to the management-to-staff ratio requirement for state agencies.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3743 updates the management-to-staff ratio requirement for Texas state agencies by applying the 1-to-11 manager-to-staff cap across all agencies, removing the current threshold that limits it only to agencies with more than 100 full-time equivalent employees and applicability to only the executive branch. While the bill aims to promote efficiency and equitable management structures, there are concerns that this one-size-fits-all approach may undermine agency effectiveness and increase administrative burden. Currently, agencies with over 100 employees are subject to the rule limiting management positions to one for every 11 non managerial staff. HB 3743 expands this cap to cover smaller agencies as well, requiring all state agencies to develop procedures aimed at minimizing management roles while ensuring operational needs are met. Although this bill does not mandate layoffs at state agencies, it does require agencies to increase work in order to develop procedures to reduce management positions. Additionally, the 1-to-11 manager-to-staff ratio is arbitrary and does not guarantee increased efficiency. Oftentimes smaller agencies require flexibility to maintain effectiveness.	**Unfavorable**



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HB 3778 By: Louderback | Darby	Relating to the use of geothermal energy as a dispatchable generation resource.	State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3778 defines geothermal energy as dispatchable energy, making it eligible for the Texas Energy Fund (TEF). This could increase grid reliability while reducing reliance on harmful fossil fuels. When the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing, the energy grid must rely on dispatchable energy — energy that can be turned on and off or adjusted to meet demand. In an effort to promote grid reliability, SB 2627 (88R) created the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) to provide low-interest loans for dispatchable energy generation, but limited its funding to certain technologies, mostly liquefied natural gas (LNG). Geothermal energy is both reliable and clean, but because it is not considered dispatchable power under current statute, it is not eligible for TEF funds. HB 3778 establishes geothermal energy as dispatchable energy, and specifies that it can receive loans and grants under the TEF. HB 3778 authorizes the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to provide TEF funding to any geothermal facility in the ERCOT region that can provide at least 10 MW of energy.	**Favorable**
HB 3801 By: Orr | Frank | Pierson | Bucy	Relating to the establishment of the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and the abolition of the statewide health coordinating council and the nursing advisory committee of that council.	Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3801 addresses Texas's healthcare workforce shortages by creating the Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council, which is tasked with developing a biannual, data-driven strategic plan to align education, licensure, and workforce efforts across the state. According to the Texas Hospital Association, nearly 40% of counties in Texas do not have primary care services, and shortages of nurses and allied health professionals exacerbate the situation. While many stakeholders are working to address the healthcare workforce shortage, their lack of coordination has led to fragmented efforts and missed opportunities to target critical workforce gaps effectively. HB 3801 replaces the Health Professionals Workforce Coordination Council and the corresponding nursing advisory committee with the newly established Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and a new nursing advisory committee to examine the workforce shortage and develop a strategic plan to combat it. The council will be attached to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). The council will comprise the executive directors or one representative from DSHS, the Health and Human Services Commission, the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Workforce Commission, and 10 state boards overseeing the practice and licensure of various healthcare professionals. Four additional members with a healthcare workforce planning or data analysis background will also be added to the board. HB 3801 mandates the council to gather information from board members on high school graduation rates, higher education certification rates, healthcare workforce shortages, licensed professionals, and federal labor statistics to inform	**Favorable**

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			a strategic plan and establish a workgroup. The council must prepare a biannual strategic plan that includes a 10-year workforce analysis, outlining goals, strategies, and recommendations to address healthcare shortages and improve alignment between education programs and workforce needs to be published on October 1st of each even-numbered year. The council needs to create a workgroup responsible for finding information sources on gateway health professions and developing a data analysis model to track the growth of these professions. Additionally, a nursing advisory committee will be established by the council to assist with duties and will be composed of members of associations representing nurses, educators, and employers of nurses, the Texas Board of Nursing, and a nurse researcher, with other related individuals available to be appointed to the committee as well. The advisory committee will review data collection and reports on the needs of the nursing healthcare workforce. HB 3801 strengthens Texas's approach to addressing healthcare workforce shortages by establishing a more coordinated, data-driven council structure that brings key agencies and stakeholders together to develop long-term, strategic solutions.	
HB 5153 By: Rose	Relating to the provision and reimbursement of health care services by local public health entities under the child health plan program.	Human Services 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5153 aims to improve access to preventive healthcare for children enrolled in CHIP by allowing local health departments (LHDs) to serve as CHIP providers. Currently, LHDs offer essential services like immunizations, health screenings, and preventive care, and they are recognized as providers under Medicaid. However, they are not enrolled as providers under the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which limits access to these services for children who might otherwise benefit from care at LHDs. HB 5153 directs the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to designate local public health entities as eligible CHIP providers, helping expand access to preventive care for children enrolled in CHIP.	**Favorable**
HB 5147 By: King | Lalani	Relating to investigational stem cell treatment.	Public Health 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5147 expands access to investigational stem cell treatments by authorizing treatment in outpatient settings providing level II anesthesia while ensuring patient safety through oversight standards. According to the Mayo Clinic, stem cells are a type of cell with regenerative properties that could be guided to repair tissue damaged by diseases such as cancer, diabetes, or heart failure. Currently, regulations limit patient's access to investigational treatments, and additional safeguards are available to install that provide access but do not compromise safety or ethical medical practices.	**Favorable**

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			HB 5147 helps patients access investigative stem cell treatments by allowing outpatient facilities providing level II anesthesia services to be eligible facilities for treatment. The executive commissioner for the Health and Human Services Commission must adopt a consent form, acknowledging that treatment has not been approved by the FDA, to allow patients to provide consent for investigative stem cell treatments. Institutional boards overseeing these treatments must meet federal standards to certify physicians to offer the treatment. Additionally, any adverse events resulting from an investigational stem cell treatment must be included in the oversight board's annual report to the Texas Medical Board, and allows the reports to not be made publicly available. HB 5147 expands patient access to investigational stem cell treatments while reinforcing safeguards through informed consent, qualified treatment settings, federal oversight standards, and strengthened reporting of adverse events.	
HB 4877 By: Paul	Relating to the Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association.	Insurance 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4877 improves the efficiency of the Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Association by clarifying procedures for handling insurer insolvencies and financial recoveries. The TPCIGA was established to assist Texas policyholders and claimants affected by insurance company insolvencies. Currently, outdated references and ambiguity in the Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Act have hindered the TPCIGA's role in recent insolvency cases and ongoing administrative activities, resulting in inefficiencies. HB 4877 modernizes the Texas Property and Casualty Insurance Guaranty Act by making clarifying and technical revisions to improve the efficiency of TPCIGA's operations. TPCIGA will not cover guaranteed asset protection or gap insurance for assets worth less than what is owed, and workers' compensation claimants are now included in TPCIGA. TPCIGA operations are updated by requiring all lawsuits to be filed in Travis County, as intended in the current statute, expanding board eligibility to include insurance company personnel, and establishing a new administrative account for expenses. TPCIGA will recover claim and administrative costs from insured businesses with a net worth over $50 million, excluding nonprofits, and the net worth must be calculated by including affiliated and parent companies. TPCIGA can recover the full claim amount, including administrative and defense costs, from an insured or successor previously excluded by statute if the insured has a net worth over $50 million as of December 31 of the preceding year to the insurer's impairment. Additionally, lawsuits against TPCIGA related to policies from insolvent insurers must be paused for six months, giving TPCIGA time to prepare a defense, with the possibility of further extension by the court. HB 4877 enhances TPCIGA's ability to respond to insurer insolvencies, reduce administrative confusion, and ensure stronger protections for policyholders and claimants across Texas.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

OK for Distribution

HB 4850 By: Button	Relating to programs to promote economic development in the Office of the Governor.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4850 revises provisions related to economic development programs administered by the Office of the Governor, including updates to advisory committees, labeling criteria, and the removal of outdated statutory language. Key provisions of the bill include: • Amending the composition of the Aerospace and Aviation Advisory Committee by adding one member representing a federal entity or the US armed forces; • Removing the requirement for the Business and Community Economic Development Clearinghouse to operate a toll-free telephone service; • Modifying the product origin requirements for a "Made in Texas" designation, specifying that not less than 51 percent of all significant parts and processing must originate in Texas; and • Repealing Chapter 490H of the Government Code, which created the Governor's Broadband Development Council.	**Favorable**
HB 3158 By: Darby | Morales, Eddie	Relating to imposition of application fees for certain permits and permit amendments for the disposal of oil and gas waste.	Energy Resources 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3158 requires a new fee for waste management services to account for increased oil and gas waste. This could close an existing funding gap and lead to better oversight. The oil and gas industry in Texas has greatly increased production in recent decades, leading to more oil and gas waste. The Railroad Commission (RRC) has recently responded by implementing new waste management programs and increasing staff for environmental permitting and compliance. Currently these RRC staff can only collect fees from waste haulers, despite managing many other aspects of the oil and gas waste management process. The revenue generated from these fees, alone, is not enough to meet current staffing needs, and does not reflect the many responsibilities of these staff. HB 3158 requires applicants for permits concerning the storage, treatment, or disposal of oil and gas waste to pay a nonrefundable fee to the RRC. This fee ranges from $500 to $3000, depending on the type of permit sought. HB also removes a current $300 fee that would be redundant under this new fee structure. This increased funding not only provides more resources for an important unit within the RRC, but it could also lead to better oversight of crucial environmental risks.	**Favorable**
HB 3261 By: Johnson	Relating to the eligibility of criminal defendants	Corrections 6 Ayes	HB 3261 expands access to nondisclosure orders for certain nonviolent offenders under the age of 25, aiming to reduce recidivism and improve employment opportunities for rehabilitated individuals.	**Favorable**

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| Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra	for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information for certain offenses committed when younger than 25 years of age.	3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Many Texans with nonviolent criminal records face significant barriers to employment and economic advancement, which can increase the likelihood of reoffending. Research from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce indicates that individuals who maintain employment for one year post-release experience a 36% lower recidivism rate. HB 3261 allows individuals who were younger than 25 at the time of committing a nonviolent offense, and who have completed their sentence and any related obligations, to petition the court for an order of nondisclosure. It excludes those convicted of serious offenses or those who were found to have exhibited or used a deadly weapon during the commission of the offense. The bill sets a two-year waiting period for misdemeanors and a five-year period for felonies before a petition can be filed. This approach supports public safety, strengthens the workforce, and addresses the economic costs associated with lifelong criminal records. By expanding eligibility for nondisclosure to young nonviolent offenders, HB 3261 helps individuals reintegrate into society, access jobs and housing, and move beyond past mistakes.	
HB 3005 By: Gervin-Hawkins | Lujan	Relating to the payment of funds under certain construction contracts.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3005 clarifies that an audit continuing more than 60 days after substantial completion of a project does not constitute a bona fide or good faith dispute for purposes of delaying payment under the Prompt Payment Acts, ensuring timely payment to contractors on public construction projects. Currently, public entities may delay final payment (typically 10% retainage owed at the end of a project) by citing ongoing audits, which can last over a year. Although the Prompt Payment Acts allow owners to withhold payment for “bona fide” or “good faith” disputes, there is no time limit for how long an audit can delay this process, leaving contractors waiting indefinitely for funds they’ve earned. This clarification supports the intent of the Prompt Payment Acts by preventing unnecessary payment delays and limiting misuse of post-project audits. Owners may still withhold payment if there is a genuine dispute.	**Favorable**
HB 3033 By: Craddick | Kitzman	Relating to a grant program for nonprofit organizations supporting employees of the Department of Public Safety;	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans’ Affairs 8 Ayes 2 Nays	HB 3033 establishes a grant program to support nonprofit organizations that assist Department of Public Safety (DPS) employees and the families of those injured or killed in the line of duty. Currently, there is no structured mechanism through which the State can provide funding to nonprofit organizations that support DPS personnel, despite their critical contributions to officer well-being and public safety. These organizations operate independently, often relying solely on private donations, creating challenges in sustaining long-term assistance for affected families and personnel.	**Favorable**

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	authorizing voluntary contributions.	0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3033 directs DPS to administer a grant program that allocates funds to qualifying nonprofits. Eligible uses include support for DPS employees, assistance to families of those harmed in the line of duty, and memorial signs. This bill also establishes a dedicated account in the state treasury for this purpose and allows individuals to make a voluntary contribution through an option on driver's license and ID card applications, both online and in person. By creating a reliable funding channel and formal recognition for these support organizations, HB 3033 strengthens the safety net for DPS employees and their families and provides Texans a simple way to contribute to those who serve and protect their communities.	
HB 3138 By: Lopez, Janie	Relating to the authority of a municipality or county to regulate certain matters related to firearms, air guns, archery equipment, and other weapons and related supplies.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3138 prohibits municipalities and counties from regulating archery equipment, limiting local control and raising concerns about the ability of communities to address public safety needs. While Texas law already restricts local regulation of firearms, air guns, and knives, it does not extend these protections to archery equipment. This gap allows for inconsistent local regulations. HB 3138 prohibits municipalities and counties from regulating: • The transfer, possession, wearing, carrying, ownership, storage, transportation, licensing, or registration of archery equipment; • Commerce in archery equipment; and • The discharge of archery equipment at a sport shooting range. The bill also prohibits localities from requiring liability insurance coverage for damages resulting from negligent or willful acts involving the use of the archery equipment. Additionally, it reduces the size threshold for properties where bow hunting can be restricted from ten acres to seven and adds language clarifying that localities are not allowed to prohibit or regulate firearms. HB 3138 removes the ability of local governments to respond to specific public safety issues, particularly in densely populated or high-risk areas. This one-size-fits-all approach may compromise efforts to balance recreational archery use with community safety. By preventing municipalities and counties from tailoring weapon regulations to the needs and safety concerns of their communities, HB 3138 undermines local autonomy.	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**

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HB 3099 By: Gerdes | Lujan	Relating to adult high school charter program funding.	Public Education 14 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3099 solves a regulatory oversight that created an arbitrary gap in funding for adult education charter schools. Some charter schools offer adult education programs to help adults earn high school equivalency and career certification. They receive funding based on enrollment, but the current tiered enrollment structure does not provide funding proportional to enrollment when students are not enrolled for the full school year. This bill changes the funding structure for students who are not enrolled for a full school year. • For students who attend least 50 percent but less than 75 percent of the school year, schools will receive funding for 75 percent of those days as opposed to the current 50 percent of those days. • For students who attend least 25 percent but less than 50 percent of the school year, schools will receive funding for 50 percent of those days as opposed to the current 25 percent of those days. • For students who attend least 10 percent but less than 25 percent of the school year, schools will receive funding for 25 percent of those days as opposed to the current 10 percent of those days. This change rounds up funding, as opposed to rounding down, thereby providing crucial support to adult learners.	**Favorable**
HB 2849 By: Allen	Relating to policies on the recess period in public schools.	Public Education 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2849 promotes student health by directing the Department of State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee to develop model policies for recess. Only about one-third of children meet the World Health Organization's recommended level of physical activity. With this in mind, recess periods during the school day ought to be as effective as possible in encouraging children to be active. This bill directs the Department of State Health Services School Health Advisory Committee to create policies that encourage constructive, age-appropriate outdoor playtime and include guidelines for equipment and facilities that maximize the effectiveness of outdoor physical activity. The bill also requires that the policies include the number of minutes of unstructured playtime and whether student recess time may be withheld as a form of student discipline. Districts must adopt a recess policy based on model policies and, if necessary, update the policies every five years. Schools have a responsibility to student learning, but also to student health. This bill helps ensure that physical activity is not neglected on Texas campuses.	**Favorable**

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HB 2967 By: Dutton	Relating to vision screenings for students in public or private school, including vision screening information reporting for public school students and the creation of a vision care allotment under the Foundation School Program.	Public Education 13 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2967 strengthens Texas' support of children with vision problems by mandating more robust reporting, creating a vision care allotment, and broadening the scope of vision screening. Texas Tech reports that studies have shown that up to 40% of students diagnosed with a learning disability may actually have a vision issue rather than a learning disability. All students are screened for vision problems in all Texas schools. However, low income families may not have the resources to provide children with vision treatment like glasses or contacts. HB 2967 requires all school districts to record data about students' vision problems on Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) and for the TEA to publish an annual report with this disaggregated vision data along with demographic data. The bill also provides an allotment for this purpose of $75 for each student who is educationally disadvantaged and has a vision problem. This money must be used to provide vision care for students, which may include reimbursing parents for the cost of vision care. The bill adds depth perception issues and colorblindness to the required vision problems that children must be screened for. Supporting vision care promotes education achievement and medical equity for Texas children.	**Favorable**
HB 3488 By: DeAyala	Relating to representation for an indigent person subject to a civil commitment proceeding.	Corrections 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3488 clarifies statutory provisions by designating the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) as the entity responsible for providing legal representation to indigent individuals who are incarcerated. Current state law regarding defense for indigent incarcerated individuals is unclear and potentially conflicting, as different statutes assign this responsibility to different entities. The Code of Criminal Procedure assigns it to TBCJ for offenses committed while in the custody of the Texas Department Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and Chapter 841 of the Texas Health and Safety Code assigns it to State Counsel for Offenders for civil commitment proceedings involving indigent, sexually violent predators. HB 3488 amends the Texas Health and Safety Code to clarify responsibility for representing indigent individuals in civil commitment cases under Chapter 841 of the Texas Health and Safety Code from State Counsel for Offenders to TBCJ. If TBCJ is unable to provide counsel, the court is required to appoint alternate legal representation.	**Favorable**

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			By clarifying the TBCJ is the entity responsible for indigent incarcerated individuals, HB 3488 eliminates statutory ambiguity.	
HB 3477 By: Canales	Relating to the expunction of all records and files related to a finding of criminal contempt by a court.	Criminal Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3477 promotes a more equitable justice system by allowing individuals with decades-old criminal contempt findings to clear their records. Criminal contempt findings, often issued for noncompliance with court procedures rather than criminal conduct, can remain on a person's record indefinitely. Despite the behavior often being minor and long since remedied, there is currently no clear legal mechanism to expunge these records. As a result, individuals may face lasting consequences. HB 3477 establishes a process for expunging all records and files related to a criminal contempt finding if at least 40 years have passed since the date of the finding. This bill clarifies that "arrest" includes being taken into custody for contempt and allows affected individuals to file an ex parte petition for expunction in the same court that issued the original order. Recognizing that many contempt findings stem from procedural issues rather than criminal intent, HB 3477 offers a path toward second chances by ensuring that long-past infractions do not unfairly hinder access to employment, housing, or other opportunities critical to a stable life.	**Favorable**
HB 3466 By: Bell, Keith | DeAyala | Dean | Longoria | Lopez, Janie	Relating to the cancellation of certain consumer transactions.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3466 modernizes consumer protection laws for door-to-door sales. Chapter 601 of the Business & Commerce Code was enacted in 1973 to combat aggressive in-home sales tactics by establishing protections like a three-day cancellation period. These rules have become outdated and redundant for services that are easily cancellable or service contracts already governed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), which require written disclosures, cancellation rights, and refund guarantees. HB 3446 exempts (1) service contracts regulated by TDLR, (2) services that are cancellable by the consumer at any time, and (3) services in which the right to cancel the service is in writing to the consumer from existing Chapter 601 protections. There are concerns that vulnerable Texans, especially seniors and non-English speakers, would be exposed to deceptive or high-pressure sales tactics. However, the exemptions provided by HB 3466 are still subject to TDLR regulations or are cancellable at any time, which are more protective than the current guidelines of Chapter 601. Additionally, the exempted services and contracts would still be subject to the federal 3-day cancellation period. Ultimately, HB 3466 maintains protections for consumers while modernizing business practices.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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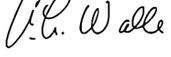
HB 3396 By: Frank	Relating to the authority of certain medical consenters to assume financial responsibility for certain out-of-network medical care provided to children in foster care.	Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3396 allows authorized medical consenters for foster children to assume financial responsibility for medical care not covered by Medicaid. Currently, children in foster care receive healthcare coverage exclusively through Medicaid, which limits their access to certain services not covered under the program, even when foster parents can consent to and pay out-of-pocket for additional medical care. HB 3396 allows medical consenters, defined as individuals with court permission to consent to medical care for a foster child, other than the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), to assume financial responsibility for medical care, including services from out-of-network providers. This includes enrolling a child in a health insurance plan. DFPS would not be liable for the costs incurred by care accepted from a medical consenter unless a court orders otherwise. These provisions cannot be interpreted as limiting a foster child's access to Medicaid benefits or impeding the rights of parents in a temporary managing conservatorship. Medical consenters must notify DFPS within 10 days after medical care is provided that they are assuming financial responsibility for such care, which must be documented in the child's health passport. Additionally, Medicaid managed care organizations and STAR Health programs are prohibited from taking any adverse actions that would discourage access to care under the bill's provisions.	**Favorable**
HB 3469 By: Campos | Guillen | Cain | LaHood | Garcia, Josey	Relating to the exemption of certain activities from regulation as a structural pest control service.	Agriculture & Livestock 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3469 enables municipalities and public improvement districts to manage nuisance bird populations like grackles through non-lethal, low-risk deterrent methods without violating federal protections or expanding regulatory authority. Nuisance birds, particularly grackles, present ongoing challenges in urban areas like San Antonio. These birds often gather in large flocks, creating excessive noise, damaging public and private property, and contaminating the San Antonio River, contributing to the spread of disease. Their presence also deters tourism, a vital source of revenue for many Texas cities. Despite these concerns, local governments face major constraints in controlling such birds due to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which prohibits most forms of lethal or physical harm to migratory birds. This has left cities with few options, as conventional pest control services are often restricted or unavailable for these federally protected species. HB 3469 addresses the increasing challenges posed by nuisance birds in urban areas by creating a narrow exemption under the Texas Structural Pest Control Act for individuals or public improvement districts to use approved, non-lethal deterrents, such as laser lights, noise-emitting devices, and recorded bird sounds, in compliance with local noise ordinances.	**Favorable**



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			By authorizing specific, non-invasive methods, HB 3469 allows municipalities to manage the nuisances these birds cause lawfully without violating federal protections.	
HB 2594 By: Metcalf	Relating to the venue for the prosecution of certain criminal conduct involving theft.	Criminal Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 2594 modernizes Texas's venue laws to ensure prosecutors can effectively pursue cases involving cybercrime and theft of intangible personal property by allowing prosecution in the victim's county, or where the defendant is apprehended or extradited. Traditional venue statutes were designed for physical crimes and do not account for the borderless nature of cybercrime. As a result, Texas prosecutors often face barriers in pursuing cases involving intangible personal property, like funds from financial institutions or virtual assets, because the crime may not clearly occur in a single, physical location. This has made it difficult or even impossible to prosecute offenders, leaving many victims of cybertheft and online fraud without justice. HB 2594 allows prosecution of theft involving intangible property in the county where the victim resides, where the defendant is apprehended, or where the defendant is extradited. It also updates statutes governing organized criminal activity to reflect these changes and bring venue rules for cyber theft into alignment with existing laws related to identity fraud, credit card abuse, and computer crimes. By expanding venue options, HB 2594 removes a key barrier to prosecution and empowers Texas law enforcement and prosecutors to pursue cybercriminals more effectively. It ensures victims of deceptive digital theft are no longer left behind due to outdated procedural rules and strengthens the state's ability to hold offenders accountable in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.	**Favorable**
HB 2776 By: McLaughlin	Relating to the criminal and licensing consequences for the commission of certain offenses by massage establishments, massage schools, massage therapists, and massage	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2776 strengthens public safety and professional accountability in the massage industry by expanding the list of criminal offenses that disqualify individuals from holding licenses as massage therapists, instructors, schools, or establishments, and by mandating automatic license revocation for violations. Currently, Texas law disqualifies applicants with certain serious convictions, but HB 2776 broadens these disqualifications to include additional sex crimes, human trafficking offenses, and related federal or out-of-state offenses. The bill also makes it clear that licenses will be revoked if massage therapists work for or within sexually oriented businesses.This would protect consumers, help combat human trafficking, and ensures that only qualified, law-abiding individuals work in the massage profession — improving industry integrity and safeguarding vulnerable individuals.	**Favorable**

	therapy instructors.			
HB 2564 By: Wilson	Relating to the evaluation of Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant applications.	Homeland Security, Public Safety, & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on Defense & Veterans' Affairs 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3564 transfers responsibility of Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant (DEAAG) application evaluations from Office of the Governor employees to members of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission (TMPC), promoting more informed decisions that support Texas defense communities. The DEAAG program provides critical infrastructure funding to communities that host military installations. Under current law, the director of TMPC must form a review panel composed of full-time employees from the Office of the Governor to score applications. However, these individuals are often unfamiliar with military priorities or installation-specific issues, limiting the effectiveness of their evaluations. This additional administrative step also consumes time and resources without adding value. HB 2564 aims to streamline the review process by removing the requirement that TMPC appoint a separate panel of employees from the Office of the Governor to review grant applications. Instead, the bill authorizes TMPC members themselves to evaluate applications, and removes language requiring the panel to submit scores to the commission. This adjustment also reduces administrative burden and improves the program's ability to serve its mission of retaining and expanding military presence in Texas. By empowering TMPC members who are more familiar with defense priorities to directly assess DEAAG applications, HB 2564 ensures that funding decisions are based on relevant expertise.	**Favorable**
HB 2298 By: Lalani | Metcalf	Relating to a health care facility grant program supporting the use of artificial intelligence technology in scanning medical images for cancer detection.	Public Health 8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2298 establishes the artificial intelligence cancer detection grant program to provide grants for hospitals and medical facilities to implement artificial intelligence (AI) tools for cancer detection in medical imaging. The American Lung Association has reported that lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the nation, and lung cancer screenings are essential for detection and early treatment intervention. The screening and detection of cancerous nodules could be improved through AI tools that assist physicians by rapidly analyzing imaging data to identify abnormalities and flag high-risk nodules for further examination. HB 2298 establishes a pilot program through the Health and Human Services Commission to create an artificial intelligence cancer detection grant program aimed at scanning medical images for cancer detection. Eligible applicants for the grant program include hospitals and medical care facilities that provide medical imaging services. Grant applications must include information demonstrating that the applicant can provide 10% matching funds, plans for	**Favorable**

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			implementing AI technology, plans for physicians to review medical results identified through AI, and the number of patient records the AI technology could impact. The HHSC is authorized to award five grants of up to $250,000 annually. Grant recipients are required to submit a report to the HHSC after one year, detailing the number of images scanned using AI, any changes in cancer detection rates, an assessment of AI's effectiveness, and recommendations for using AI in cancer detection. By establishing an artificial intelligence cancer detection grant program, HB 2298 improves earlier cancer diagnosis while implementing safeguards mandating physician oversight.	
HB 5331 By: Dean	Relating to the enforceability of certain state agency and local government contract language regarding required security incident notifications.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5331 ensures that contract terms cannot block or restrict state agencies or local governments from complying with required cybersecurity incident notification laws. Under Texas law, public entities must notify relevant authorities of cyberattacks, but some contracts — such as cybersecurity insurance agreements or vendor contracts — include language that limits or restricts this reporting. HB 5331 makes any such contract language void and unenforceable, clarifying that no contract can override these legal notification duties. The bill reinforces existing law to ensure public agencies can fully meet cybersecurity reporting obligations without interference.	**Favorable**
HB 5646 By: Willson	Relating to resident tuition rates and fees at public institutions of higher education for certain students in military-related programs.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5646 extends in-state tuition and fees to out-of-state students enrolled in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) or other military-related programs. HB 5646 would allow out-of-state students who are active and in good standing with an ROTC program, a corps of cadets (including at senior military colleges), or a corps of midshipmen to be eligible for in-state tuition rates and fees at Texas public institutions of higher education. However, they would still not be classified as Texas residents to receive state financial aid. HB 5646 supports military-affiliated students, reduces financial barriers, and reinforces Texas's commitment to preparing future military leaders.	**Favorable**
HB 5247 By: Geren	Relating to an alternative capital recovery process for certain utilities.	State Affairs 12 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV	HB 5247 would allow certain electric utilities to opt into a single annual rate adjustment proceeding instead of having a separate proceeding for each type of rate adjustment. This could make utilities more efficient, lead to better borrowing rates, lower customer rates, and faster construction of needed transmission.	**Favorable**

		1 Absent	Rapidly increasing transmission needs in the Permian Basin prompted HB 5066 (88R), which directed ERCOT to develop the Permian Basin Reliability Plan (PBRP). The PBRP will require over $12 billion to implement, and transmission and distribution utilities (TDUs) have been tasked with completing the related construction. In order to finance this construction, TDUs must borrow large sums of money, and every major TDU in Texas has either had their credit rating downgraded or is on downgrade watch as a result. This has led to increased borrowing costs, which are ultimately borne by ratepayers. Currently in the interim between rate cases, TDUs and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) can make small adjustments to a TDU's rates based on six different "trackers," which account for changes in a TDU's non-fuel costs associated with things like customer growth, distribution, and transmission. Each tracker-related adjustment requires its own unique proceeding with the PUC. This negatively impacts TDUs' ability to meet urgent PBRP deadlines, as well as their ability to repay their debts in a timely manner. HB 5247 would allow the three TDUs building transmission in the Permian - Oncor, Texas New Mexico Power (TNMP), and American Electric Power (AEP) - to opt into a single annual proceeding for all non-fuel cost trackers. A TDU that opts into this annual proceeding must notify the PUC of their intent and provide necessary documentation at least 60 days before the proceeding. The PUC has final approval of any rate adjustment, and the rate adjustment calculation will consider the TDU's deferred assets - allowing the TDU to recover costs that are either currently recovered through the multiple annual tracker cases or effectively provided for free prior to the rate adjustments. HB 5247 authorizes the PUC to allow TDUs to include these deferred assets into their rate cases for up to 18 months, unless more time is authorized by the PUC. Furthermore, HB 5247 would allow such a TDU to more quickly update their customer rates to reflect the impact of large load and industrial customer growth, meaning more balanced cost allocation between industrial and residential customers. If a TDU opts into single annual proceedings, they are prohibited from petitioning for another rate adjustment within a year of the previous proceeding. HB 5247 establishes that nothing in its provisions is intended to conflict with existing statute relating to TDU cost recovery, affect the PUC's jurisdiction, limit a municipality's jurisdiction, or prevent the PUC from refunding customers any costs associated with a utility's unnecessary delay in completing the PBRP before December 31, 2030. HB 5247 could lead to better borrowing rates for TDUs, accelerate Permian Basin transmission buildout, reduce PUC workload, and reduce pass-through costs to ratepayers. None of these benefits come at the cost of PUC oversight or require any state funding, making HB 5247 purely an efficiency boost for TDUs attempting to increase grid reliability.	
HB 5323	Relating to the creation of the	State Affairs	HB 5323 creates the Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee, which could help bring cohesion and collaboration to the state's many energy efficiency and demand response programs.	**Favorable**

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By: King	Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee.	14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	The state administers several programs, incentives, and regulations aimed at energy efficiency and energy demand response. These tools are managed by a variety of different agencies that often have no mandate to collaborate on these efforts. As Texas faces growing energy demands, cohesion of state efforts could improve the state's ability to address energy needs. HB 5323 creates the Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee to make recommendations for improved interagency collaboration on energy waste reduction. The committee will have seven members, with one from each state agency overseeing an energy waste reduction program. The committee will collect input from each agency and provide recommendations concerning how each agency could better implement programs for energy reduction and demand response. Due to the sensitive nature of issues related to grid security, the committee will not be subject to open meetings or public information law, except as provided for communication with the Legislature. The committee will provide the Legislature with a biennial report including policy recommendations each even-numbered year. Texas needs every megawatt of energy possible to meet current ERCOT projections for future energy demands, and the most efficient way to meet that need is to reduce energy waste. The committee created by HB 5323 could lead to better interagency collaboration and stewardship of state resources, potentially leading to better grid reliability and environmental sustainability.	
HB 2015 By: Zweiner	Relating to the consideration of water conservation by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality when determining whether to grant or deny a petition for the creation of certain municipal utility districts.	Land & Resource Management 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2015 requires municipal utility districts (MUDs) in the Hill Country to submit water conservation plans with their applications for creation. This could lead to better preparation for population growth and its impact on water scarcity. Current statute allows certain cities to enforce water conservation ordinances, but this authority is not granted to counties. County areas outside city limits are seeing rapid population growth statewide, placing great strain on already scarce water resources. Much of this growth in counties comes through the creation of MUDs, which offer lower taxes in exchange for fewer services. This is especially true in the Hill Country, where population in unincorporated areas has more than doubled since 1990. Under HB 2015, if someone requests to create a MUD in the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management Area, they must include a water conservation plan in their petition to create the MUD. The plan must include specific targets, goals, and best practices for water management, and must also designate a water conservation coordinator for the MUD. HB 2015 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to consider the proposed MUD's impact on water conservation when granting or refusing the MUD application.	**Favorable**

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			HB 2015 improves long-term planning for water conservation in the Hill Country and ensures the area can sustain its tremendous growth.	
HB 4384 By: Darby	Relating to the recovery of certain costs associated with a gas utility's plant, facilities, or equipment placed in service.	Energy Resources 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4384 allows gas utilities to recover costs associated with services they have already provided, which could lead to better investment in service improvements, reduced regulatory lag, and increased reliability and safety in gas distribution. While there are concerns that this cost recovery mechanism could lead to unnecessarily increased rates for customers, the Railroad Commission (RRC) still has final say over all rates and overcharges would be refunded. Due to rapid population growth and increased industrial demand, gas utilities must make large investments in infrastructure to meet this need. Due to delays in yearly rate cases, utilities then have to wait up to 20 months before they can begin to recover the costs of those investments through increased rates. This means a utility could spend a great deal of money to add needed infrastructure like pipeline expansion or repair, then have to wait over a year before these costs can be recovered, all while the new pipeline is serving customers. This regulatory lag could make it more challenging for utilities to finance ongoing projects and disincentivize improvements, leading to delays in quality and safety increases for customers. Under current statute, a gas utility’s rates can only be calculated considering future costs and not retroactive ones. HB 4384 would allow gas utilities to defer certain costs for future recovery, meaning they can factor previous improvements into future rates. The only costs HB 4384 permits a utility to recover in this way are costs related to infrastructure improvements and services that are already being provided but aren’t currently reflected in the utility’s base rate. HB 4384 requires these deferred assets to be included by the Railroad Commission (RRC)’s rate adjustment calculations. The bill establishes that any rate increases resulting from this process that are later determined to be overcharges, will be refunded to the customer with interest. HB 4384 requires the RRC to implement the bill's provisions within 180 days of the bill's effective date. HB 4384 would allow gas utilities to collect on infrastructure investments that are already in the ground and providing a service. This could lead to increased ability to invest in more improvements with the recovered costs, leading to better borrowing rates and lower rates for customers. Although granting potentially guaranteed cost recovery for utilities may incentivize over-investment and therefore higher rates for customers, HB 4384 requires all deferred assets to be currently serving the needs of customers and overcharges can be refunded with interest. These protections should sufficiently discourage any potential abuse by the gas utilities, and the RRC maintains control over any rate increase.	**Favorable with Concerns**

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HB 3896 By: Raymond	Relating to the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation.	State Affairs 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3896 allows certain rural water supply or sewer service corporations (WSCs) to generate and sell excess electricity to the ERCOT market. This could bring costs down for customers and provide added power to the grid. Some rural areas lack sufficient electricity to meet the needs of the WSCs in their area. This has led many rural WSCs to build their own onsite energy generation. Under current statute, WSCs are authorized to generate electricity for their own needs, but not to sell excess electricity to the ERCOT market. Under HB 3896, if a WSC operates solely in a county with a population less than 350,000 and only generates electricity to power their operations, they may sell excess power to the ERCOT market. The WSC must register as a power generation company under the Public Utility Regulatory Act and account for the revenue in compliance with the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The revenue from these sales may only be used to pay for the WSCs costs of producing and selling electricity, providing water and sewer services, or providing flood control and drainage systems. HB 3896 creates another pathway for rural WSCs to generate revenue, which could reduce rates for customers and add greater grid reliability in rural areas.	**Favorable**
HB 4014 By: Bucy | Oliverson	Relating to a study on the use of psychedelic therapies in the treatment of certain conditions.	Public Health 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4014 creates a study on psychedelic therapies for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related conditions, to review guidelines and access measures, to develop regulatory frameworks and legislative recommendations to support their safe and effective use after FDA approval. Currently, there are psychedelic compounds that have received FDA breakthrough therapy designations and are approaching approval for medical use. However, regulatory standards are not updated to integrate oversight and patient considerations for psychedelic therapies. HB 4014 establishes a study on psychedelic therapies for PTSD and other co-occurring conditions to be conducted by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). The study must review clinical trials on the efficacy of using psychedelic therapies, evaluate treatment guidelines, and recommend guidelines and best practices for providers, as well as evaluate patient access and recommend legislative actions to ensure access to psychedelic therapies after FDA approval is granted. Funds from any source can be used to fund the study. The HHSC must submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and chairs of each standing committee with jurisdiction over HHSC by December 1, 2026.	**Favorable**

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			HB 4014 ensures that appropriate regulatory frameworks and patient access measures are developed to support the safe and effective use of psychedelic therapies in treating PTSD and related conditions.	
HB 3627 By: Tepper | Leo Wilson	Relating to allowing the chair of the State Board of Education to employ personnel to assist in performing the board's duties.	Public Education 13 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3627 grants the chair of the State Board of Education (SBOE) the ability to hire employees to assist in board duties. Currently, members of the SBOE are assisted by the TEA in a limited capacity. This bill allows the chair of the SBOE to hire individuals to assist the board in its duties. These employees would be eligible for pay and state benefits and would be directly accountable to the chair of SBOE. The total cost for each biennium would be nearly $1.5 million for 5 FTEs. The legislature has gradually increased SBOE responsibilities and the board now needs staff to assist in the completion of their duties.	**Will of the House**
HB 3594 By: Lujan | LaHood | Gervin-Hawkins	Relating to the administration of a retirement health care plan for firefighters and police officers in certain municipalities.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3594 enhances benefits for firefighters and police retirees under the Fire and Police Retiree Health Care Fund, San Antonio by amending inefficient statute. In 1975, the Texas Legislature created the Fire and Police Retiree Health Care Fund, San Antonio to benefit retired firefighters and police officers in that region. The statutory structure of that fund is outdated and unwieldy, making it needlessly difficult for retirees to access benefits, especially in cases of spousal benefits and post-retirement contributions. This bill amends language for the fund in myriad ways, including: • Allowing lump-sum payments in addition to monthly contribution as well as allowing retirees to purchase credits for time taken as medical leave; • Granting the board authority to allow for surviving spouses to retain benefits after remarriage; • Allowing increases in deductibles and out-of-pocket payments beyond those previously specified, as well as allowing premiums for dependent child coverage; and • Cleaning up language, HB 3594 enhances a specific pension fund with language endorsed by stakeholders in testimony.	**Favorable**
HB 2524 By: Cook |	Relating to the recovery of fees, court costs, and	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence,	HB 2524 clarifies a court's authority to award court costs, attorney's fees, and related expenses in family law cases.	**Favorable**

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Hayes | Landgraf | Spiller | Curry	expenses in family law proceedings.	S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The Family Code statute contains inconsistencies on the award of court costs, attorney's fees, and expenses in family law cases. In some parts of the statute, there is only a mention of attorney's fees and court costs; in others, there is no mention of awarding any fees. Additionally, attorney's fees must be reasonable and necessary. However, the current statute only uses "reasonable without the modifying phrase "and necessary". These inconsistencies create confusion for courts about whether or when they have the authority to award fees to the prevailing party. HB 2524 updates the current statute to explicitly state that courts can require a losing party to pay the winning party's court costs, reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, and expenses. This change would impact fees awarded in all family law cases, such as divorce, custody cases, and family violence cases. HB 2524 provides family courts necessary clarity when awarding court costs and associated fees to parties in a suit.	
HB 510 By: Lopez, Ray | Campos	Relating to the issuance of a certified birth record to a homeless individual.	Public Health 8 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 510 allows a certified copy of a birth certificate to be provided to an individual who is unhoused without a fee. In 2024, the Texas Homeless Network reported that there were over 61,000 people who were unhoused in Texas. Currently, individuals experiencing homelessness face major barriers to obtaining a birth certificate, including the inability to pay required fees, which impact the pursuit of housing, employment, or other essential services. HB 510 requires the state registrar, a local registrar, or a county clerk to provide a certified copy of a birth certificate to an individual experiencing homelessness, without a fee. The Health and Human Services Commission can adopt rules to verify a person's status as unhoused and to document the issuance of a certificate under the conditions outlined in the bill's provisions. The Department of State Health Services is prohibited from requiring an unhoused individual to provide a physical address to satisfy any of the bill's provisions. HB 510 removes a critical barrier to essential identification by ensuring that individuals experiencing homelessness can obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate at no cost, helping them access housing, employment, healthcare, and other vital services.	**Favorable**
HB 561 By: Lopez, Ray	Relating to the eligibility of certain local governmental entities affected by the realignment of	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs, S/C on	HB 561 allows municipally owned utility companies to apply directly for Defense and Economic Adjustment Assistance Grants (DEAAG), removing unnecessary administrative hurdles and accelerating support for infrastructure in defense communities.	**Favorable**

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	defense worker jobs or facilities to receive grants.	Defense & Veterans' Affairs 7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Military bases are crucial to Texas's economy and security, with surrounding communities relying on reliable services like water and wastewater. While the DEAAG program offers substantial grants to support infrastructure in areas impacted by Department of Defense realignments, current law limits eligibility to local governments and certain institutions. Public utilities must depend on city governments to apply on their behalf, complicating and slowing down the process. HB 561 aims to resolve this inefficiency by allowing municipally owned utilities operating as retail public utilities in defense communities to apply directly for DEAAG funding. This applies only to water and sewer utilities. By cutting red tape, HB 561 allows utilities to respond more swiftly and effectively to infrastructure needs that support military operations. Although some have expressed concern that this bill could allow utilities to seek DEAAG funding without city coordination, a proposed amendment would address this by requiring any utility application to include a resolution of support from the city council.	
HB 5111 By: Darby	Relating to the regulation of campaign treasurer appointments and related matters and the content of and posting of information contained in a campaign treasurer appointment; providing a civil penalty.	State Affairs 12 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5111 seeks to address potential conflicts of interest related to campaign treasurers. However, the bill offers little justification for singling out this largely ceremonial role, and its restrictions could discourage participation in the campaign process. HB 5111 introduces new eligibility requirements for the appointment of campaign treasurers. Under the bill, a campaign treasurer must be at least 18 years old and a legal resident of Texas. The bill disqualifies individuals from serving as a campaign treasurer if they: - Are currently serving as the campaign treasurer for another candidate; - Have been convicted of election-related offenses; - Are employed by a political action committee (PAC); - Are registered lobbyists; or - Have been found guilty by the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) of certain ethics violations within the past five years. If the TEC receives notice that a campaign treasurer violates these criteria, the TEC will conduct an investigation. If the investigation proves the campaign treasurer is in violation, the TEC will notify the applicable parties and the candidate or PAC must appoint a new campaign treasurer within 14 business days. A candidate or PAC that violates HB 5111 is liable for a civil penalty, capped at three times the amount of contributions accepted while the candidate or PAC had an ineligible campaign treasurer.	**<u>Will of the House</u>**

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			Currently, only the campaign treasurer's name, address, phone number, and the name of the appointing individual are required. HB 5111 expands these requirements to include the treasurer's date of birth, email address, driver's license number, state identification number or Social Security number, as well as an affidavit signed by the appointing individual affirming the treasurer's eligibility. HB 5111 requires the TEC to implement these practices no later than January 1, 2026. There is no legitimate or compelling reason to require disclosure of a treasurer's driver's license or Social Security number. For many state and local campaigns, the treasurer role is largely pro forma, with no specific statutory responsibilities. In the case of PACs, the treasurer's involvement may vary—ranging from a similarly symbolic role to being more directly engaged with the organization. This approach is unnecessarily stringent and poorly considered.	
HB 5446 By: Troxclair	Relating to the text of ballot propositions that increase taxes.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5446 carelessly extends a rigid, one-size-fits-all policy for local bond propositions under the guise of transparency. In reality, it promotes reduced funding for community and local projects. The 86th Legislature passed HB 3 which required the phrase "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" to be added to all school district bond election ballots. This requirement resulted in a decrease in the number of bond propositions that passed for school districts. HB 5446 would expand this requirement for ballot propositions on the issuance of debt obligations by a municipality, county, or special taxing district. Local taxing entities' voting on a bond does not automatically mean a property tax increase. If the entity's tax base has grown, rates can remain the same. The taxing entity may be able to absorb the cost or cut spending in other areas. Additionally, there are some concerns that the statement "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE" may be interpreted as electioneering, which local governments are prohibited from doing. Even in circumstances where a bond increases an individual's taxes, simply stating "THIS IS A TAX INCREASE" is not enough information to make a truly informed decision on the costs and benefits of the bonds. It says nothing about the degree to which taxes increase. Second, there are other reasons that property taxes could increase that have nothing to do with the bonds. It's unfair to equate one with the other automatically without important context. While proponents of HB 5446 say it'll increase transparency, it does not do so across the board, excluding bond elections that reduce taxes. For example, a local entity could refinance an existing bond that results in a lower interest rate, actually decreasing taxes.	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**

			While these situations may be more rare, they highlight that a one-size-fits all policy doesn't work in most cases, but especially in cases involving diverse projects, budgets, and local taxing entities. Transparency is important, but how HB 5446 attempts to achieve this falls short.	
HB 1181 By: Raymond	Relating to the assignment of certain retired and former justices and judges	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 1181 seeks to unburden Texas appellate courts by expanding eligibility for visiting judges, thereby addressing judicial backlogs and improving access to timely justice. COVID-19 lockdown mandates, staff shortages, and restrictions on court proceedings significantly impacted the number of cases that courts could hear and close. This increased court backlog and delayed justice for people awaiting trial, challenges the court system still faces today. Visiting judges (retired & former judges) play a vital role in helping courts manage such congestion by stepping in during vacancies or when existing dockets are overwhelmed. However, under current law, only former judges with a lengthy appellate court service history qualify to serve as visiting judges. This limits the availability of qualified help. HB 1181 reduces the minimum amount of time a former or retired justice or judge of an appellate court must have served to qualify for appointment as a visiting judge from 8 years to 6 years. It requires the visiting judge to take an oath not to hear cases involving current and past clients, nor act as an attorney in a related court in the county and judicial region for at least 2 years. HB 1181 broadens eligibility for visiting judges to relieve overburdened appellate courts and protect the constitutional right to a speedy trial, while still upholding judicial integrity.	**Favorable**
HB 3963 By: Capriglione | Bhojani | Hull	Relating to an early childhood integrated data system.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3963 creates an early childhood integrated data system to improve coordination, oversight, and outcomes across Texas agencies serving young children and families. Data on early childhood services is currently scattered across multiple agencies, limiting the state's ability to track outcomes and identify gaps. HB 3963 directs the Texas Education Agency (TEA), as lead agency, to develop and maintain a system that integrates early childhood data from cooperating entities, including the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and the Children's Learning Institute At The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. The bill also establishes an early childhood interagency work group consisting of the TEA, HHSC, TWC, the Department of Family and Protective Services, and Department of State Health Services to promote collaboration and initiate the	**Favorable**

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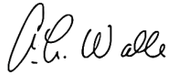
			development of the data system. The system will use aggregated, non-identifying data to inform state-level policy, guide program improvements, and support research, while complying with privacy and cybersecurity laws. Annual reports to the legislature and governor will track progress, and the system is required to be operational by January 2027. This bill aims to improve coordination, accountability, and data-driven decision-making in Texas's early childhood programs to better support young children and families.	
HB 2785 By: Garcia, Linda	Relating to the display of certain information on the secretary of state's Internet website prior to the completion of an online voter registration application.	Elections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2785 aims to reduce confusion about the voter registration process by requiring applicants to acknowledge online that completing an application on the Secretary of State's website does not finalize their registration. Currently, state law requires voters to print, sign, and submit a paper voter registration application to their county voter registrar. Some users mistakenly believe that completing the online form is sufficient, leading to incomplete registrations. HB 2785 requires the Secretary of State's website to display a message after the voter registration application is filled out informing users that registration is not complete until the application is submitted to a voter registrar. Users must acknowledge this message before proceeding. This clarification helps prevent missed registrations and supports voter participation by ensuring applicants understand the full process.	**Favorable**
HB 1661 By: Vasut	Relating to election supplies and the conduct of elections; creating criminal offenses; increasing criminal penalties.	Elections 6 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1661 increases criminal penalties and creates new offenses related to ballot supply and election procedures, placing heavy legal burdens on local election officials that may lead to unintended consequences. In the aftermath of the 2022 general election, the Texas Secretary of State's 2021–2022 Comprehensive Election Audit Report found that Harris County failed to supply an adequate amount of ballot paper at polling locations. HB 1661 attempts to address this issue by placing additional requirements and penalties on election officials. However, the situation involved numerous contributing factors, including equipment malfunctions, insufficient training, and a lack of administrative oversight. HB 1661 mandates that election officials provide at least 125% of the number of ballots used in the most recent corresponding election and requires prompt replenishment of ballots upon request. It also creates and increases criminal offenses for failing to meet these requirements, with penalties ranging from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony. Additionally, it increases penalties for revealing election information before polls close.	**Unfavorable**



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			While HB 1661 aims to improve preparedness, it does so by imposing strict legal consequences that may deter individuals from serving in election roles, particularly in counties already struggling with recruitment. The formula for ballot allocation may also lead to waste or increased costs in low-turnout areas. Rather than supporting election administrators with additional resources or flexibility, HB 1661 emphasizes punitive measures that could exacerbate staffing challenges and fuel distrust in election oversight.	
HB 2460 By: Leach	Relating to the attorney general's defense of a district or county attorney against certain lawsuits in federal court.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 1 PNV 0 Absent	HB 2460 closes an existing statutory gap by allowing the AG to defend district and county attorneys in federal court if they are sued for enforcing state law. This could give greater access to legal defense for those working on behalf of the state to enforce laws passed by the Legislature. As a result of performing their duties, county and district attorneys can be named as defendants in federal court. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has recently denied requests to represent these attorneys and has claimed it is not allowed to represent them under current statute. Current law allows the Attorney General (AG) to defend a district attorney, but it does not explicitly allow the AG to defend a district attorney being sued for the enforcement of state statute. It does not allow the AG to defend a county attorney in any case. HB 2460 authorizes the AG to defend a district or county attorney in federal court if (1) the district or county attorney is a defendant because of their position, (2) the case relates to the enforcement of a state statute, and (3) the district or county attorney requests the Attorney General's assistance in the defense. By allowing the AG to represent county and district attorneys in federal court cases, county and district attorneys could have greater confidence to enforce state statute without fear that they will be sued in federal court and left with limited options for defense.	**Favorable**

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