Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report — Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Postponed Business until 9:55 AM			
HB 1762 / SB 552 By: Leach/Huffman	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 8:00 AM			
HB 3531 By: Morgan	Relating to the voluntary disclosure by an applicant for registration of a motor vehicle of the applicant's military status.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 2.**	**Favorable**
HB 1768 By: Walle | Geren	Relating to the construction of certain concrete plants under a standard permit.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 5.**	**Favorable**

Postponed Business until 10:00 AM			
HB 333 By: González, Mary	Relating to the authority of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to commission peace officers.	Previously considered in Local & Consent Calendars Committee.	**Favorable**
HB 2914 By: Alders	Relating to the designation of a portion of U.S. Highway 69 in Smith County as the Veterans Memorial Highway.	Previously considered in Local & Consent Calendars Committee.	**Favorable**
HB 2613 By: Harris Davila	Relating to liability of a water park entity for injuries arising from certain activities.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 1.**	**Favorable**
HB 3717 By: Harris | Leach | Phelan | Orr | VanDeaver	Relating to the establishment of a grant program to fund the United States Food and Drug Administration's drug development trials with ibogaine for the purpose of securing the administration's approval as a medication for treatment of opioid use disorder, co-occurring substance use disorder, and any other neurological or mental health conditions for which ibogaine demonstrates efficacy.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 2.**	**Favorable**

J.E. Walle

OK for Distribution

HB 3704 By: Anchía | Moody | Longoria | Schofield	Relating to notaries public; creating a criminal offense; authorizing a fee.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 2.**	**Favorable**
HB 2697 By: Anchía | Cook | Little	Relating to certain procedures in connection with a bond forfeiture.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 5.**	**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.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 6.**	**Favorable**

Postponed Business until 2:00 PM

HB 3099 By: Gerdes | Lujan	Relating to adult high school charter program funding.	Full analysis on LSG's Floor Report for **May 6.**	**Favorable**

General State Calendar

These bills were **originally scheduled for yesterday's calendar**. A full analysis is available in LSG's Floor Report for **May 6**.

HB 3488 By: DeAyala	Relating to representation for an indigent person subject to a civil commitment proceeding.	**Favorable**
HB 3477 By: Canales	Relating to the expunction of all records and files related to a finding of criminal contempt by a court.	**Favorable**
HB 3466 By: Bell, Keith | DeAyala | Dean | Longoria | Lopez, Janie	Relating to the cancellation of certain consumer transactions.	**Favorable with Concerns**
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.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

HB 3469 By: Campos | Guillen | Cain | LaHood | Garcia, Josey	Relating to the exemption of certain activities from regulation as a structural pest control service.	**Favorable**
HB 2594 By: Metcalf	Relating to the venue for the prosecution of certain criminal conduct involving theft.	**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 therapy instructors.	**Favorable**
HB 2564 By: Wilson	Relating to the evaluation of Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant applications.	**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.	**Favorable**
HB 5331 By: Dean	Relating to the enforceability of certain state agency and local government contract language regarding required security incident notifications.	**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.	**Favorable**
HB 5247 By: Geren	Relating to an alternative capital recovery process for certain utilities.	**Favorable**
HB 5323 By: King	Relating to the creation of the Texas Energy Waste Advisory Committee.	**Favorable**
HB 4384 By: Darby	Relating to the recovery of certain costs associated with a gas utility's plant, facilities, or equipment placed in service.	**Favorable with Concerns**
HB 3896 By: Raymond	Relating to the generation of electric power by a water supply or sewer service corporation.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

HB 4014 By: Bucy | Oliverson	Relating to a study on the use of psychedelic therapies in the treatment of certain conditions.	**Favorable**
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.	**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.	**Favorable**
HB 2524 By: Cook | Hayes | Landgraf | Spiller | Curry	Relating to the recovery of fees, court costs, and expenses in family law proceedings.	**Favorable**
HB 510 By: Lopez, Ray | Campos	Relating to the issuance of a certified birth record to a homeless individual.	**Favorable**
HB 561 By: Lopez, Ray	Relating to the eligibility of certain local governmental entities affected by the realignment of defense worker jobs or facilities to receive grants.	**Favorable**
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.	**Will of the House**
HB 5446 By: Troxclair	Relating to the text of ballot propositions that increase taxes.	**Unfavorable**
HB 1181 By: Raymond	Relating to the assignment of certain retired and former justices and judges	**Favorable**
HB 3963 By: Capriglione | Bhojani | Hull	Relating to an early childhood integrated data system.	**Favorable**
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.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

HB 1661 By: Vasut	Relating to election supplies and the conduct of elections; creating criminal offenses; increasing criminal penalties.	**Unfavorable**
HB 2460 By: Leach	Relating to the attorney general's defense of a district or county attorney against certain lawsuits in federal court.	**Favorable**

General State Calendar (continued)

HB 200 By: Buckley | Cook | Jones, Venton | Jones, Jolanda | Little	Relating to jury instructions regarding parole eligibility and the release on parole of certain inmates convicted of an offense committed when younger than 18 years of age; changing parole eligibility.	Criminal Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 200 promotes fairness in the justice system by requiring parole panels to consider the growth and maturity of individuals who committed certain offenses before turning 18, recognizing that young people are fundamentally different from adults in their capacity to change. Juvenile offenders in Texas often face extreme sentences with parole eligibility delayed until late adulthood, even though research shows that adolescents have a reduced ability to understand consequences and a greater potential for rehabilitation. Advocates argue that treating juveniles the same as adults in sentencing overlooks these developmental differences and unfairly limits opportunities for reintegration into society. HB 200 directs parole panels to weigh factors such as diminished culpability, hallmark traits of youth, and increased capacity for change when reviewing parole for those who were under 18 at the time of their offense–excluding certain severe cases like mass shootings or murders of peace officers. It also charges judges with the task of instructing juries about parole eligibility in the penalty phase of a felony trial, emphasizing that parole is not guaranteed and its application depends on decisions by parole authorities. The bill mandates that the Board of Pardons and Paroles establish a policy incorporating these factors, allows supporting statements from those familiar with the individual's background or progress, and permits consideration of a qualified adolescent mental health evaluation. By modernizing parole eligibility and ensuring meaningful opportunities for release, HB 200 addresses the injustice of disproportionately long sentences for youth. It strikes a balance between accountability and rehabilitation, aligning state law with the current understanding of adolescent development.	**Favorable**
HB 541 By: Shaheen	Relating to the provision of direct patient care by physicians and	Public Health 10 Ayes 1 Nays	HB 541 allows direct pay arrangements with all healthcare practitioners, creating a pathway to lower healthcare expenses.	**Favorable**

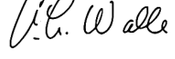
OK for Distribution

	health care practitioners.	0 PNV 2 Absent	Currently, individuals can use direct primary care models instead of traditional insurance, which allows them to pay a predetermined fee directly to their physician without insurance involvement for care. This model can reduce healthcare costs in Texas, however it currently doesn't apply to other providers like nurses, dentists, or psychologists. HB 541 expands the scope of provisions relating to direct primary care to apply more broadly to any healthcare practitioner. This expansion offers patients flexibility in choosing providers and promotes cost-effective, preventive care across a wider range of health services.	
HB 1803 By: Harless	Relating to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact; authorizing fees.	Public Health 10 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1803 seeks to alleviate Texas' dental workforce shortage by joining the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, which expands access to care through streamlined licensing and coordinated oversight. Data from the Health Resources and Services Administration indicates that Texas has 264 areas with a shortage of dental professionals. A 2019 Department of State Health Services (DSHS) report projected that demand for dental hygienists will outpace supply through 2030, resulting in a 28.4% increase in the shortage. Joining an interstate compact for licensed dental professionals would be a strategic solution to address this growing shortage by attracting qualified practitioners from other states, ensuring that Texans have timely access to essential oral health care. HB 1803 establishes the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact in Texas, enabling licensed professionals from participating states to practice in other states where they aren't licensed. HB 1803 details eligibility for state participation, practitioner operation under the compact, compact privileges, and fee exemptions for active military members. Additionally, it creates the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact Commission, which is composed of all participating states, to administer and enforce provisions. The commission has rulemaking authority and maintains a coordinated database for licensees and applicants. Participating states can take adverse actions against licensees and conduct joint investigations. The compact includes oversight, dispute resolution, enforcement, and terminating participation for defaulting states. Finally, HB 1803 designates the State Board of Dental Examiners (SBDE) as the compact administrator, authorizing SBDE to establish rules for implementation. HB 1803 establishes an interstate dental and dental hygienist compact to allow qualified dental professionals to care for patients in participating states with a single license.	**Favorable**
HB 30 By:	Relating to the effect of a disaster and associated costs	Ways & Means 8 Ayes	HB 30 would severely limit the ability of cities and counties, especially in coastal areas, to provide the full range of services needed to keep residents safe and supported after a major natural disaster, by eliminating key exemptions and restricting tax rate calculations to only one of many recovery-related costs.	**Unfavorable**

OK for Distribution

Troxclair | Meyer | Oliverson | Noble | Tepper	to remove debris or wreckage on the calculation of certain tax rates and the procedure for adoption of a tax rate by a taxing unit.	5 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Currently, cities and counties can only increase property taxes by 3.5% without an election. However, there is a special exemption for cities and counties during a disaster. Cities and counties located in a declared disaster area can adopt a tax rate increase of up to 8% without holding an election for one year following a disaster, allowing time for recovery. This rate can be used until either the appraisal roll exceeds its pre-disaster value or three years have passed, whichever comes first. HB 30 would completely repeal the provision, virtually negating the original language's intent. It also modifies a formula for calculating the voter-approval tax rate in disaster-affected areas by limiting eligible costs to debris removal. These changes would substantially limit the flexibility of local governments to respond to their citizens' needs immediately following a disaster or to recover broader disaster-related expenses through their tax rates. The bill's author argues that cities and counties have abused this provision and claims that additional guardrails are needed to prevent excessive tax rates after natural disasters. Some supporters of the bill have even labeled the exemption a 'tax loophole.' However, there is no evidence to support the notion that widespread abuse is occurring. Even if isolated cases existed, the Legislature could work to refine the current exemption rather than eliminate it entirely. The existing provision serves as a vital safety net for many local governments, especially as the state faces increasingly severe natural disasters. Additionally, the federal reimbursement rate from FEMA has declined over time, and the Trump Administration emphasized that states and local governments — not FEMA — should take on a greater share of budgeting for disaster response and recovery. In this context, the exemption — used infrequently and only under specific conditions — is more needed than ever and remains a critical tool to help local communities recover from catastrophic events.	
HB 175 By: González, Mary | Talarico | Simmons	Relating to establishing optional certifications for child-care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program and establishing a grant program for those providers.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 8 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 175 supports inclusive childcare by establishing optional certifications for providers in the Texas Rising Star Program and creating a grant program to incentivize participation and improve access for children with disabilities. Children with disabilities benefit significantly from being in inclusive environments, particularly in developing skills like speech and language, according to the Administration for Children and Families. Despite this, many families face challenges in securing childcare placements for their children with disabilities due to limited provider availability and funding constraints. While the Texas Rising Star Program offers higher reimbursement rates for quality improvement, providers may still be deterred by the added complexity of meeting criteria related to children with disabilities and multilingual learners.	**Favorable**

			HB 175 requires the Texas Workforce Commission to create optional certifications for Rising Star childcare providers, including one for those that offer inclusive care for children with disabilities. Providers who obtain such certifications are eligible to receive annual grants to support their services. Grant amounts will be based on enrollment capacity and the age groups served. By recognizing and rewarding inclusive childcare, HB 175 strengthens early childhood education outcomes and expands access for families of children with disabilities across Texas.	
HB 249 By: Bernal | Martinez Fischer | Gervin-Hawkins | Dorazio | Lujan	Relating to installment payments of ad valorem taxes imposed on residence homesteads in certain counties.	Ways & Means 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 249 provides greater flexibility for Bexar County residents to pay property taxes on their homes. The bill would allow any Bexar County resident who qualifies for a residence homestead exemption to make quarterly installment payments. Currently, this option is limited to adults who are disabled, individuals who are 65 or older, and disabled veterans who qualify for the homestead exemption.	**Favorable**
HB 721 By: Leo Wilson	Relating to the applicability of certain laws requiring health care cost disclosures by health benefit plan issuers and administrators.	Insurance 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 721 preserves the viability of low-cost, community-based healthcare programs by exempting local initiatives like the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Multi-Share Plan from standard healthcare cost disclosure requirements that are unsuited to their limited scope and structure. The UTMB Multi-Share Plan provides basic health coverage to reduce unnecessary local emergency department visits in Galveston. It offers limited care visits and is not a health insurance plan for employees of small employers. Despite not being an insurance plan and already offering co-payment information online for its limited services for consumers, the UTMB Health Multi-Share Plan must follow cost transparency requirements for all healthcare insurance plans as mandated in statute. The plan operates with three dedicated employees, and expecting it to comply with the same regulations as standard health insurers jeopardizes its viability. HB 721 exempts local healthcare programs contracting with providers to offer services directly to small employers' employees from statutory healthcare cost disclosure requirements. This exemption is beneficial because it preserves the viability of low-cost, community-based healthcare programs like the UTMB Multi-Share Plan.	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

HB 851 By: Schofield	Relating to the determination and reporting of the number of residence homesteads of certain property owners for which the owner is receiving certain ad valorem tax benefits.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 851 aims to gather better data on property tax benefits used by homeowners who are over 65, have qualifying disabilities, or are disabled veterans, to support the development of policies that serve those groups. HB 851 requires the Comptroller to annually report data on residence homesteads receiving specific property tax benefits. For each school district within an appraisal district, the chief appraiser must report the following information to the Comptroller: • The number of residence homesteads owned by elderly or disabled individuals that are subject to a property tax freeze for the current tax year; • The number of residence homesteads owned by elderly individuals, disabled individuals, or disabled veterans for which taxes were deferred, a delinquent tax collection lawsuit was abated, or a tax lien foreclosure sale was abated during any part of the previous tax year; • The number of appreciating residence homesteads where the property owner deferred or abated a suit to collect a delinquent tax during the previous tax year. The Comptroller is then required to compile and report this information to the Legislature. Appraisal districts have this data readily available, and there is a low burden associated with the bill's reporting requirements. HB 851 could support the development of more thoughtful, targeted tax relief policies for fixed-income individuals who need assistance the most.	**Favorable**
HB 897 By: Howard	Relating to authorizing the sale or lease by the State of Texas of certain real property located in Austin, Texas.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 897 authorizes the sale or lease of three specific state-owned properties in Austin that are no longer needed by the state agencies that currently manage them. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) have identified three state-owned vacant properties in Austin that are either damaged beyond reasonable repair costs or are no longer needed by the state. The state agencies currently lack the authority to sell or lease these properties. HB 897 requires GLO to attempt to sell or lease the Texas State Library and Archives Commission property mentioned above. Proceeds from the transaction must be deposited in a new dedicated account in the General Revenue fund to be known as the Bicentennial Texas State Library and Archives Commission Fund. This Fund will be used for certain capital improvements to state-owned libraries and to make original literary source materials more accessible to the public. The sale or lease of these properties is contingent on the construction of a state records facility to replace the sold or leased properties.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

			HB 897 authorizes HHSC to lease its associated property. Proceeds from a lease must be deposited in the Texas Capital Trust Fund for the benefit of HHSC. The terms of the lease must provide for HHSC approval of the property's use and grant HHSC easements to HHSC properties adjacent to the leased property. These property transactions are in the best interest of the applicable state agencies and could provide more funding for important programs.	
HB 1128 By: Isaac | Hefner | Patterson	Relating to the applicability to election judges of a prohibition on the carrying of a concealed handgun at a polling place.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 1128 allows licensed election judges and early voting clerks serving in that capacity to carry concealed handguns while performing their official duties at polling locations, introducing unnecessary risks and potentially suppressing voter turnout. Currently, Texas law prohibits carrying firearms at polling locations, regardless of licensure status. However, concerns have arisen among election officials who feel vulnerable while overseeing elections, particularly in areas where law enforcement presence is limited. In recent years, election officials and volunteers have reported increased threats, harassment, and even physical intimidation. HB 1128 exempts licensed individuals serving as election judges, including early voting clerks or deputy clerks acting in that capacity, from the general prohibition on carrying concealed handguns at polling places. This exemption applies only during the performance of official duties on election day or during early voting. By introducing weapons to the democratic process, HB 1128 undermines longstanding protections at polling places, risking voter intimidation and eroding the integrity and neutrality essential to fair elections.	**Unfavorable**
HB 1904 By: Canales	Relating to the release of a balloon and associated littering; creating a criminal offense.	Environmental Regulation 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 1904 discourages harm to animals and the environment by bringing balloon release in line with the existing criminal littering statute. While releasing balloons may seem trivial, they pose a substantial threat to the environment and animals. Balloons are often made of materials that never decompose, and wildlife and ranch animals often confuse popped balloons for food, leading to choking, blockage of digestive tracts, and death. Furthermore, balloons can travel long distances and often end up polluting beaches, waters, and marine life. Current statute does not consider balloons to be litter, so they do not fall under the statute that criminalizes littering.	**Favorable with Concerns**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

			HB 1904 creates a criminal offense for the intentional release of a balloon. This only applies if the balloon is inflated to be lighter than air and is released outside a roofed structure. Hot air balloons or balloons used for scientific purposes on behalf of the government are excluded from this offense. The bill establishes the following penalties (based on deflated weight or volume): • Class C misdemeanor: Total weight is 5 lbs or less, or total volume is 5 gallons or less. • Class B misdemeanor: Total weight is more than 5 lbs but less than 500 lbs, or total volume is more than 5 gallons but less than 100 cubic feet. • Class A misdemeanor: Total weight is 500–1,000 lbs, or total volume is 100–200 cubic feet, or the release was for a commercial purpose and the total weight is 5–200 lbs or the volume is more than 5 gallons but less than 200 cubic feet. • State jail felony: Total weight is 1,000 lbs or more, or total volume is 200 cubic feet or more, or the release was for a commercial purpose and the total weight is 200 lbs or more or the volume is 200 cubic feet or more. Around 700 standard deflated balloons equate to around 5 pounds. For subsequent Class C or Class B misdemeanor offenses, HB 1904 increases the punishment to the next higher category of offense. If the subsequent offense is a Class A misdemeanor, the minimum term of confinement for the offense is increased to 180 days. The bill requires someone convicted of these crimes to also perform community service through picking up litter or working at a recycling facility. These penalties are in line with existing littering statutes and aim to deter future harmful balloon releases. Releasing balloons is littering and should be treated as such. However, due to its difficulty to enforce, lack of general awareness about the harms of releasing balloons, and staff penalties, it may be more fitting to consider this act a civil offense to ensure the punishment does not greatly outweigh the crime.	
HB 1916 By: Cook | Landgraf | Hayes | Spiller | Curry	Relating to the jurisdiction of a court in a suit to divide certain property not divided or awarded on the dissolution of a marriage.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence; S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 1916 ensures that the original divorce court keeps the authority to divide any property left out of the final decree, reducing confusion and streamlining post-divorce property disputes. Texas courts are expected to divide a former couple's shared property in the final divorce decree. Any remaining undivided property becomes jointly owned. Either party can request to have the jointly owned property divided. However, the statute is not clear on which court has jurisdiction to hear the ownership case.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

		0 Absent	HB 1916 requires that any additional cases involving the undivided property of previously married couples be heard in the same court where the divorce suit was finalized, providing a sense of familiarity for the former couple and easier access to the previous case files for the court. HB 1916 streamlines the division of property following a divorce by granting exclusive jurisdiction for ownership disputes to the court that finalized the divorce.	
HB 5560 By: Harris	Relating to penalties in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district; increasing a penalty.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5560 seeks to enhance the enforcement authority of groundwater conservation districts by updating civil penalties to reflect the growing economic value of Texas water resources and the scale of modern violations. Currently, districts may impose civil penalties of up to $10,000 per day for rule violations, a cap that has remained unchanged for nearly 25 years. As water becomes increasingly scarce, this outdated limit often fails to deter non-compliance, particularly in large-scale projects where potential profits far exceed the financial risk. HB 5560 raises the maximum daily penalty districts may impose by rule to $25,000 and allows courts to exceed this cap in district-initiated enforcement actions if the violator gained more than that amount. In such cases, courts must set a penalty that eliminates any financial benefit and discourages repeat offenses. By ensuring that penalties outweigh the profits of illegal groundwater use, HB 5560 strengthens conservation efforts and helps safeguard Texas's water future.	**Favorable**
HB 3071 By: Geren	Relating to cancellation of certain solid waste disposal permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.	Environmental Regulation 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3071 is bracketed to one specific area of the state and closes an existing loophole within the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)'s landfill permitting process. This is a response to widespread local interest and could prevent harmful land use from continuing in the area. In 1980, a property in Lake Worth, TX was granted a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to operate as a landfill, which ceased operations in 1985. That property was recently sold, and the new owners plan to resume its former use as a landfill, 45 years after its initial TCEQ permit. This has been opposed by local residents who fear environmental impacts related to industrial use in an otherwise residential area. This incident has also revealed that there is no set time limit on certain TCEQ permits, even after permitted properties change ownership. HB 3071 requires the TCEQ to cancel a landfill facility permit if (1) the facility is located in a county with a population over 2.1 million and the population in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of the county's principal municipality is	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

			greater than 900,000, (2) the facility has not accepted waste for 25 consecutive years, and (3) the permit was issued to someone who no longer owns the facility. HB 3071 prohibits the TCEQ from approving a subsequent landfill permit on the same property after canceling the original permit due to the bill's provisions. HB 3071 prevents further harmful use on a property that once operated as a landfill but has since been surrounded by homes and school property.	
HB 5627 By: Capriglione | Bonnen	Relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Public School Teacher Retirement Funding Transparency.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5627 proposes the creation of a commission aimed at improving teacher retirement funding transparency but does not include teacher input, nor does it prioritize enhancing benefits. 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 their benefits. HB 5627 would establish the Texas Commission on Teacher Retirement Funding Transparency, composed of 7 members: one appointed by the Governor, three by the Lieutenant Governor, and three by the Speaker of the House. Of these, none must be teachers, but the Governor's appointee must have an "interest in staffing issues faced by public schools." The commission is charged with submitting a report to the Governor and Legislature by the end of 2026. The report must include recommendations on whether state contributions to teacher retirement should be incorporated into the Basic Allotment, which staffing incentives would best prioritize classroom instruction, how to promote uniformity in retirement obligations across public schools, and how more employer contributions could support the actuarial soundness of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS). Teacher input is essential when exploring policies that will directly alter teacher benefits. Furthermore, the committee is set off to explore increased employer contributions at a time when those employers and school districts are struggling financially. Fiscal responsibility is important, but the foundation of this commission seems to be to shift responsibility from the state and onto hardworking teachers and their districts.	**Unfavorable**
HB 5435 By: Bell, Keith	Relating to required lease terms for public property leased to a nongovernmental entity.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5435 exempts public institutions of higher education from the 90-day construction notice requirement in leases of public property, allowing them to respond more quickly to urgent, short-term, or emergency facility needs. HB 2518 (88R) mandated that tenants leasing public property must notify governmental entities 90 days before beginning construction. This requirement poses challenges for higher education institutions that need to manage	**Favorable**

			short-term or emergency projects without having complete details up front. These institutions encounter delays and operational difficulties when addressing urgent infrastructure needs. HB 5435 allows public institutions of higher education to be exempt from the 90-day notice requirement for construction when leasing public property, ensuring they can react more promptly and effectively to urgent or time-sensitive facility needs.	
HB 3913 By: Harless | King | Thompson | Bell, Keith | Harris	Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain real estate professionals by the Texas Real Estate Commission.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3913 updates Texas real estate licensing rules to modernize standards, streamline oversight, and strengthen consumer protections. Currently, detailed course topics, broker duties, and disciplinary processes are set in statute. HB 3913 shifts course content decisions to the Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC), requires brokers and supervising sales agents to complete a TREC-approved broker responsibility course, and mandates written agreements before providing residential brokerage services. Notably, the bill allows real estate license holders to show properties to prospective buyers even if the buyers have not signed a representation agreement, as long as the license holder does not provide any brokerage services to the buyer as well as provide written disclosure if they represent the seller. The bill also sharpens notification, disclosure, and disciplinary standards to increase accountability in real estate transactions. This bill aims to streamline regulatory oversight, modernize licensing standards, and strengthen consumer protections in Texas real estate transactions.	**Favorable**
HB 2921 By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to the confidentiality of certain information collected by certain local governments and airport governing boards.	Transportation 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 2921 expands the scope of information considered confidential collected by local governments and airport governing boards. Some information collected by airport governing boards through in-person interactions with airport facilities, such as parking records and license plate numbers, is already confidential. However, information collected by online transactions is not protected. This bill mandates that a person's name, travel dates, flight information, dates and times, amounts of any purchase made by the person, and lounge memberships are confidential and not subject to public information requests.	**Favorable**
HB 2695	Relating to the use of a social media	Criminal Jurisprudence,	To combat the rising issue of online drug trafficking targeting young people, HB 2695 increases the penalty for drug delivery offenses facilitated through social media platforms.	**Favorable**

By: Anchía | Leach | Louderback | Cook	platform in furtherance of an offense involving the delivery of a controlled substance; increasing criminal penalties.	S/C on New Offenses and Changed Penalties 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	The sharp rise in fentanyl-related overdoses among minors has highlighted social media as a dangerous pipeline for drug trafficking. From 2019 to 2021, fentanyl deaths among youth aged 10 to 19 rose by 182 percent. In Carrollton, Texas, multiple student deaths were linked to fentanyl-laced pills obtained through platforms like Instagram. Grieving parents and school officials have raised concerns about the ease with which minors have the opportunity to access drugs through social media platforms. HB 2695 increases the punishment for the delivery of controlled substances if a social media platform is used in furtherance of the offense. Covered substances include those in Penalty Groups 1 through 4, marijuana, and drugs delivered to a child. In most cases, the offense is elevated to the next higher penalty category. If already classified as a first-degree felony, the sentence is enhanced by an additional five years, and the maximum fine is doubled. While there are concerns about the potential for disproportionate sentencing and unintended consequences for low-level offenders, HB 2695 takes a targeted approach to a life-threatening issue. Anticipated amendments are expected to narrow its scope by carving out smaller-scale marijuana offenses. Ultimately, HB 2695 aims to enhance public safety and protect minors from the dangers of drug sales conducted through social media.	
HB 2688 By: Harless | Oliverson | Perez, Mary Ann | Metcalf | Thompson	Relating to the firefighters' relief and retirement fund of certain municipalities.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 2688 reforms the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) to assist the City of Houston with firefighter staffing shortages. The Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund (HFRRF) serves as the dedicated retirement system for Houston firefighters. The fund underwent major reforms to control costs in 2017, but now the fire department is struggling with recruitment and seeks to make the retirement program more attractive. This bill makes a variety of changes to the Houston Firefighters' Relief and Retirement Fund, including: • Reinstating retirement eligibility at 20 years of service; • Expanding the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP), allowing retirees to take a lump sum payment in retirement after contributing throughout their careers; • Allowing retirement credit for military service to be bought back after ten years instead of just five; • Allowing firefighters with at least ten years of service to defer their pension, enhancing mid-career retention;	**<u>Favorable</u>**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

			• Providing funding flexibility by allowing the negotiation of losses in the event of investment downturns and providing a one-time adjustment to the corridor midpoint to manage city costs without compromising fund integrity; • Various changes for consistency, clarity, or modernization. HB 2688 enhances the retirement benefits of the firefighters that Houston depends on.	
HB 3045 By: Gerdes | Curry	Relating to a franchise tax exemption for corporations operating a spaceport for certain national defense purposes.	Ways & Means 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3045 creates a franchise tax exemption for spaceport operators in years that they are contracted with the U.S. Department of Defense for spaceflight or launch services. HB 3045 would exempt a corporation from the franchise tax if: (1) it is a spaceport operator authorized by the Federal Aviation Administration; and (2) it has a contract with the U.S. Department of Defense to provide spaceflight or launch services to that department. The intent is to make Texas more competitive and to boost investment in space. However, Texas already has the second most spaceports in the U.S., of which there are very few. We should not be providing additional tax breaks to massive corporations like SpaceX, which already benefit from substantial federal defense contracts. Lastly, this bill further erodes franchise tax revenue, which has been repeatedly reduced by carve-outs and exemptions — so much so that now only about 127,000 taxpayers pay any form of franchise tax at all. The fiscal note projects a $3 million loss to the General Revenue Fund over the biennium, growing to nearly $5 million annually by 2030. Notably, it acknowledges that because the bill provides a full franchise tax exemption for corporations operating a spaceport — rather than limiting the exemption to revenue generated specifically from spaceport activities — the actual fiscal impact could be significantly higher. This risk increases if a large corporation engaged in other business sectors acquires a licensed spaceport operator. These millions of dollars in lost revenue could otherwise be invested in Texas schools, infrastructure, and essential public services.	**<u>Unfavorable</u>**
HB 3483 By: Gámez	Relating to the authority of a special utility district to issue a public security.	Natural Resources 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 3483 aims to address funding challenges faced by special utility districts by removing certain regulatory barriers that limit their ability to finance critical water infrastructure projects. Currently, there is a significant need for investment in water infrastructure across the state. However, when a water supply corporation converts into a special utility district, it faces restrictions limiting its ability to borrow funds necessary to complete essential water and utility projects.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

OK for Distribution

			HB 3483 exempts special utility districts from certain provisions governing the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) oversight of bond issuance and project supervision to address this issue. Additionally, HB 3483 includes conservation and reclamation districts organized or operating as special utility districts under specific provisions of the Texas Constitution and Water Code as authorized issuers of obligations for public improvements. By removing these financial and regulatory constraints, HB 3483 would allow special utility districts to access funding more effectively, move forward with infrastructure development, and enhance water and utility services for Texas communities.	
HB 3673 By: Cook | Noble | Phelan | Howard | Canales	Relating to the revocation of an occupational license from certain license holders and the issuance of a provisional occupational license to certain applicants with criminal convictions.	Corrections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3673 improves employment outcomes and reduces recidivism by allowing qualified incarcerated individuals to earn provisional occupational licenses that activate upon release, helping them reenter the workforce faster and more effectively. Currently, incarcerated individuals in Texas face significant barriers to employment upon release, largely because state law prohibits most occupational licensing prior to release. As a result, less than 1% of eligible incarcerated individuals receive licenses while incarcerated, even though education programs like those offered by the Windham School District (WSD) and the Texas Higher Education Prison Consortium are proven to boost post-release employment and lower recidivism. HB 3673 seeks to promote stable reentry by expanding eligibility for provisional licenses to incarcerated individuals and individuals who have been released on parole or mandatory supervision and who are enrolled in or have completed WDS or higher education programs. These licenses will become active upon release and remain valid for twelve months. Additionally, this bill limits automatic license revocation to specific serious offenses or those related directly to the licensee's occupational duties and allows the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to share necessary information about incarcerated individuals with licensing authorities for the purposes of reviewing an occupational license application. By enabling qualified incarcerated individuals to earn provisional licenses before release, HB 3673 accelerates job placement, aligns with WSD and TDCJ employment goals, and strengthens the transition from incarceration to gainful employment in licensed trades.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

HB 4213 By: Dutton	Relating to the accrual of interest on overdue child support.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4213 aids in ensuring timely and consistent child support payments by lowering the interest rate on overdue payments to encourage more obligors to stay current and pay off debt. Texas currently charges a 6% annual interest rate on overdue child support. This rate is intended to enforce timely payments and compensate for delayed support. Despite this intent, there is still $21B in unpaid child support or arrears, statewide. Some advocates have argued that this interest rate is a deterrent, rather than an incentive, for parents ordered to pay child support. A Wisconsin study found that a parent's willingness to pay and interest rates are inversely related. When the interest rate on arrears was decreased, there was an increase in child support payments. HB 4213 decreases the annual interest rate on unpaid child support payments from 6% to 3%. By taking a less punitive approach to relieving Texas' child support debt, HB 4213 offers a more manageable repayment system for parents who are behind, with the goal of helping them get back on track and ensuring children receive necessary financial support.	**Favorable**
HB 4226 By: Morales Shaw | Raymond | Lujan | Little | Ordaz	Relating to an exemption from the taxes imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle for a vehicle purchased, used, or rented by a nonprofit food bank.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4226 exempts food bank vehicles from state vehicle sales taxes so those funds can be redirected to vulnerable communities in need. Food banks are nonprofit organizations that provide critical emergency food assistance to Texans in need, particularly veterans, homebound seniors, and those affected by disasters. Programs like Meals on Wheels are among the most widespread services that help deliver food directly to vulnerable populations. HB 4226 would create a tax exemption from state vehicle sales taxes for vehicles used specifically for food distribution, including refrigerated trucks, meal delivery vans, and mobile pantries. HB 4226 would have a minimal fiscal impact on the state but could provide meaningful relief for these organizations. It would allow food banks to redirect those funds toward disaster response, operational support, and expanding programs that reach more families across Texas.	**Favorable**
HB 783 By: Lalani | Darby	Relating to civil liability for online impersonation.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence	HB 783 establishes a civil remedy for individuals harmed by online impersonation, allowing victims to sue for damages and attorney's fees when the impersonation was done with harmful intent.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

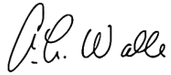
		10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	As technology advances, online impersonation, or catfishing, continues to grow. Online impersonation occurs when a person uses the photos, name, or likeness of a non-consenting person to exploit others emotionally and or financially. Victims of online impersonation may experience mental and emotional distress from the damage to their reputation. While forms of online impersonation are criminalized, the statute does not offer a civil remedy for impersonated victims. HB 783 allows online impersonation victims to sue the person who used their likeness to harm others without consent. The victim is entitled to receive damages for money spent on attorney and court fees, counseling, repairing identity theft, or addressing defamation. The court may include any money the defendant made from impersonating the person online when calculating the damages owed. Courts may also issue a temporary restraining order to protect the victim further. Additionally, the bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting free speech through clear exceptions for satire and parody and by maintaining legal protection from liability for online platforms. HB 783 aligns our legal system with the reality of today's technology by creating a pathway for victims of online impersonation to seek justice in civil court.	
HB 4373 By: Dean	Relating to the authority of a special district to exercise certain powers and duties following municipal disannexation of certain areas.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4373 adds clarity to existing statute regarding disannexed areas that were previously forcibly annexed by a city. Texas formerly allowed for cities to annex certain areas within their extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) without the consent of the residents of those areas. While Texas no longer allows this, several areas were forcibly annexed between 2015 and 2017 while the state was transitioning from non-consent to consent annexation. When annexation occurred, "special districts" became "limited districts" that provide certain services, such as emergency response, to these areas that do not receive them directly from the city. Some forcibly annexed areas have since elected to disannex but would like to continue using these services. However, because those services are now considered "limited districts," there is concern over whether or not the disannexed areas can utilize them in the event of an emergency. HB 4373 narrowly allows these districts that were annexed between 2015 and 2017 and will be disannexed to use the services they currently use. HB 4373 clarifies ambiguity within existing statute so that residents in these specific areas can continue to utilize emergency services.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

HB 4735 By: Ashby | Button | King	Relating to rural development funds and insurance tax credits for certain investments in those funds; authorizing fees.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development, S/C on Workforce 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4735 establishes a public-private investment program to increase private capital access for rural small businesses in Texas, through a $150 million insurance premium tax credit. However, HB 4735 raises concerns about the effectiveness and trade-offs of using tax credits to promote economic development, particularly when the benefits are uncertain. With more than half of the state's 254 counties classified as rural and many regions facing persistent economic distress, rural areas continue to receive disproportionately low levels of private investment compared to major metropolitan regions. HB 4735 attempts to close this gap by incentivizing investors to create rural development funds (RDFs) under the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA) to support small businesses in rural communities. **Eligibility for Rural Development Funds** Investors applying to create RDFs must demonstrate at least $100 million in investments in nonpublic US companies, with $70 million of that being in rural areas, and either possessing federal licenses or being Texas-based. Each applicant must submit a $10,000 application fee and provide an estimate of the number of jobs created in addition to a business plan with an economic impact forecast over ten years. The CPA may grant up to $300 million in investment authority, and no more than $150 million in tax credits issued. A process for an applicant to repeal a denial from the CPA is also provided. Approved RDFs must pay an annual participation fee as calculated by the CPA based on administration costs. **Duties of Rural Development Funds** RDFs must invest in "targeted small businesses", which must operate primarily in a qualifying North American Industry Classification System sector, have fewer than 250 employees, and conduct at least 65% of operations in Texas. RDFs may not invest more than $15 million in any particular small business. **Compliance, Penalties, and Exit** At least 60% of the investment authority of an RDF must be used within two years and 100% within three years. Failure to meet thresholds results in proportional credit reduction. RDFs must maintain investment levels through year six. Improper distributions or failure to reinvest can lead to revocation. RDFs may cure violations within 90 days of notice. RDFs may apply to exit the program after year six if compliant and must reimburse the CPA the lesser of the excess return or reimbursement based on $30,000 per job created or retained using a formula provided in the bill. **Oversight and Reporting**	**Unfavorable**

			RDFs must submit an annual report to the CPA including growth investment, the invested businesses, and job metrics. The CPA must submit a report to the Legislature before the 92nd Legislative Session including job creation, wages, tax benefits, and social impacts. If the fiscal benefits do not exceed credit allocations, new applications may be paused. **Tax Credit Certificates and Conditions** Investors in the RDF receive a tax credit certificate against their state insurance tax liability once funds are raised and verified. The credit is issued in three annual installments: 33%, 33%, and 34% of the total credit. Credits may be carried forward up to six years if unused. Because a quarter of insurance premium taxes go towards the Foundation School Fund, HB 4735 would result in a $37.5 million loss from the Foundation School Program by 2030. **Impact** HB 4735 locks the state into a tax break agreement that might not do much beyond benefiting private corporations. Because of restrictive eligibility requirements, only a limited number of firms are eligible to compete for these credits. The bill also has no minimum job creation targets or wage requirements. HB 4735 is similar to the Certified Capital Company Program (CAPCO), funded in 2005 and 2007, which was not successful in promoting economic development. Bills with a similar tax credit structure have been filed and failed every year since 2011. To implement this program, tax credits will be offered to investors, which will reduce the amount of premium taxes collected by the state. Currently, 25% of premium tax revenue is directed to the Foundation School Fund (FSF) to support education programs. As a result, these tax credits would reduce FSF revenue by an estimated $12.4 million annually, thereby decreasing available funds for the Texas Education Agency and its initiatives. While the legislation aims to spur job creation and support rural and low-income communities, a worthy goal, it takes funding from education to do so. There is no question that rural communities need more investment, but HB 4735 is not the best way. The state can also strengthen support for small businesses by leveraging existing federal programs for small and rural enterprises, while improving access to small business loans.	
HB 5155 By: Rose	Relating to the continuation of the maternal opioid misuse model of care for certain	Human Services 10 Ayes 0 Nays	HB 5155 directs the Health and Human Services Commission to continue implementing the Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) model by utilizing remaining federal funds, enabling Texas to sustain critical support for at-risk mothers and tackle the ongoing challenges of the opioid crisis.	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

	Medicaid recipients.	0 PNV 1 Absent	Texas successfully implemented the federally funded Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) model during a five-year demonstration. However, with the demonstration period over and unspent federal funds remaining, the State risks losing an opportunity to continue supporting at-risk mothers amid rising maternal mortality and the ongoing impacts of the opioid crisis. HB 5155 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to continue implementing MOM to the extent that funds are available. By extending the MOM model, HB 5155 allows Texas to leverage federal funds for maternal health and combat the opioid crisis.	
HB 5057 By: Landgraf	Relating to exclusive contracts for municipal solid waste management services.	Environmental Regulation 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5057 provides protections for certain waste management companies by allowing them to continue their existing business for a limited time after a public agency enters into an exclusive contract with a different waste management company. This creates a more fair and predictable environment for existing service providers without placing undue burden on public agencies. Cities sometimes offer waste management services by exclusively contracting with a single private company. If no such exclusive contract exists, customers in the remaining sector must go to the open market and acquire their own contracts with waste management companies. Problems have arisen when cities choose to initiate exclusive private contracts in areas that once had open markets, disrupting the ongoing business of the waste management companies who had previously had contracts in the open market. Under HB 5057, if a public agency, such as a city, enters into an exclusive waste management contract that effectively forces existing waste management business out of existing private contracts, the public agency must provide public notice of the exclusive contract. This notice must include a summary of the purpose of the contract and a description of the change made by the contract. If the public agency requires a privately owned waste management company to register or obtain approval to operate in the agency's jurisdiction, the agency must also give notice to each registered provider. HB 5057 prohibits such an exclusive contract from taking effect before public notice has been provided. If a company is currently serving a private contract and this contract will be disrupted by the public agency's new exclusive contract, the current company has the right to continue providing services to their contracted customers for up to a year after the public agency provides notice of the new exclusive contract. If such a company does not have such a private contract, they have the right to continue providing services to their customers for up to 60 days after public notice was given.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

			HB 5057 prevents exclusive waste management contracts from creating unpredictable disruptions to existing providers. These protections create a more fair arrangement for businesses without preventing public agencies from entering into exclusive contracts.	
HB 4984 By: Lujan	Relating to certain deadlines and other timing factors affecting mechanic's, contractor's, or materialman's liens.	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4984 ensures consistency in the application of existing lien law by addressing deadline interpretation. The current statute outlines strict deadlines for providing notice or taking action to secure a lien—a legal claim for payment for work, services, or materials contributed to a specific project—many of which fall on specific calendar dates. When these deadlines land on non-business days, it creates confusion for contractors and suppliers. Additionally, there are several numbering errors in the Property Code following statutory changes made in 2021. HB 4984 amends the Property Code to clarify that all lien-related deadlines extend to the next business day when they fall on a weekend or holiday. The bill also corrects numbering references within the Property Code. By improving clarity around lien deadlines and correcting statutory references, HB 4984 helps ensure timely and enforceable payment for contractors, mechanics, and suppliers.	**Favorable**
HB 4944 By: Moody	Relating to the establishment of a grant program to provide financial assistance to counties for transportation assistance to indigent litigants.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4944 creates a grant program to help counties cover transportation costs for indigent litigants, promoting fair access to the courts regardless of a person's ability to pay. Indigent litigants are individuals who face financial barriers to participating in legal proceedings, including finding transportation to get to court. Transportation barriers may cause delayed justice because hearings are rescheduled at a later date if a party is late or doesn't show. HB 4944 authorizes the Texas Comptroller to establish a grant program for counties to support transportation for indigent litigants. Indigent litigants include individuals who cannot afford court costs, criminal defendants with court-appointed lawyers, minor respondents with court-appointed lawyers, and civil defendants in DFPS suits with court-appointed lawyers. The grant structure respects local control while offering meaningful state-level support. HB 4944 addresses a clear gap in access to justice by helping low-income individuals reach the court.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

HB 4813 By: Oliverson | Garcia, Josey	Relating to the scheduling of certain controlled substances in response to certain actions by the United States Food and Drug Administration with respect to those substances.	Public Health 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4813 seeks to enhance access to innovative, FDA-approved treatments for severe mental health conditions in Texas by requiring the prompt rescheduling of controlled substances at the state level following federal action. Texas law mandates annual state scheduling of controlled substances, which is the process of categorizing substances based on their medical use and potential for abuse. Due to the lengthy timeline for state rescheduling and the slow processes of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), there are delays in accessing new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments. These delays can worsen health outcomes for Texans suffering from severe mental health conditions like treatment-resistant depression, major depressive disorder, and post-traumatic stress disorder by limiting timely access to fast-acting, potentially life-saving therapies, such as FDA-approved medications containing psychedelic compounds, which have shown promise in rapidly alleviating symptoms when other treatments have failed. HB 4813 requires the commissioner of State Health Services to promptly delete or reschedule a controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substances Act when the FDA approves that substance for medical use and reschedules it federally. By aligning state scheduling more quickly with federal action, HB 4813 aims to reduce unnecessary delays and ensure that Texans can access innovative, FDA-approved treatments for serious mental health conditions without undue barriers.	**Favorable**
HB 5339 By: Wilson	Relating to the establishment by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of a grant program to support the study of regenerative agriculture at public institutions of higher education.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5339 aims to promote regenerative agriculture through a grant program for higher education institutions. Extreme soil degradation poses a serious threat to the future of agriculture and food security in the United States. Current conventional agricultural practices are becoming financially unsustainable for small farmers and have trapped many large-scale farmers in a cycle of debt, particularly in Texas. HB 5339 directs the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to establish a regenerative agriculture grant program for eligible public universities to conduct research, develop best practices, and provide education on regenerative agriculture methods. HB 5339 defines regenerative agriculture as a holistic farming approach that improves soil health, water retention, biodiversity, and resilience to drought and flooding. It emphasizes practices like year-round living roots, minimal soil disturbance, crop diversity, and integrating livestock.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

			The program would be coordinated with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and must align with federal programs. Institutions receiving grants must report outcomes, adopt practices, and manage funding responsibly. Grant awards prioritize non-land-grant universities and partnerships with agricultural producers. HB 5339 ensures fair distribution of funds, limits individual institutions' grant share, and supports multiyear research, education programs, and collaborative efforts with nonprofits. By 2026, the THECB must make materials available online and submit annual progress reports on program outcomes. HB 5339 seeks to enhance agricultural sustainability, support local farmers, and ensure long-term food security.	
HB 5196 By: Capriglione | Patterson | DeAyala | Leach | Rodríguez Ramos	Relating to telework for state employees.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5196 formalizes telework policies for Texas state employees, setting statewide standards for when and how telework can be authorized. Currently, state agencies need prior written authorization from their administrative heads for employees to work remotely. HB 5196 allows agency heads to approve telework agreements to address office space shortages or improve agency flexibility, with written terms renewable annually. It requires agencies to develop formal telework plans with clear performance standards, monitoring systems, and security controls, and prohibits telework from being a condition of employment. Agencies must also publish these plans on their websites.	**Favorable**
HB 5033 By: Bell, Keith | Guillen | Toth | Hayes | Olcott	Relating to the authority of this state to implement a motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program.	Environmental Regulation 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 5033 would open the door for Texas to stop enforcing crucial vehicle emissions standards. While the bill makes no mandates and is conditioned by potential federal actions, Texas should not support the removal of vehicle emissions standards. Mandatory vehicle inspections stopped in 2025. However, Texans living in the most-populated counties still have to appear annually for an emissions test, as required by the Federal Clean Air Act: Brazoria, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Johnson, Kaufman, Montgomery, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, Travis, and Williamson, with Bexar County to be added on November 1, 2026. The specific reasons for this designation vary for each county, but generally, they have been identified as areas where air quality standards have not been met or where significant progress toward meeting them has not been made. Some feel that by placing these regulations on some but not all counties, the treatment of drivers in these counties is unfair.	**Unfavorable**

			HB 5033 establishes that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) are not required to enforce any provision related to vehicle emissions or vehicle emissions inspections. This establishment would only take effect in the event that (1) U.S. Congress repeals the federal Clean Air Act, (2) the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes the sole authority of states to regulate vehicle emissions, or (3) an amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving states the sole authority to regulate vehicle emissions. While the bill's language is permissive and is contingent upon certain federal actions outside state control, these vehicle emissions standards should not be threatened. They help mitigate the amount of harmful pollutants vehicles can emit, especially those associated with high traffic density, and have helped bring harmful ozone and carbon emissions down across the state. Without these standards, Texas will be at significantly higher risk of respiratory illness, heart disease, and cancer. Texas is a large, diverse state with varying needs – there is no need for a one-size-fits all approach. While proponents of the bill may feel that non-uniform emissions tests are unfair, some may argue that disparate health effects based on geography aren't fair.	
HB 4853 By: Perez, Mary Ann	Relating to skimmers on electronic terminals; authorizing a civil penalty; creating criminal offenses.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4853 helps protect Texans from fraud by combatting skimmers on electronic terminals. Thieves install devices called "skimmers" on electronic terminals that look as though they are part of an ATM or cryptocurrency kiosks but steal customers' card information when they attempt to pay. Although the Financial Crimes Intelligence Center (FCIC) is technically granted the ability to investigate these crimes, changing technology means that the center may lack the authority to fight identical crimes that make use of novel methods. First and foremost, this bill makes skimmer theft of all kinds the explicit responsibility of the FCIC. The bill also requires merchants and technicians to comply with FCIC investigations of skimmer theft. This bill establishes certain policies to help make investigating skimmer theft easier: • Makes reporting mandatory for technicians, merchants, or service companies who discover skimmers on an electronic terminal and prohibits disposal of a discovered skimmer; • Ensures the privacy of information obtained for FCIC reports when they investigate this type of crime; • Creates a civil penalty of up to $5,000 per day for each violation of requirements concerning rules established by this bill; • Creates a criminal offense, designating refusal to cooperate with FCIC inspection of electronic terminals as a Class C misdemeanor, recklessly disposing of a skimmer that was installed on an electronic terminal as a Class B	**Favorable**

			misdemeanor, and the disposal of a skimmer when the person knows of an ongoing investigation as a Third Degree felony Overall, this bill clarifies FCIC jurisdiction over skimmer fraud and ensures that investigations can be carried out effectively.	
HB 3486 By: Hunter	Relating to a reduction in the amount of sales and use tax collections that the owners of restaurants that purchase Texas farm-raised oysters are required to remit to the comptroller of public accounts.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3486 aims to support the oyster farm industry, by allowing restaurant owners to retain $5 in state sales and use tax for every 100 farm-raised oysters they purchase for preparation and service. The bill aims to incentivize farm-raised oysters in Texas, a signature of the Gulf Coast economy. Unlike local tax cuts, the State's budget is broad and robust enough to absorb this cost and help seafood businesses and oyster farmers.	**Favorable**
HB 4211 By: Noble | Leach	Relating to certain residential property interests controlled by certain entities.	State Affairs 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 4211 creates a regulatory framework for planned communities where property is bought and sold as investments in a business entity instead of real property. The bill is targeted at a specific development in North Texas, which is concerning. However, the bill's provisions could add guardrails to a unique residential market design lacking clarity for investors. EPIC City is a proposed master-planned community being developed by the East Plano Islamic Center (EPIC). It plans to include homes, a mosque, a school, and commercial developments, all centered around Islamic principles. The development is unique in that it has been structured as a business entity where people exchange money for shares in the business entity and are then granted a residential lot, as opposed to exchanging money for real property. This is not a residential market design currently contemplated within statute, and there is confusion over whether an investment in a lot entitles you to ownership of that lot. There are also concerns about whether all people have a fair opportunity to invest in residential property under this model. **HB 4211 provides a regulatory framework for residential developments that are designed as business entities, and prohibits them from discriminating based on religion when providing housing.**	**Favorable with Concerns**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

			HB 4211 requires an investment agreement under such a model to include a disclosure to the purchaser that the agreement is for the purchase of an interest in the business entity and not in any residential property itself. The business entity cannot require any potential disputes over these investment agreements to be heard by any authority other than a court established under state or federal law. HB 4211 prohibits the business entity from taking an action that would violate the Texas Fair Housing Act if the interest in the entity were an interest in real property. The bill also authorizes an owner of an interest in the business entity to sell the interest the same way they might sell real property, without needing approval from the business entity. The business entity may not charge a fee for a share in the proceeds of such a sale. HB 4211 establishes that any violation of these provisions is to be considered a violation of the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act. Under the Texas Fair Housing Act, religious organizations are currently given an exemption that allows them to only provide housing to members of their chosen faith. HB 4211 establishes that this exemption does not apply to religious organizations who own housing on a subdivided lot on a parcel of land greater than 25 acres. This would seem to be targeted specifically at EPIC City. **HB 4211 is targeted at a specific Muslim community, which makes the bill inherently problematic. However, what the bill does can be equally applied to all faiths.** The motivation behind HB 4211 could very well be xenophobic or islamophobic, as that has played a major role in the public discourse surrounding the EPIC City development. However, the bill's provisions do not prevent a religious organization from owning or operating property under this unique market design; they simply require a disclosure, prohibit the entity from unfairly controlling the sale of invested shares, and prohibits such a community from discriminating based on religion. These same provisions could be equally applied to all faith communities, but this legislation is specifically targeting a Muslim community - a community already vulnerable to prejudice and oppression in Texas. For these reasons, HB 4211 carries some concerns.	
HB 74 By: Morales, Eddie | Guillen | McLaughlin | Lujan |	Relating to the creation of the Puerto Verde Port Authority District; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose	Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 74 establishes the Puerto Verde Port Authority District in Maverick County to oversee and finance the development of a new international trade and infrastructure hub between Texas and Mexico. Located in Maverick County and northern Coahuila, Mexico, the Puerto Verde project is designed to serve as a major binational industrial and logistics center and aims to enhance trade efficiency, reduce border congestion, and create jobs. While the project has already received a presidential permit, it currently lacks a governing body to manage port operations and infrastructure development.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

Harris	assessments, fees, and taxes; granting a limited power of eminent domain.	1 Absent	HB 74 creates the Puerto Verde Authority District, a special-purpose district governed by a five-member elected board of voting directors. The district is granted the authority to plan, construct, maintain, and finance a broad range of public infrastructure, including railways, bridges, and parking facilities. It may also partner with public or private entities, create a nonprofit corporation, and contract for services as needed. To fund operations, the district may issue bonds, impose special assessments, and, with voter approval, levy taxes. The district cannot exercise the power of eminent domain. The bill also outlines procedures for potential dissolution, provided the district's obligations are met. HB 74 provides the necessary legal and financial tools to support a significant international infrastructure project. By establishing a formal governance structure, the bill helps ensure oversight, funding stability, and regional coordination, enabling the Puerto Verde port of entry to fulfill its goal of boosting economic growth, improving logistics efficiency, and strengthening cross-border trade.	
HB 4670 By: Manuel	Relating to dispute resolution for and enforcement actions against certain long-term care facilities.	Human Services 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4670 improves the fairness of the regulatory process for nursing facilities by binding nonprofit adjudicator decisions on HHSC, prohibiting duplicative state penalties when federal action has been taken, and protecting providers from retaliation when pursuing appeals in good faith. State law allows for informal dispute resolution between nursing facilities and HHSC. However, overlapping state and federal penalties for identical violations can create confusion and financial strain for providers. This enforcement duplication, referred to as "double-dipping," can impose unjust administrative burdens and deter compliance or participation in the resolution process. HB 4670 clarifies that the nonprofit adjudicator's decision is binding on HHSC and prohibits HHSC from imposing an administrative penalty when the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have already issued a penalty or initiated an appeal process. Additionally, HHSC cannot retaliate against facilities that pursue appeals in good faith. HB 4670 promotes a fairer, more efficient regulatory process for nursing facilities in Texas by eliminating duplicative penalties and protecting facilities that engage in good-faith appeals.	**Favorable**
HB 4730 By: Hull	Relating to the voluntary relinquishment of parental rights, adoption, and the regulation of	Human Services 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	HB 4730 improves informed decision-making in the Texas adoption process by requiring the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide standardized, accessible forms outlining the rights of birth parents and prospective adoptive parents, extending decision-making timeframes, and mandating training and oversight for child placing agencies.	**Favorable**

	child-placing agencies.	1 Absent	Expectant mothers and prospective adoptive parents often face confusing and inconsistent information when navigating the adoption process, which makes it difficult to understand their rights and options thoroughly. This lack of clear and reliable guidance can lead to rushed or uninformed decisions, increasing emotional distress and the risk of unfavorable legal or family outcomes. HB 4730 requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to adopt and make available on its website the Affidavit of Voluntary Relinquishment of Parental Rights and a Notice of Rights for Prospective Adoptive Parents, providing information to those considering the adoption of their child and to families seeking to adopt. The affidavit must be revised to extend the period that a birth mother has after giving birth to decide voluntary relinquishment to 7 days. The affidavit will include a comprehensive explanation of the parents' legal rights, available alternatives to adoption, revocation procedures, and access to information and support services to ensure informed decision-making. Relinquishment affidavits can no longer be irrevocable and must provide a grace period of 60 days. Additionally, DFPS must develop and publish a Notice of Rights for Prospective Adoptive Parents, informing them of their rights related to adoption, including access to medical and legal information, post-adoption resources, and transparency in costs. Lastly, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission must develop rules relating to the licensure and compliance reporting for child placing agencies to mandate training on the parental rights of adoptive parents and procedures for the relinquishment of rights. HB 4730 strengthens the transparency of the adoption process in Texas by ensuring that both birth parents and prospective adoptive parents are provided with information regarding their rights and responsibilities.	
HB 4743 By: Bonnen | Bucy	Relating to the issuance of a single license for a hospital and a mobile stroke unit of the hospital.	Public Health 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4743 addresses critical gaps in stroke care access in Texas by streamlining the licensing process for mobile stroke units (MSUs). According to the Centers for Disease Control, stroke remains one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability in the United States, with Texas experiencing higher stroke mortality rates. Improving stroke outcomes requires rapid diagnosis and treatment, ideally within the first hour of symptom onset, to minimize brain damage. MSUs are equipped with a CT scanner and staffed by a team capable of diagnosing and treating strokes onsite, making them particularly effective in rural and underserved areas; however, MSUs face regulatory barriers in licensing. HB 4743 authorizes the Department of State Health Services to issue a single license for both a hospital and the MSU associated with it if the hospital is accredited. By streamlining the licensing process, HB 4743 aims to expand access to	**<u>Favorable</u>**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

			mobile stroke units across Texas, helping to ensure faster, more effective stroke care, particularly in underserved and rural communities.	
HB 4603 By: Morgan	Relating to eligibility for mediation of certain out-of-network health benefit claims.	Insurance 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4603 strengthens protections for consumers seeking out-of-network care by adding a 90-day lookback period to the mediation process, aligning it with arbitration rules, and closing a loophole that some facilities have used to avoid fair billing practices. In the 86th Legislature, SB 1264 was passed to protect consumers from surprise medical bills when they are forced to receive care from out-of-network providers due to medical necessity. The law allows billing disputes to be resolved through arbitration for providers and mediation for facilities. However, while arbitration includes a 90-day lookback period for claims, mediation currently does not, creating an inconsistency in the dispute process. Some facilities have exploited this gap by initiating mediation long after services are rendered against insurers. HB 4603 aligns the mediation and arbitration periods by adding a 90-day lookback period for mediations to resolve disputes in claims between healthcare facilities and insurers. By closing a loophole that certain facilities have exploited, consistency can be ensured in dispute resolution timelines and strengthened the protections intended by (86R) SB 1264 against surprise medical billing.	**Favorable**
HB 4463 By: VanDeaver	Relating to authorized activities of a brewer's or nonresident brewer's license holder; authorizing a fee increase.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4463 modernizes brewing operations and clarifies supply chain rules in Texas alcohol law to reduce administrative burdens. The bill allows in-state brewers and nonresident brewers to contract manufacturing services and share facilities given they follow proper bonding. It defines the “primary American source of supply” to ensure only one official supplier per product for Texas distributors. Additionally, it authorizes the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to adjust licensing and permit fees to cover administrative costs. These changes aim to streamline industry practices and strengthen regulatory clarity.	**Favorable**
HB 3892 By: Bell, Cecil	Relating to county regulation related to infrastructure planning for subdivisions and county authority to regulate building	Land & Resource Management 5 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV	HB 3892 attempts to restrict counties’ ability to guide new development. While the Legislature should encourage housing density, HB 3892 goes too far and could lead to unsafe growth. In the interest of property rights and increased development, current statute limits a county’s authority to enforce certain housing density standards on unincorporated tracts of land. However, many counties still regulate new development in unincorporated areas by establishing minimum lot sizes, minimum lot width and depth, building setbacks, or lot	**Unfavorable**

	and set-back lines.	2 Absent	frontages along roads and highways. These regulations can impact housing density in an area, which could drive up housing costs by requiring larger lots and neighborhood streets. HB 3892 prohibits counties from regulating minimum lot sizes, minimum lot width and depth, building setbacks, or any other regulation that limits density or development. The bill establishes that this prohibition does not apply to a land located in a county that borders the Gulf of Mexico and that is federally designated as a high-risk flood insurance zone. HB 3892 also prohibits counties from regulating minimum lot frontages on any new public or private road created after the bill goes into effect, and prohibits enforcing certain setback lines on any new county or state road created after the bill goes into effect. The bill prohibits counties from establishing building or setback lines on public roads, including major highways, unless those roads are maintained by the county. Finally, the bill prohibits a county from enforcing a building or setback line greater than 25 feet from any new public road, other than a major highway or road, created after the bill goes into effect. Texas needs increased housing affordability and should not overly restrict housing density, but HB 3892 goes too far and could create significant safety concerns. The regulations prohibited by this bill are not arbitrary — counties enforce setbacks and certain lot size requirements in order to meet standards for emergency response, public safety, and to manage growth. New development in unincorporated areas is often placed along farm-to-market roads that were never intended to carry large amounts of traffic, so road setbacks allow the county to expand and improve these roads to accommodate the new development. Furthermore, it is often in the best interest of public safety to not have residential neighborhoods too close to roads, especially undeveloped county roads that may lack sufficient lighting. HB 3892 will especially restrict formerly rural areas of the state seeing rapid growth, who will now have less tools to safely guide new development.	
HB 4139 By: Zwiener	Relating to the use of videography in certain court proceedings.	Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4139 creates guidelines for when and how videography, including livestreaming, may be used during court proceedings, with special protections for victims and sensitive cases. The Texas Constitution requires courts to be accessible to the public. The practice of livestreaming court proceedings increased during the COVID-19 pandemic to satisfy open court requirements. While videography can improve access to justice and public oversight, it may also pose risks to vulnerable participants. The bill author raised concerns that existing guidelines for courtroom videography fail to adequately protect victims and jurors, citing an incident where a Hays County judge livestreamed a sexual assault case involving a minor without notifying the parties involved.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

J.C. Wall

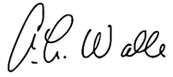
OK for Distribution

			HB 4139 restricts courts from recording and streaming the jury questioning process (voir dire examination), and in court proceedings involving minor or adult victims of sexual abuse or family violence. An adult victim may consent to the court to record the proceedings if they choose. Jurors may provide consent to be recorded, but only after they are finished with jury duty. It clarifies that the video recording limits do not affect whether recorded interviews or other pre-recorded evidence can be used in court. Additionally, it makes clear that court staff are still allowed to use video when the courthouse is physically closed and video is needed to meet open court requirements, or when video is used for court operations or security and kept confidential. HB 4139 appropriately balances the public's interest in court transparency with the need to protect vulnerable individuals from further trauma.	
HB 4752 By: Landgraf	Relating to the eligibility of certain charitable organizations to receive an exemption from ad valorem taxation.	Ways & Means 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 4752 clarifies the property tax exemption status of certain charitable organizations with mineral interests. Currently, these charitable organizations must, among other things, be affiliated with a state or national organization that conducts volunteer charitable fundraising in order to receive an exemption. HB 4752 removes this affiliation requirement entirely. An organization must still meet all other criteria to qualify. The bill also clarifies that an organization is not disqualified from the exemption solely because it distributes contributions to public institutions of higher education. Because HB 4752 addresses a very specific situation in the author's district, its overall impact is expected to be minimal.	**Favorable**
HB 4520 By: Martinez	Relating to requirements for loans or grants provided by the Texas Transportation Commission to aviation facilities located in economically disadvantaged counties.	Transportation Subcommittee on Transportation Funding 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4520 aims to reduce financial barriers economically disadvantaged counties may face for projects at general aviation airports. Currently, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) may provide financial assistance for the construction and repair of eligible aviation facilities through loans or grants, which must be approved by a vote of the Texas Transportation Commission. To qualify for state aviation grant funding, a local match of 10 percent of the total project cost is required from non-state sources. However, many general aviation airports, particularly those in economically disadvantaged areas, struggle to secure sufficient funding from local sponsors. HB 4520 addresses this challenge by lowering the local match requirement by five percent. It specifically requires the Texas Transportation Commission to ensure that, for airports located in economically disadvantaged counties, at least five percent of the total project cost is funded by sources other than the state when approving loans or grants.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

			By easing the local funding burden, HB 4520 will help more rural airports access state support and carry out critical infrastructure improvements.	
HB 4517 By: Phelan	Relating to liquor sales on credit by the holder of a distiller's and rectifier's permit to a wholesaler.	Licensing & Administrative Procedures 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4517 establishes formal credit rules for liquor sales between distillers and wholesalers, setting clear payment deadlines and authorizing the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) to enforce penalties for delinquent payments. Currently, Texas law does not explicitly regulate credit terms between distillers and wholesalers. HB 4517 requires that distillers provide written invoices and that wholesalers pay according to agreed contractual terms. If a wholesaler becomes delinquent — by failing to pay after demand — the distiller can report it to the TABC, which is empowered to take disciplinary action. The bill directs the TABC to consider factors like the amount of the delinquent payment, duration, and history of delinquency when determining penalties. This measure aims to ensure fair, enforceable financial practices within the liquor distribution system.	**Favorable**
HB 4486 By: Bonnen	Relating to directing payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act; making appropriations.	Appropriations 23 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4486 is a miscellaneous claims bill that is required to be passed each legislative session. At the conclusion of each state fiscal biennium, the State of Texas may have outstanding claims and judgments, which require additional appropriations to meet the state's financial obligations. These claims can include voided warrants due to the statute of limitations, unpaid invoices from private vendors, outstanding Medicaid charges, or court judgment settlements. The bill allocates the necessary funds from various accounts to address these obligations. HB 4486 authorizes payment of specific claims and judgments against the State of Texas from designated funds, including the general revenue fund, highway fund, federal disaster fund, coronavirus relief fund, Rainy Day Fund (with supermajority approval), sales tax guaranty trust account, and a suspense account. Payments require verification by the fund administrator and approval by the attorney general and comptroller. Claims not verified within two years of the bill's effective date cannot be paid. Each claim must include the reason for payment, and in cases of void warrants or unpaid goods/services, supporting documentation and certifications are required. HB 4486 authorizes the comptroller to promptly issue warrants from the state treasury, within the limits specified in the bill and according to the terms of the judgments. Payments will be made to the individuals, firms, or claim numbers listed in the bill. The comptroller is responsible for mailing or delivering the payments directly to the claimants, ensuring that amounts do not exceed those outlined in the bill.	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

HB 4437 By: Capriglione | Tepper	Relating to a requirement that the Department of Information Resources implement and develop a system and database to authenticate and track certain digital content.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4437 strengthens the transparency and trustworthiness of digital content published by Texas state agencies by requiring a formal system to track and verify its authenticity and origin. Texas law does not currently require agencies to monitor or confirm the source or integrity of the digital materials they post online. HB 4437 would direct the Department of Information Resources (DIR) to create and embed a "content provenance" system that includes origin, modification history, and whether content was AI-generated — into all visual, audio, or audiovisual materials it produces. DIR must also record a cryptographic hash for each item in a tamper-evident database, provide public access for verification, and assist other agencies in adopting similar systems.	**Favorable**
HB 4426 By: Darby	Relating to permits issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas for commercial surface disposal facilities.	Energy Resources 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 4426 establishes maximum term limits for permits related to oil and gas waste disposal. This could increase oversight and consistency in the regulation of industry harms. Commercial surface disposal facilities, which manage oil and gas waste, have no explicit term limits for the permits that are meant to help regulate their operations and impact. Without increased oversight over permitting, these facilities and their impact may be subject to inconsistent standards. HB 4426 establishes that commercial surface disposal facility permits issued by the Railroad Commission (RRC) have a maximum term of 10 years. The RRC may determine a permit term of less than 10 years and may consider a facility's history of compliance with RRC rules and permits when determining permit term length. The bill also states that these permits may be renewed successively after their terms have expired, and that an application for permit renewal must be made within 120 days of an existing permit's expiration. Adding permit term lengths could help improve oversight of commercial surface disposal facilities and mitigate some of their potentially harmful impacts.	**Favorable**
HB 4396 By: King	Relating to the eligibility of the American Performance Horseman and the American Rodeo for funding under the	Culture, Recreation & Tourism 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV	To continue attracting and retaining high-impact sporting events in Texas, HB 4396 broadens which events and locations can receive financial reimbursement through the state's major events program. Texas relies on large-scale events to drive tourism, job creation, and local spending. However, the current scope of the major events reimbursement program excludes some emerging and nationally recognized events, limiting the State's ability to offer financial incentives that are often critical in the event site selection process. Texas risks losing these	**Favorable**

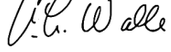
OK for Distribution

	major events reimbursement program.	2 Absent	opportunities to other states with more flexible incentive structures without updates to the eligible events and organizations list. HB 4396 adds the American Rodeo and the American Performance Horseman to the list of events eligible to apply for the reimbursement program. It also designates Teton Ridge Live Productions and Teton Ridge The American, LLC, as site selection organizations, enabling them to access reimbursements for qualified event-related expenses. The bill is a targeted update that supports Texas's economic development strategy by making the major events reimbursement program more inclusive.	
HB 4263 By: Cook	Relating to the employment practices of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and to the eligibility of a person to be appointed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's release review panel and the authority of a panel member.	Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4263 enhances the Texas Juvenile Justice Department's (TJJD) ability to manage its workforce and streamline internal processes, ultimately supporting safer facilities and improved staff retention. TJJD has identified several statutory limits that affect its ability to operate efficiently, including the current requirement for an independent dismissal mediation process, restrictions around vacation leave compensation for juvenile correctional officers, and limitations on how members are selected for release review panels. These constraints contribute to staffing challenges and reduced flexibility in day-to-day management. HB 4263 aims to resolve these issues by: • Removing the option for independent dismissal mediation while retaining the option for filing a grievance to contest disciplinary termination of employment • Allowing juvenile correctional officers to receive a one-time annual lump-sum payment for up to 40 hours of unused vacation leave, with rules for how the payment is calculated and how the time is deducted • Updating the requirements for members of the TJJD release review panel by removing the rule that one panel member must work at the central office, and by clarifying that panel members must not have made supervisory decisions about a youth whose release they are reviewing By giving TJJD more flexibility in its internal procedures, staff policies, and decision-making structures, HB 4263 aims to improve workforce retention and the department's ability to maintain safe, well-functioning facilities.	**Favorable**
HB 3487 By: Hunter	Relating to a reduction in the amount of sales and	Ways & Means 13 Ayes	HB 3487 aims to incentivize the recycling or oyster shells by allowing food service establishments to deduct $2 from their state sales tax for every 50 pounds of oyster shells they provide for recycling.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

	use tax collections that the owners of restaurants that participate in an oyster shell recycling program are required to remit to the comptroller of public accounts.	0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	Oyster shell recycling plays a role in coastal restoration by helping rebuild oyster beds and reefs, which provide habitat for marine species and act as natural barriers against coastal erosion. Recycling also keeps valuable shells out of landfills, putting them back into the ecosystem where they support water filtration and biodiversity. HB 3486's tax credit would help offset expenses for both restaurants while incentivizing the productive use of an otherwise wasted byproduct. Unlike local tax cuts, the State's budget is broad and robust enough to absorb this cost and help seafood businesses and oyster farmers.	
HB 3418 By: Morales, Eddie	Relating to prohibitions on certain employment for sex offenders.	Criminal Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3418 enhances public safety by prohibiting individuals on the Texas sex offender registry from working as rideshare drivers, closing a legal loophole that puts vulnerable passengers at risk. While federal law already prevents individuals on the national sex offender registry from driving for rideshare companies, Texas lacks a similar restriction for those only on the State registry. This gap allows certain registered sex offenders to work as drivers, potentially endangering passengers who frequently depend on these services. HB 3418 prohibits anyone required to register as a sex offender in Texas from providing rides through a transportation network company (TNC), such as Uber or Lyft, or from logging in as a driver on a TNC platform. It also requires that penal institutions inform affected individuals of this employment restriction prior to their release. HB 3418 strengthens passenger protections by aligning state policy with existing federal standards.	**Favorable**
HB 2284 By: Johnson	Relating to the licensing and regulation of music therapists; requiring an occupational license; authorizing fees.	Public Health 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2284 establishes a licensing and regulatory framework for music therapists in Texas to ensure the safe, ethical, and consistent delivery of music therapy services by qualified professionals. Music therapy is a form of care that uses music to help people cope with trauma and does not involve diagnosing or assessing physical, mental, or communication disorders. It's crucial to regulate music therapists to ensure patients receive safe and effective care. HB 2284 requires an occupational license for music therapists and establishes a regulatory framework to ensure consistent safety and care for patients. Music therapy is defined as the clinical and evidence-based use of various music	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

			interventions to help clients achieve specific goals within a therapeutic relationship, excluding the diagnosis or assessment of disorders. Unlicensed individuals cannot use titles that suggest they are music therapists. Applicants must submit an application and fees to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) and provide proof of a successful state-approved criminal background check. Specific individuals are exempt from the bill's provisions, including certified practitioners using music within their scope, supervised students, and federal employees. Music therapists can provide consultation, evaluations, preventative care, wellness education, and specialized support without healthcare referrals, while collaborating with healthcare providers for clients needing diagnosis and treatment planning. Additionally, HB 2284 establishes the Music Therapist Advisory Board to advise the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) and TDLR on technical matters, performance standards, license eligibility, and related issues. The board, appointed by TCLR's presiding officer, includes four licensed music therapists, one physician or authorized health professional, and two public representatives, either former recipients of music therapy or parents/guardians of clients. TCLR must establish rules for administering the bill, including ethical standards, a code of ethics, license evaluations, issuance, and violation investigations. Overall, HB 2284 creates a comprehensive licensing framework to ensure safe, ethical, and effective music therapy practice in Texas, protecting the public and fostering sector growth.	
HB 2266 By: Isaac | Troxclair | Wilson	Relating to the processing of an application for an authorization to use a standard permit for a rock or concrete crushing facility.	Environmental Regulation 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 2266 requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to prioritize permit applications from rock and concrete crushing entities that have restored the land they disturbed within a timely manner. The rock and concrete crushing industry can bring significant negative impact to air quality and also greatly disturbs the impacted land. Some rock crushing entities do positive work, restoring land as much as possible after their work is done. These practices of restoring land could be better incentivized to promote greater care for the environment. HB 2266 aims to create an incentive by requiring the TCEQ to prioritize the permit applications of rock and concrete crushing entities who have previously held a TCEQ rock and concrete crushing permit and have restored the land disturbed by the facility within 180 days of the facility ceasing operations. This would allow them to skip to the front of the permitting line and face less delays, ensuring that the companies doing the least harm are taking on the bulk of the work. HB 2266 encourages responsible land restoration within the rock and concrete crushing industry by prioritizing permit applications for entities with a track record of such practices.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

HB 2229 By: Hernandez | Plesa	Relating to the expunction of arrest records and files by a statutory county court.	Criminal Jurisprudence 6 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 2229 streamlines the expunction process by allowing statutory county courts to handle expunction cases within their jurisdiction, improving efficiency and access to justice. Expunction is the process of removing information about a charge or conviction from permanent records. Currently, even when an offense falls under the jurisdiction of a statutory county court, only district courts are authorized to process related expunctions. This creates unnecessary procedural delays and burdens both the court system and individuals seeking to clear eligible records. HB 2229 grants statutory county courts concurrent jurisdiction with district courts over expunction cases involving offenses they have the authority to try. It also allows eligible individuals to file petitions for expunction in these courts when acquitted or when the prosecuting office supports the request. By enabling statutory county courts to process expunctions, HB 2229 provides quicker access to expunctions, helping individuals move forward and reducing strain on the court system.	**Favorable**
HB 4912 By: Wilson	Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to waive fees for admission applications submitted to public institutions of higher education during certain periods.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4912 seeks to expand access to higher education by designating the second full week of October as Free College Application Week. During the week, all public higher education institutions must waive undergraduate application fees. Application fees in Texas range from $25 to $90 per school, and with students typically applying to 5–10 colleges, the total cost can become a significant barrier, especially for low-income students. HB 4912 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to implement this initiative beginning with the 2025–2026 academic year and allows the agency to adopt necessary rules. By removing this financial obstacle, HB 4912 aims to increase college application rates and improve equity in access to higher education.	**Favorable**
HB 2189 By: Howard | Villalobos | Talarico	Relating to methods to improve health profession-related career and technology education and dual credit programs	Public Education Subcommittee on Academic & Career-Oriented Education	HB 2189 aims to expand educational opportunities for high school students pursuing healthcare careers and offer a way to reduce Texas' shortage of healthcare professionals. With 224 of the state's 254 counties designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), over 6 million residents face limited access to healthcare services.To meet the growing demand for qualified healthcare professionals and build a sustainable pipeline from education to certification, it is essential to align high school coursework and dual-credit	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

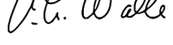
OK for Distribution

	offered by public schools.	14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	programs with industry-recognized certifications. HB 2189 addresses this need by ensuring that these programs are closely aligned with certification standards, creating a clear pathway from education to career. **Key provisions of HB 2189 include:** • **Free Instructional Materials:** Starting in 2026-2027, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will provide free high-quality instructional materials for health-related career education programs aligned with state standards. • **Partnerships with Higher Education:** TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) will explore partnerships between public schools and higher education institutions to share laboratory resources, with a feasibility report due by December 1, 2026. • **Dual Credit Program Review:** TEA, THECB, and the Texas Workforce Commission will review dual credit health programs to ensure alignment with certification requirements and promote credential stacking. A report will be submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2026. By aligning education with industry needs, HB 2189 creates pathways for students to enter healthcare careers and strengthens Texas' healthcare workforce.	
HB 4506 By: Bonnen	Relating to electronic delivery of notice for certain municipal zoning changes.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 4506 allows notices of public hearings on municipal zoning changes to be delivered electronically. Currently, notices of public hearings on municipal zoning changes must be delivered by mail, which has been proven to be increasingly unreliable due to frequent delays or misplacement. Municipalities delivering notices by email or text must first establish an online portal for recipients to opt in. These changes could allow for timely and reliable communication with the public.	**Favorable**
HB 5269 By: Barry	Relating to the authority of the Office of Public Utility Counsel to access certain data.	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5269 allows the Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) to access electricity market data when considering how utility rates may impact consumers in order to improve long-term planning and lower rates. OPUC represents the interests of residential and small commercial consumers when the Public Utility Commission (PUC) sets electric rates. The analysis OPUC provides is crucial to ensuring consumers are fairly represented, but they are not currently authorized to access certain data related to grid reliability and long term planning when making their assessments.	**Favorable**

OK for Distribution

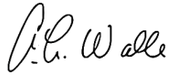
			HB 5269 authorizes OPUC to request and receive electricity market data from the PUC, ERCOT, and electric utilities. This can include data related to reliability, generation resource adequacy, long-term transmission planning, and transmission and distribution system resiliency. The bill states that information gathered by OPUC under these provisions is subject to the same nondisclosure protections that it would have if handled by the PUC. HB 5269 allows for OPUC to access more information and therefore provide better assessment of how rates might impact consumers. While much of the information gathered could be sensitive data, the bill provides sufficient protection from public disclosure.	
HB 5224 By: Guillen | Morales, Eddie	Relating to the designation of certain natural gas facilities as seasonally critical.	Energy Resources 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 5224 would allow for certain natural gas facilities to be considered critical during some of the year. While there is some small risk of this decreasing grid reliability and could be difficult to regulate if not implemented correctly. HB 5224 could provide added grid reliability in months when gas provided by these companies is truly not necessary. In response to grid failures during Winter Storm Uri in 2021, a critical customer designation was created to ensure that critical energy supply would not have their power turned off during rolling blackouts. However, this critical customer designation applies year-round, while certain critical facilities may not truly be critical to the grid year-round. For instance, some natural gas supplies may pose a critical risk to grid reliability only in winter, when inadequate weatherization could reduce supply, leading to lower electricity generation, or when demand rises due to increased use of gas-powered home heating. This means that there may be instances in the summer where a natural gas facility would have their power kept on unnecessarily while other customers have their power shut off. Furthermore, there is variation in seasonal impacts on infrastructure depending on what part of the state a facility is in. HB 5224 requires the Railroad Commission (RRC) and the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to collaborate on a process to designate certain natural gas facilities as seasonally critical infrastructure. The bill requires the RRC to establish criteria for these seasonal designations and how an entity might apply for one. The bill requires the RRC to provide an annual list of seasonally critical facilities to the PUC and requires the PUC to provide this list to ERCOT. The true impact of HB 5224 is likely impossible to predict, and largely depends on effective management by the RRC and PUC. Under current statute, critical customer designations provide grid reliability by ensuring power is there when it is needed. As a result, critical customers are prohibited from selling excess energy on the ERCOT market or participating in demand-response incentives. There are concerns that HB 5224 would allow natural gas companies to designate themselves as critical customers when it serves their interests, but opt out of the status when doing so would be more profitable. It's also possible that this seasonal designation could become overly complex and difficult for the agencies to	**Favorable with Concerns**

			regulate. However, as long as the RRC and PUC regulate these seasonally critical designations effectively, this should not come at the cost of grid reliability. HB 5224 could ensure that a natural gas facility's power isn't prioritized over residential customers during times of energy scarcity unless absolutely necessary, while still giving gas providers the flexibility to be designated as critical when truly necessary.	
HB 5195 By: Capriglione	Relating to modernization of state agency Internet websites and digital services.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 5195 aims to modernize Texas state agency websites and digital services to improve user accessibility, navigation, and efficiency. Texas law currently does not require state agencies to update their digital services/platforms to contemporary standards. HB 5195 would require each state agency to assess its website and online service portals for improvements, focusing on simplifying access to forms, reducing paperwork, ensuring mobile responsiveness, and enhancing accessibility for people with disabilities. The Department of Information Resources (DIR) must provide agencies with best practices, design templates, and technical support to standardize modernization efforts. Additionally, DIR must submit a legislative report by November 2026 outlining progress, priorities, and challenges.	**Favorable**
HB 3317 By: Hefner	Relating to the relationship between pharmacists or pharmacies and health benefit plan issuers or pharmacy benefit managers.	Insurance 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 3317 addresses the monopoly of certain pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) in the prescription drug reimbursement market by establishing contract protections for pharmacies and pharmacists. Texas law currently regulates the activities of PBMs operating within the state. Due to market consolidation, a few PBMs dominate prescription drug reimbursements nationwide, and they can use this power to impose unfair contract terms on pharmacies. HB 3317 establishes protections for pharmacies and pharmacists contracting with PBMs. Health insurers and PBMs will not be able to reduce or deny claim payments after adjudication, except for fraud, duplicate payments, or significant errors, limiting recoupment to dispensing fees for clerical mistakes leading to overpayment. Issuers and PBMs are prohibited from making adverse changes to pharmacy benefit network contracts without the written agreement of the pharmacist or pharmacy; unilateral provisions for such changes are void unless the contract is indefinite or terminable by one party. Adverse changes, which significantly affect pharmacy expenses or revenue, can only take effect 120 days after mutual agreement; any proposed change must clearly state the pharmacy's right to decline without impacting their existing contract or participation in networks. Additionally, insurers and PBMs must provide pharmacies with at least 90 days' notice of contract changes via email and online portals, with changes adoptable if there is no response within 30 days. All contract materials must exclude references to outside manuals; terms must be clearly included in the contract. Insurers and PBMs must keep provider manuals and updates accessible online, and pharmacies must receive full	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

			contract terms, including fees, before joining a network. Lastly, insurers and PBMs cannot charge fees for accessing contract terms. HB 3317 provides essential protections for pharmacies and pharmacists by establishing requirements for transparency, prohibiting unfair contract modifications, and ensuring that health benefit plan issuers and PBMs cannot impose unjust terms or reduce payments without proper notice, mutual agreement, or justification.	
HB 4166 By: Guillen	Relating to an exemption for certain property owners from regulatory requirements for residential mortgage loan originators.	Pensions, Investments & Financial Services 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	HB 4166 preserves a regulatory structure for owner-financing that reduces hassle in some cases, enhancing home affordability in the State. Owner-financing is a transaction in which the seller, rather than a traditional bank or mortgage lender, provides credit directly to the buyer. Entities wishing to engage in more than three such transactions per year must hold a Mortgage Loan Originator (MLO) license. However, unlicensed entities have been considered exempt from this requirement if they partner with licensed entities to originate additional loans. In some cases, smaller companies without MLO licenses issue loans that are formally originated by larger, licensed parent companies. However, last year the Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending reinterpreted the statute and announced plans to prohibit this long standing practice. To allow the Legislature time to respond, the Department delayed enforcement of the new interpretation until the end of this year. This bill codifies existing regulatory practice by allowing first-lien mortgage loans to be issued by unlicensed entities, provided all residential mortgage loan origination activities are conducted by a properly sponsored and authorized licensee. In effect, as long as the licensed entity complies with licensing requirements as a loan originator, its partners may act on its behalf. HB 4166 preserves the current regulatory structure with the new department interpretation.	**Favorable**
HB 3947 By: Davis, Yvonne	Relating to transportation planning by metropolitan planning organizations.	Transportation 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 4 Absent	HB 3947 ensures the rights of individuals with disabilities by mandating that metropolitan planning organizations make accommodations a consideration in their long-term planning. The federal Americans with Disabilities Act requires transit agencies to provide access to public transportation if a person is capable of using that service.	**Favorable**



OK for Distribution

			This bill requires metropolitan planning organizations, when developing a 10-year transportation plan under the Texas Department of Transportation's Unified Transportation Program, to consider the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities who are served by the Health and Human Services Commission or the Texas Workforce Commission. Doing so would ensure that long-term planning does not neglect the legal and moral imperative to accommodate individuals with disabilities.	
HB 3358 By: Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra | LaHood | Johnson | Moody	Relating to the definition of an emergency service provider for purposes of critical incident stress management and crisis response services.	Criminal Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3358 expands access to mental health support for prosecutors and justice court staff by recognizing them as emergency service providers under state law, helping reduce burnout and improve public safety. Prosecutors and legal staff regularly face high-stress situations similar to those encountered by first responders but are not currently included in mental health support programs meant for emergency service providers. This lack of support has contributed to elevated rates of depression, substance abuse, and suicide among legal professionals, and is cited as a factor in the national shortage of prosecutors. HB 3358 includes attorneys, investigators, and staff working for district attorneys, criminal district attorneys, county attorneys, justices of the peace, and staff working for justice courts as emergency service providers eligible for critical incident stress management and crisis response services. By extending access to peer support services, HB 3358 provides essential mental health resources to legal professionals on the front lines of the justice system, helping retain experienced staff, reduce psychological strain, and improve the functioning of the legal system.	**<u>Favorable</u>**
HB 3370 By: Ashby	Relating to late applications for the appraisal of land for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified timber land following the death of the owner of the land.	Ways & Means S/C on Property Tax Appraisals 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3370 provides flexibility for property tax purposes when owners of timber lands pass away. When a property owner of timber land passes away, the inheritor of timber lands must make a new application for property tax appraisal. If they are unaware of this requirement, they can miss the crucial deadline to submit the application. This bill allows an application for property tax appraisal of timber land to be reviewed even if the application is submitted after the deadline so long as the inheritor still submits the application before the tax delinquency date, which is February 1st of the following year.	**<u>Favorable</u>**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution

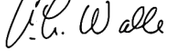
			This leeway affords grieving families a grace period which is in line with the same flexibility afforded for other types of agricultural land.	
HB 4438 By: Shofner | Lalani	Relating to a preceptorship program in a pediatric subspecialty for medical students in this state.	Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4438 aims to address pediatric subspecialist shortages by creating a pathway to increase the number of pediatric subspecialists. Texas is experiencing a critical shortage of pediatric subspecialists. This shortage negatively affects the quality of care and limits access to specialized medical services for children, especially in rural and underserved communities. As a result, critical treatments are delayed, families face additional hardships, and the overall burden on the health care system increases. HB 4438 allows the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to contract with one or more organizations to run a statewide pediatric subspecialty preceptorship program for medical students in Texas. To receive funding, organizations must either be tax-exempt organizations or be operated by a state-accredited medical school. Eligible students must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a pediatric subspecialty. HB 4438 seeks to encourage more medical school students to choose a pediatric subspecialty upon graduation by providing for the operation of a statewide pediatric subspecialty preceptorship program.	**Favorable**
HB 3745 By: Manuel	Relating to crime victims' compensation.	Appropriations 23 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3745 seeks to give the Texas Attorney General greater flexibility to provide emergency financial assistance to crime victims by removing certain statutory limitations. The Texas Attorney General's Crime Victims' Compensation (CVC) Program helps victims cover expenses like medical bills, counseling, and lost wages. However, current restrictions on issuing emergency awards can delay relief, particularly in cases involving serious crimes during declared states of emergency, where victims face urgent economic hardship. HB 3745 expands the attorney general's authority by allowing emergency awards to be made at any point in the process, not only before reviewing an application. It also clarifies that these awards are intended to cover anticipated financial losses. Additionally, it removes specific limitations for claims involving deceased victims when the criminally injurious conduct occurred during a declared state of emergency, including the requirement that a final award must appear likely and the obligation to deduct or recover emergency funds that exceed the final award. HB 3745 ensures faster, more responsive support for victims and families during times of crisis.	**Favorable**

J.C. Wall

OK for Distribution

HB 3602 By: Louderback | Garcia Hernandez, Cassandra	Relating to the execution of a search warrant for taking a blood specimen from certain persons in certain intoxication offenses.	Criminal Jurisprudence 8 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent	HB 3602 streamlines the execution of search warrants for blood specimens in intoxication-related offenses by expanding peace officer authority across county lines, reducing delays, and improving law enforcement efficiency. Currently, officers in cities that contract jail services outside their home counties face cumbersome procedures when executing blood draw warrants. If a suspect refuses to give a sample, officers must travel repeatedly between counties to draft, obtain, and execute a warrant, pulling them off patrol and delaying critical investigative steps. HB 3602 allows any peace officer to execute a warrant for a blood specimen in any county neighboring the one in which the warrant was issued. This change applies to offenses such as driving while intoxicated, boating while intoxicated, and intoxication manslaughter. By expanding who can execute these warrants across adjacent counties, HB 3602 shortens the process of collecting evidence and allows officers to resume their duties more quickly, ultimately supporting public safety and more effective enforcement.	**Favorable**
HB 3697 By: Cortez	Relating to the text on an application for a ballot to be voted by mail and other balloting materials.	Elections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3697 improves accessibility and consistency in the vote-by-mail process by requiring larger font sizes and standardized formatting for early voting applications and balloting materials. Currently, early voting by mail applications are required to be printed in six-point font, which is difficult to read, especially for older adults and voters with visual impairments. Additionally, variations in paper and text color can create inconsistencies across counties. HB 3697 increases the required font size for early voting applications and related materials to at least 12-point type and requires that all such documents be printed in black text on a white background.	**Favorable**
HB 2001 By: Meyer | Anchía | King	Relating to increasing the criminal penalties for certain misuse of official information, including misuse of official information that results in	State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 2001 promotes accountability by increasing criminal penalties for public servants who exploit their access to official information. Officials often have access to valuable information that they can sell in exchange for bribes or use to gain an illegal advantage in markets. The current penalty for misuse of official information by a public servant is a third degree felony, and a Class C misdemeanor for a public servant who coerces someone else to not report those crimes.	**Favorable**

	certain net pecuniary gains.		HB 2001 establishes tiered penalties for the misuse of official information by a public servant, with offenses classified according to the financial benefit gained through the criminal conduct. An offense earning profits less than $150,000 remains a third degree felony; an offense earning profits between $150,000 and $300,000 is increased to a second degree felony; and an offense earning profits greater than $300,000 is increased to a first degree felony. HB 2001 also repeals the existing Class C misdemeanor penalty for suppression of reporting official information misuse, and instead places that crime within the newly established tiered system.	
HB 1968 By: Cook | Shaheen | Bucy | Raymond | Vasut	Relating to a duty to contract for election services furnished for an election held on the first Saturday in May in an even-numbered year.	Elections 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 1968 promotes consistency in election administration by requiring county elections administrators to provide election services to political subdivisions for elections held on the May uniform election date. Currently, counties must contract with cities, school districts, and other political subdivisions to provide election services upon request, but this requirement does not apply uniformly to elections held in May. HB 1968 removes section 41.001(d) of the Election Code, which allows county elections administrators to decline a contract for election services for an election on the first Saturday in May in an even-numbered year. HB 1968 ensures that counties provide election services upon request regardless of when the election is held.	**Favorable**
HB 3371 By: Metcalf | Gerdes | Raymond | Capriglione	Relating to the recovery of certain state border security expenditures from the federal government.	State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3371 authorizes the Governor to ask the federal government to reimburse $11.2 billion spent on border security during the Biden administration, and it authorizes the Attorney General to sue the federal government if this reimbursement is not received. While a deposit of this amount of money would surely help Texas, Texas should remain accountable for the money it voluntarily spends. In January 2025, Governor Abbott sent a letter to U.S. Congress stating that Texas had spent over $11 billion since 2021 due to costs associated with border wall construction and Operation Lone Star. While the federal government never requested that Texas spend this money, supporters of HB 3371 argue that these expenses were only necessary because the Biden administration failed in its duty to protect Texas' southern border. HB 3371 authorizes the Governor to apply to Congress for a reimbursement for border security expenses. The reimbursement application must state a specific time period in which the expenses occurred, the expense amount, and that the federal government must provide reimbursement as soon as practicable. If the requested reimbursement is not paid within a reasonable period, the Attorney General may sue the appropriate federal agency in the name of Texas. Any reimbursement received must be deposited in the general revenue fund within the state treasury.	**Will of the House**



OK for Distribution

			HB 3371 requires the initial application for reimbursement to request at least $11.3 billion. These provisions regarding the initial minimum reimbursement request expire August 31, 2026. While an $11.3 billion deposit into General Revenue could have great positive impact on Texas, this type of reimbursement request is not how state and federal governments should relate to one another. Despite perceived failures of the federal government to ensure border security, Texas spent $11.2 billion because that was a stated priority of the majority of its Legislature. This money was spent with the understanding that it would never be reimbursed, and Texas should remain accountable for its voluntary spending.	
HB 3909 By: Hickland	Relating to the use of a wireless communication device at a polling place.	Elections 7 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	HB 3909 clarifies restrictions on wireless communication devices at polling places by limiting the prohibition to the room where voting is taking place, rather than within a 100-foot radius. Currently, the Election Code prohibits the use of wireless devices within 100 feet of a voting station, which includes areas where voters are simply waiting in line. This broad restriction has led to confusion among voters and places an added burden on election workers tasked with enforcing it, even in spaces where voting is not actively taking place. HB 3909 narrows this restriction by prohibiting wireless device use only within the room where voting occurs. It also requires presiding judges to post a notice outside the voting room informing voters of the rule. By aligning the restriction with where actual voting takes place, HB 3909 makes the law more practical to enforce while maintaining the integrity of the voting process.	**Favorable**

J.C. Walle

OK for Distribution