



Legislative Study Group (LSG) Floor Report – Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Postponed Business until 10:00 AM

HB 1749 By: Darby	Relating to the jurisdiction of municipal courts over health and safety and nuisance abatement ordinances.	Full analysis on LSG’s Floor Report for April 24.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 1775 By: Howard	Relating to reporting information regarding certain evidence collection kits.	Full analysis on LSG’s Floor Report for April 23.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 118 By: Hefner	Relating to the establishment and powers and duties of the Texas Advisory Committee on Geopolitical Conflict.	Full analysis on LSG’s Floor Report for April 25.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 1762 By: Leach	Relating to changing the eligibility of certain persons to receive community supervision, including deferred adjudication community supervision.	Full analysis on LSG’s Floor Report for April 28.	<u>Unfavorable</u>
HB 2520 By: Johnson Cain Olcott Simmons Leo Wilson	Relating to the open meetings law.	Full analysis on LSG’s Floor Report for April 29.	<u>Favorable</u>

Major State Calendar

HB 24 By: Orr Hickland Vasut Lopez, Ray Lalani	Relating to procedures for changes to a zoning regulation or district boundary.	Land & Resource Management 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent	<p>HB 24 adjusts certain zoning change protest processes that have prevented cities from adding important developments for their residents. These changes could bring greater housing supply and housing affordability while also adding more balanced local control over zoning changes and city planning.</p> <p>Currently, a single landowner can kill a neighboring property’s development with just a 25% vote from city council.</p> <p>Current statute allows 20% of adjacent area neighbors — which could be just one landowner — to protest a proposed zoning change to a neighboring property. This protest triggers a city council vote on the proposed zoning change. If just one-fourth of city council members vote against the proposed zoning change, it cannot continue. This protest process has</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
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A.C. Waller

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			<p>been dubbed “the Tyrant’s Veto” because, as long as a landowner owns 20% of the adjacent area, they have a 75% chance of killing a neighboring development. 31% of proposed zoning changes in the City of Austin and City of Dallas have been successfully halted with a single protesting signature. The Tyrant’s Veto has recently prevented the development of hospitals, rehabilitation services, and services to vulnerable communities. Developers state that the Tyrant’s Veto creates a chilling effect on new housing and development, incurs costly delays to development, and worsens an ongoing housing shortage in the state.</p> <p>HB 24 makes it more difficult to pass a Tyrant’s Veto and brings more balanced local control. HB 24 provides two pathways for a protest on a proposed zoning change to occur, but raises the thresholds needed for these protests to be upheld. Under HB 24, in order for a protest of a proposed noncomprehensive zoning change to take effect, it must either (1) be signed by the owners of at least 20% of the land covered by the proposed change and receive an affirmative vote from three-fourths of city council or (2) be signed by the owners of at least 60% of the adjacent land and receive a simple majority vote from city council.</p> <p>HB 24 establishes that when calculating the percentage of land impacted by the proposed zoning change, the percentage is based on total land area affected - not the percentage of individual lots or properties. Additionally, HB 24 establishes that streets and alleys must be included when computing this percentage. If a zoning change allows for increased residential development, it is presumed valid if an action to annul or invalidate the change has not been filed within 60 days of the change going into effect.</p> <p>HB 24 requires municipalities to publish notice on their website of a hearing on a proposed zoning change at least 15 days before the hearing date. In line with existing statute, a municipality must also give notice of the public hearing if the proposed change is held jointly by the municipality’s governing body and zoning commission, or if the proposed change would alter current conforming land use.</p> <p>HB 24 encourages increased housing development, maintains local control, and could help address serious housing affordability concerns in the state.</p>	
<p>HB 45 By: Hull Noble Leach </p>	<p>Relating to the duty of the attorney general to represent the state in the prosecution of the</p>	<p>State Affairs 13 Ayes 1 Nays 1 PNV</p>	<p>HB 45 requires the Attorney General (AG) to prosecute human trafficking cases if the local District Attorney (DA) has not “initiated proceedings” on the case within 6 months. This change in the AG’s jurisdiction could negatively impact ongoing human trafficking cases, set a dangerous precedent of AG overreach, and has been previously ruled unconstitutional.</p>	<p>Unfavorable</p>



<p>Metcalf Patterson</p>	<p>criminal offense of trafficking of persons.</p>	<p>o Absent</p>	<p>In the event there is probable cause to believe an identifiable person has committed human trafficking, HB 45 requires local law enforcement to submit a report of the probable cause to both the local DA and the AG. The bill requires local law enforcement and DAs to provide all information regarding the case if the AG requests it. HB 45 requires the AG to prosecute human trafficking if 6 months have passed since the probable cause report was submitted and local DAs have not initiated proceedings to prosecute the offense. HB 45 applies only to an offense committed on or after the bill's effective date.</p> <p>Concerns with Constitutionality and Separation of Powers Texas has the second- most reported human trafficking cases in the nation. Under current statute, human trafficking cases must be originally prosecuted by the local DA's office, but local DA's may invite the Attorney General (AG) to assist with the case. In a 2021 case, Texas v. Stephens, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals issued an 8-1 opinion confirming that the AG cannot unilaterally prosecute cases, as that would be in violation of the separation of powers clause in the Texas Constitution. Supporters of HB 45 argue that all tools should be available when prosecuting human trafficking and the AG should be allowed to prosecute these cases without the invitation of the local DA.</p> <p>Unclear and impractical requirements for DAs Local DAs report serious concerns with HB 45. One noted concern relates to the 6-month window to "initiate proceedings." It is not clear what constitutes initiation of proceedings, as this could be interpreted to mean anything from indictment to filing an affidavit.</p> <p>Justice and services for survivors of human trafficking could be at risk Furthermore, prosecution of human trafficking can be a very delicate process involving severe trauma. Cases can sometimes stall due to a victim getting scared and recanting, fleeing the state for safety, or not being forthcoming with prosecutors due to understandable mistrust of authority figures. Setting an arbitrary 6-month time limit on the early stages of prosecution could force local DAs to move faster and push harder, potentially pushing away the victim they are trying to protect, rushing vital investigation pre-indictment, and ultimately having less resources to build an airtight case against a human trafficker. Additionally, the AG may not be well-positioned to handle many human trafficking cases. The AG could be hundreds of miles away from the case, giving less opportunity for face-to-face rapport-building with the victim and a lack of familiarity with local resources to aid the victim's recovery.</p> <p>Sets a dangerous precedent of AG overreach</p>	
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			Finally, HB 45 sets a dangerous precedent of AG overreach on issues other than human trafficking. There are other bills filed this session that would allow the AG to preempt local control over issues like elections, and the passage of HB 45 would give more credibility to those efforts.	
General State Calendar				
<p>HB 15</p> <p>By: Meyer Leach Schofield Anchia Longoria</p>	<p>Relating to the formation, governance, and internal management of domestic entities.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>7 Ayes 4 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 15 aims to strengthen Texas' business-friendly environment by establishing a supportive legal framework and court system for companies incorporated in the state.</p> <p>Delaware has long been recognized as a premier destination for business incorporation, due to its flexible, efficient business laws and court system that offers predictability and stability. However, recent changes in Delaware jurisprudence have disrupted this traditionally business-friendly environment, creating a gap in the market which other states are seeking to fill. The author of the bill aims to address this void and foster a reliable legal framework for businesses.</p> <p>HB 15 would allow corporations to establish minimum ownership thresholds, requiring stakeholders to own a three percent stake in the company to file a derivative claim. Claimants would not be awarded attorney fees for suits ending in disclosure-only settlements.</p> <p>Additionally, Under the bill, judges would be prohibited from using judicial decisions from other states to influence business actions. The right to make business decisions would be reserved only for corporation shareholders and elected board members who would be legally protected from being held personally liable for making good-faith decisions. A corporation's board of directors could appoint and employ an independent, disinterested committee of directors to evaluate business transactions.</p> <p>Emails and texts that do not directly affect business actions may be restricted in court proceedings by not being introduced as corporate books and records. Although a shareholder is still able to request the documents through legal discovery, the company may deny a shareholder's request for records if it reasonably believes the shareholder is involved in a lawsuit against the company or is preparing to file one.</p> <p>Under current law, entities may enforce jury trial waivers and specify Texas courts as having sole jurisdiction in disputes. Texas law currently allows such jury-trial waivers in the internal disputes of LLCs' governing documents. The bill would extend that option to corporations that choose to adopt bylaws that would waive a claimant's right to a jury trial.</p>	<p><u>Will of the House</u></p>



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			While HB 15 seeks to bring predictability and modernization to corporate governance law to make Texas an attractive business home, it raises some concerns about limiting shareholder oversight and access to the courts. The bill allows businesses to include provisions in their governance documents that could discourage internal entity claims.	
HB 35 By: Thompson	Relating to a peer support network for first responders.	Public Health 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	<p>HB 35 enhances mental health outcomes for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel by establishing a confidential, statewide peer support network.</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that EMS personnel were 1.39 times more likely than the public to die by suicide. EMS personnel are regularly exposed to traumatic events, which increase the chance for chronic stress, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. While a statewide peer support network has been established for law enforcement officers to provide emotional support and reduce mental health stigma, no comparable, structured support system currently exists for EMS personnel.</p> <p>HB 35 addresses this issue by mandating the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to create a peer support network for EMS personnel. This network will provide services that include peer-to-peer support, suicide prevention training, technical assistance for program and coordinator development, and care from licensed mental health professionals. TDEM is required to establish regional peer support hubs to ensure access to the network in both urban and rural jurisdictions. Any participation in the peer network must be confidential. The Texas Commission on Fire Protection and the Department of State Health Services are prohibited from taking disciplinary action against EMS personnel for their participation in the peer support network. Additionally, an annual report must be submitted to the governor and legislature by December 1st. The report should detail EMS personnel in the program, staff training progression, program vacancies, community engagement activities, interventions, evaluations conducted, and program recommendations.</p> <p>HB 35 addresses a critical mental health gap by establishing a confidential, statewide peer support network that provides EMS personnel with the resources, support, and protections they need to manage job-related stress.</p>	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 38 By: Bucy	Relating to improvements to the Texas Information and Referral Network.	Public Health 11 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent	<p>HB 38 addresses technological challenges facing the Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) and 211 call centers by expanding its capabilities to support statewide disaster response, enhance technological service delivery, and improve coordination among state agencies.</p> <p>211 call centers connect individuals with TIRN to access vital community resources that help overcome challenges such as homelessness, food insecurity, childcare needs, and more. According to the United Ways of Texas, funding for 211 has</p>	<u>Favorable</u>



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			<p>remained unchanged for almost 14 years, even as operational costs and financial pressures on community-based organizations managing these call centers have risen. Many regional organizations overseeing 211 call centers are allocating their own limited funds to cover up to 50% of operational expenses, due to insufficient state support for these operations. Due to the lack of resources, technological advancements of TIRN have remained stagnant.</p> <p>HB 38 modernizes TIRN to improve Texans' access to essential resources through technical upgrades. TIRN must assist disaster preparedness and integrate into the State of Texas Emergency Management and Homeland Security Plans. It will adopt a text messaging system to communicate with clients, enhancing access to referral services, reducing wait times, and disseminating information during disasters. TIRN will provide online data with aggregated, de-identified client demographics. It will implement a screening tool for non-medical drivers, closed-loop referrals, and data exchange with partners for effective client service. Managed care organizations can agree with the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to share TIRN data, improving care coordination and addressing non-medical health drivers. TIRN will also develop a website to offer healthcare referral information. Finally, HHSC must report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House on TIRN's operations, identifying service needs and gaps, recommending improvements, and detailing integration efforts with other agencies.</p> <p>HB 38 strengthens TIRN by expanding its capabilities to improve access to essential services, enhance disaster response coordination, and facilitate data-sharing and collaboration with state agencies to serve Texans in need.</p>	
<p>HB 47 By: Howard Oliverson Hull Cook</p>	<p>Relating to sexual assault and other sex offenses.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 47 strengthens protections for sexual assault survivors by improving access to medical care, legal resources, safety measures, and victim-centered practices across the health care, housing, and transportation systems.</p> <p>In 2019, Texas established the Sexual Assault Survivors' Task Force to improve coordination and support for survivors. Based on its 2024 report, gaps remain in areas like post-assault medical care, survivor safety, and housing protections. Survivors often face financial barriers that prevent them from filling prescriptions or returning for necessary follow-up care, such as STD testing or treatment for physical injuries. Many frontline healthcare professionals and contractors lack training in trauma-informed care and are unfamiliar with survivors' rights. In rural areas, sexual assault nurse examiners can struggle to meet recertification requirements due to limited access to qualifying cases. Housing laws currently allow lease termination without penalty only when an assault occurs at the victim's residence, despite the fact that many perpetrators know where the survivor lives, putting them at continued risk. Additionally, court delays requested by defendants can retraumatize survivors, yet courts are not required to consider that impact for individuals who are 17 years of age or older. Meanwhile, gaps in transportation safety remain, as some rideshare companies may permit individuals who are on the state sex offender registry to operate as drivers, creating additional dangers for passengers.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>HB 47 aims to strengthen protections for sexual assault survivors by implementing several of the task force’s recommendations and additional measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires courts to consider the impact on adult sexual assault survivors when a defendant requests a continuance and to state on the record the reason for granting or denying the request. • Expands access to follow-up medical care after forensic exams for a 30-day period following their forensic medical examination. • Updates survivor information sheets to include information about their right to 30-days of follow-up medical care and the names and contact information of legal aid service providers statewide. • Allows survivors to vacate their home without penalties, such as early termination fees, if they were a victim of sexual assault or certain related offenses. • Strengthens training requirements for all healthcare professionals and contractors working in health care facilities with an emergency department. • Requires rideshare companies to run driver applications through the Department of Public Safety’s state sex offender website and prohibits registered sex offenders from working as rideshare drivers. • Extends recertification period for sexual assault nurse examiners from 2 to 3 years. • Requires commissioner courts of each county to submit reports received from their county’s sexual assault response team to the Governor’s Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force. <p>Together, these changes improve survivor safety, expand access to care, close legal loopholes, and support a more consistent and trauma-informed statewide response to sexual violence.</p>	
<p>HB 318 By: Guillen Morales, Eddie</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of grant programs to provide financial assistance to qualified sheriff’s departments in certain rural counties.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs 8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 318 establishes two grant programs to help rural sheriff’s departments address staffing shortages by funding deputy, investigator, and dispatcher positions in counties with limited law enforcement resources.</p> <p>Many rural sheriff’s offices in Texas struggle to recruit and retain qualified personnel due to low tax bases and limited budgets. These shortages can compromise public safety and delay emergency response times in unincorporated areas.</p> <p>HB 318 seeks to relieve these shortages by directing the comptroller to administer grant programs for sheriff’s deputies, dispatchers, and criminal investigators’ salaries. The bill allows counties with populations under 300,000 to apply for grants if they fall below a deputy-to-resident ratio of 15 per 10,000 or an investigator-to-patrol ratio of 1 to 5. Counties that meet the resident criteria may apply annually for grants of \$50,000 per new deputy or investigator position and</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



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			<p>\$35,000 per dispatcher or investigative support staff member. The funds must be used for salaries or necessary equipment, including vehicles and safety gear.</p> <p>HB 318 provides a way to support rural law enforcement agencies in recruiting staff and ensures they are not left behind larger counties that can provide attractive salaries.</p>	
<p>HB 349 By: Flores Leach Bumgarner Pleasa Buckley </p>	<p>Relating to civil liability for removing certain individuals or animals from a motor vehicle.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p> <p>7 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 349 protects citizens acting in good faith to remove domestic animals from vehicles by providing immunity to civil liability for damages caused in the process.</p> <p>Texas led the ranks for highest heat-related pet deaths from 2018 to 2022. Domestic animals or pets are not a recognized group in the current limited liability statute, so people who remove them from vehicles can be held liable for damages. This may be a deterrent to individuals who want to save pets from hot cars, but don't do so out of fear they will have to pay for the damage they cause to the owner's vehicle.</p> <p>HB 349 removes civil penalties for people entering vehicles to save domestic animals if the vehicle is locked and the pet cannot get out on its own. The bill specifies that people acting against the law enforcement orders not to enter the vehicle are not immune to liability.</p> <p>House Bill 349 aims to balance the protection of private property with the well-being of innocent animals, bringing Texas in line with growing public expectations around animal welfare.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 554 By: Leo Wilson Manuel Jones, Jolanda Bonnen Isaac</p>	<p>Relating to the sale of fireworks on and before the Juneteenth holiday in certain counties.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government</p> <p>8 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 554 allows counties to approve fireworks sales in recognition of Juneteenth, a holiday celebrating the emancipation of enslaved people in Texas.</p> <p>Current statute does not include Juneteenth as an approved holiday for which permit holders are allowed to sell fireworks to the public.</p> <p>HB 554 amends the current statute to authorize county commissioners courts to permit the sale of fireworks from June 14th to midnight on June 19.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1359 By:</p>	<p>Relating to a program to provide assistance for</p>	<p>State Affairs</p> <p>13 Ayes</p>	<p>HB 1359 establishes the Income-Based Assistance Fund to support low-income and critical care electricity customers.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



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<p>Hernandez Hunter Thompson Darby Moody</p>	<p>certain retail electric customers.</p>	<p>0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>Many low-income electric customers struggle to pay their monthly bills. From 1999 to 2013, the System Benefit Fund assisted consumers at the state level with paying for their electric utilities. However, the System Benefit Fund was abolished in 2013 after many years of the Fund being used to certify the state budget rather than for its intended purpose. Many Texans still need help paying for electricity, and the debts incurred by electric utilities that do not receive payments lead to higher rates for all customers.</p> <p>HB 1359 establishes the Income-Based Assistance Fund as an account in the General Revenue fund. The fund would consist of (1) money appropriated by the Legislature, (2) gifts, grants, or donations, and (3) interest or other earnings from the fund’s investments. The Fund would require an appropriation to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) each biennium, ensuring the money is used wisely.</p> <p>HB 1359 allows the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to use the Fund, and requires prioritizing usage of the Fund in the following order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assist low-income electric customers through bill assistance and to provide one-time bill assistance to critical care residential customers whose electricity will soon be disconnected 2. Customer education that provides information on other assistance programs 3. Expenses incurred by the PUC in implementing and administering these programs 4. Reimbursement to the PUC and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for expenses incurred in the implementation and administration of the automatic identification process for customer service discounts relating to retail electric service <p>HB 1359 requires the PUC to create programs to support the above priorities. The bill also requires the PUC to use the Fund to reimburse an electric utility that provides such bill payment assistance. Electric utilities are prohibited from charging a customer a fee for receiving bill payment assistance out of the Fund.</p> <p>The PUC would provide methods of enrolling customers eligible to receive a discount, including working with the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to identify eligible customers using the Low-Income List Administrator’s identifying service.</p> <p>HB 1359 establishes much-needed financial support for low-income Texans and those who rely on electricity to maintain critical medical care. It may also help alleviate costs for all electricity customers, as it could ensure utilities do not take on certain debts.</p>	
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<p>HB 1373 By: Raymond Villalobos</p>	<p>Relating to the designation of a portion of Farm to Market Road 70 in Nueces County as the Los Robles Trail.</p>	<p>Transportation 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1373 makes navigation easier in Nueces County by renaming a section of Farm to Market Road 70 as Los Robles Trail.</p> <p>The bill redesignates the portion of FM 70 in Nueces County between its intersection with State Highway 44 and its intersection with Farm to Market Road 1833 as the Los Robles Trail.</p> <p>Law enforcement testified that this measure would aid their ability to locate lost persons on FM 70, enhancing public safety in the region.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1647 By: Landgraf Lopez, Ray Morales, Eddie</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a theft of petroleum products task force.</p>	<p>Energy Resources 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1647 would require the Railroad Commission (RRC) to create a task force to study petroleum product theft, a pervasive and costly challenge that has been difficult for the state to address.</p> <p>It is estimated that 2% of all oil produced in Texas is stolen from the oilfield, costing companies hundreds of millions of dollars every year. According to DPS, petroleum product theft is often the result of organized crime and can involve anything from stripping an oilfield’s copper to redirecting tanker trucks of unrefined oil to refineries that are in on the heist. The crime is so pervasive and organized that it is difficult for oilfield operators to prevent, and equally difficult for the state to investigate and prosecute. Due to the complexity of problems presented by petroleum product theft, it is possible that further study is needed on how the state should proceed.</p> <p>HB 1647 requires the RRC to create a task force to conduct a study on petroleum product theft in Texas. The RRC would designate a presiding officer and members would include representatives from the oil and gas industry, energy trade associations, and representatives from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The study conducted by the task force would review petroleum theft laws, analyze economic impacts, and collaborate with experts. HB 1647 requires the task force to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the RRC each even-numbered year. HB 1647’s provisions expire December 31, 2030.</p> <p>HB 1647 would allow Texas to take a closer look at a complex and costly problem in the state, hopefully leading to increased public safety and better crime enforcement.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2254 By: Hull</p>	<p>Relating to certain health care services contract arrangements</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays</p>	<p>HB 2254 aims to expand value-based healthcare in Texas by authorizing preferred provider organizations (PPOs) and exclusive provider organizations (EPOs) health plans to enter into voluntary capitated or risk-based agreements with primary care physicians.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



	<p>entered into by insurers and health care providers.</p>	<p>o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>Currently, only health maintenance organizations (HMOs) may enter into capitated or risk-based arrangements with primary care physicians. These models allow physicians to assume financial risk in exchange for the opportunity to earn increased compensation by improving patient outcomes and reducing unnecessary medical services. However, individuals enrolled in PPO or EPO health plans are currently ineligible to participate in such value-based care models.</p> <p>HB 2254 expands the scope of value-based care arrangements by authorizing a PPO or EPO health plan to enter into voluntary capitated or risk-based arrangements with primary care physicians, allowing patients to receive cost-effective care. Physicians or physician groups would not be considered to be engaging in the business of insurance by entering into a contract, and insurers are prohibited from discriminating against providers who choose not to participate. Agreement contracts must include information outlining how compensation is measured, the attribution process for assigning patients to physicians, and capitation guidelines. Additionally, agreements must not disincentivize medically necessary services.</p> <p>HB 2254 expands access to value-based care by allowing PPO and EPO plans to enter into capitation or risk-based agreements with primary care physicians, while establishing protections to ensure transparency, provider choice, and patient access to necessary services.</p>	
<p>HB 2259 By: DeAyala</p>	<p>Relating to the instructions for an application form for an early voting ballot.</p>	<p>Elections 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2259 improves the accessibility of early voting by mail by requiring the instructions for ballot applications to be printed in a clearer, more legible format.</p> <p>Currently, instructions for early voting mail-in ballot applications are often printed in small font on a half-sheet of paper, which can be difficult to read, particularly for voters with visual impairments. This can potentially lead to confusion or application errors.</p> <p>HB 2259 requires the secretary of state to prescribe instructions in portrait orientation on a full sheet of paper using Calibri or Aptos font in at least 12-point size, with bold print where necessary to relate instructions to application items.</p> <p>HB 2259 aims to reduce voter confusion, prevent errors, and ensure a more accessible and inclusive voting process for all Texans.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2853 By: Perez,</p>	<p>Relating to student union building fees at The University of</p>	<p>Higher Education</p>	<p>HB 2853 would allow the University of Texas at El Paso to increase the student union fee to fund a new student union facility.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



<p>Vincent Moody Morales, Eddie Ordaz</p>	<p>Texas at El Paso.</p>	<p>10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>Currently, the student union fee is capped at \$30 per semester, but with significant enrollment growth since the original union's construction in 1949, a larger facility is needed. In 2024, the student body passed a referendum approving an increase to the student union fee to rebuild their student union building. HB 2853 raises the student union fee cap to \$150 and \$75 for terms less than six weeks, with a 10% annual increase limit.</p> <p>HB 2853 allows UTEP to better serve its growing student population.</p>	
<p>HB 3073 By: Howard Troxclair Johnson Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the prosecution of the offense of sexual assault.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence 10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3073 strengthens the legal definition of sexual assault in Texas by clarifying when consent is absent, helping prosecutors hold offenders accountable.</p> <p>Sexual assault remains widely under-prosecuted, with only a small percentage of reported cases resulting in convictions. In its 2024 biennial report, the Governor’s Sexual Assault Survivors’ Task Force recommended changes to Texas law to better reflect the realities survivors face. Survivors and legal experts have identified gaps in current law, particularly around how nonconsent is defined. Victims who are too impaired to be aware the assault is happening may fall outside clear statutory protection, as the statute requires proof that they did not consent—allowing defense arguments that there was consent. While current law considers it sexual assault if the defendant intentionally impairs the victim to commit the offense, it fails to cover cases where someone exploits a victim who is already intoxicated or incapacitated. Additionally, there is no statutory language addressing situations where a victim withdraws consent during an act.</p> <p>HB 3073 closes these gaps by making it clear that sexual assault includes continuing after consent is withdrawn, acting when the victim is unaware the assault is occurring, unconscious, or physically unable to resist, or engaging in the act when the victim is too intoxicated or impaired to consent—regardless of who caused the impairment. This bill also defines consent as “assent in fact,” whether expressed directly or inferred from the circumstances.</p> <p>These changes provide prosecutors with clearer legal tools, better reflect the lived experiences of survivors, and shift the burden of proof away from victims. HB 3073 represents a meaningful step toward a more just and effective response to sexual assault in Texas.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3088 By: Orr Kerwin Flores </p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Parks and Wildlife Department to procure goods and services related to</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>HB 3088 aims to enhance the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s (TPWD) retail operations by granting targeted procurement flexibility, in order to acquire goods and services for resale.</p> <p>Current state competitive bidding requirements hinder the TPWD’s ability to effectively procure site specific and customized goods for resale at state parks and concession areas. These restrictions hinder revenue opportunities at park</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



DeAyala Gervin-Hawkins	items for resale by the department.	3 Absent	<p>gift shops and concessions. This makes it difficult for TPWD to secure private concessionaires and appropriate merchandise, limiting the department's ability to offer unique items.</p> <p>The bill authorizes TPWD to procure resale goods and services using any method approved by the Parks and Wildlife Commission, as long as the technique ensures the best value to the department. This targeted procurement flexibility is intended to help TPWD meet its business needs and enhance revenue potential by streamlining the acquisition of site-specific and customized retail products.</p> <p>HB 3088 helps TPWD improve retail operations by allowing more flexible procurement methods for resale items, supporting both business efficiency and revenue growth.</p>	
<p>HB 353 By: Patterson</p>	<p>Relating to creating the criminal offense of trespass on or near school or day-care center property.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C New Offenses and Changed Penalties</p> <p>8 Ayes 3 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 353 establishes a new offense for trespassing on or near school or day-care center property, enhancing child safety and giving law enforcement better tools to address concerning behavior.</p> <p>Schools and day-care centers have reported incidents involving individuals loitering near playgrounds or entrances while exhibiting concerning behavior, such as watching children intently or openly carrying assault rifles near drop-off areas. In multiple cases, police have stated they were unable to take action because the individuals remained on public property and had not committed a chargeable offense. These gaps in existing law have prompted calls for stronger legal protections to deter inappropriate or potentially dangerous activity near child care and educational facilities.</p> <p>HB 353 creates a Class A Misdemeanor offense for individuals who enter or remain on a school or day-care center's property, on property where a school-sponsored activity is occurring, or within 250 feet of such property without a legitimate reason – such as having custody or responsibility of a student or written permission from an authorized school representative. If the individual receives a reasonable request to leave by school staff or security personnel and refuses to do so, they may be charged. The offense applies to both public and private institutions and includes adjacent public areas such as streets, sidewalks, and parks.</p> <p>There are concerns that the bill's broad scope could lead to overreach and the criminalization of normal behavior. Without clear definitions for suspicious conduct or intent, the law could inadvertently criminalize individuals near school zones who pose no threat, such as community members or unhoused individuals. This measure could be applied disproportionately in ways that reinforce existing social or racial biases. Although the bill includes safeguards like requiring a request to leave before charges can be filed, questions remain about how this law could be applied, particularly at school-sponsored events held off campus.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p>



<p>HB 355 By: Craddick</p>	<p>Relating to the period within which the Texas Juvenile Justice Department must accept custody of a person committed to the department and to the consequences for the failure of the department to accept custody of the person within that period.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on Juvenile Justice 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 355 ensures timely rehabilitation for justice-involved youth by requiring the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to take custody of committed juveniles within 30 days.</p> <p>There is currently no statutory requirement for TJJD to take custody of youth who are sentenced to TJJD within a certain time frame. As a result, youth can remain in county facilities for months, or sometimes even over a year, often without access to rehabilitative services. This undermines the core mission of the juvenile justice system– rehabilitation. It also places financial burdens on counties forced to detain youth who are technically in the care of the State. Some counties lack the resources to offer programming while youth await transfer, further delaying their treatment.</p> <p>HB 355 requires TJJD to accept custody of a youth within 30 days of a judge signing a disposition order. If the department fails to do so, it must reimburse the county for the cost of housing the juvenile at a rate equal to what TJJD would have incurred. Additionally, this bill codifies the requirement that youth begin receiving credit toward their minimum length of stay while they’re in county detention, beginning on the 31st day after commitment.</p> <p>By establishing a clear transfer deadline, financial accountability, and credit for time served, HB 355 creates incentives for TJJD to promptly begin rehabilitation. The bill aims to reduce unnecessary delays, support counties, and ensure youth receive timely access to the services intended to help them successfully reintegrate.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 786 By: Jones, Jolanda</p>	<p>Relating to justice court security in certain counties.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 786 aims to strengthen public safety in justice courts by requiring security personnel and metal detectors at each public entrance, but it may impose high costs and reduce flexibility for counties to address security based on local needs.</p> <p>Justice courts often hear emotionally charged cases, including evictions and criminal offenses, yet many lack basic security measures in comparison to other courts.</p> <p>HB 786 seeks to address this gap by requiring the Commissioner’s Court of counties with populations of 3.3 million or more to provide a metal detection device and a constable, deputy constable, or deputy sheriff at each public entrance of every justice court. It currently only applies to Harris County and directs the Commissioners’ Court to first use their courthouse security fund before drawing from the county’s general revenue.</p> <p>HB 786 would ensure a uniform baseline of protection for court personnel and the public in large counties. However, the bill raises concerns about cost and one-size-fits-all implementation. Staffing every entrance of every court with law enforcement could be expensive, especially in large counties with dozens of justice court locations. The Justices of the Peace and Constables Association raised concerns that the courthouse security fund, intended to support a range of</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p>



			<p>safety needs, may be quickly depleted by the bill’s requirements. This would likely leave courts with fewer options to address other security priorities they have. Additionally, some justice courts may have lower traffic or different layouts that do not warrant this level of staffing. The Harris County Commissioners’ Court did not pass a resolution on this bill.</p>	
<p>HB 762 By: Leach</p>	<p>Relating to severance pay for political subdivision employees and independent contractors.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 762 mandates guardrails and transparency for political subdivisions' severance pay, but it removes local discretion in decision-making and recruitment.</p> <p>Texas statute does not list requirements for severance pay for political subdivision employees and independent contractors. The amount and length of pay are left up to the discretion of the subdivisions, offering flexibility in city government. There have been concerns about political subdivisions offering “golden parachutes” to their executives and contractors because severance pay details are not required to be made available to the public.</p> <p>HB 762 limits severance pay in contracts between political subdivisions and their employees or independent contractors to 20 weeks’ compensation. Additionally, the bill prohibits severance in cases of misconduct. It also requires that all severance agreements be posted publicly on the subdivision’s website.</p> <p>HB 762 addresses growing concerns around excessive severance payouts and promotes greater accountability in how tax dollars are spent. Public access to severance agreements supports transparency and gives taxpayers more insight into how local governments operate. However, the bill removes flexibility for cities to negotiate severance terms that reflect the risks and realities of high-level public service. Severance agreements can be a key factor in recruitment for high-level public officials stepping into a politically charged environment. Capping severance may deter strong candidates from taking on these roles, which could ultimately limit a city’s options when hiring for critical leadership positions.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p>
<p>HB 705 By: Wilson</p>	<p>Relating to the Cosmetology Licensure Compact; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 705 would create the Cosmetology Licensure Compact multistate licensing system for cosmetologists and streamline interstate practice.</p> <p>Currently, cosmetologists must obtain separate licenses to practice in each state. HB 705 establishes the Cosmetology Licensure Compact, allowing licensed cosmetologists to hold a multistate license recognized by all participating states. Member states must meet uniform licensing standards and share disciplinary and investigative information through a centralized database. The Compact also creates a governing commission to oversee licensing standards, rulemaking, and enforcement procedures. Texas would designate the Department of Licensing and Regulation to administer the Compact at the state level.</p> <p>This change aims to increase workforce mobility, improve regulatory cooperation, and support industries facing labor</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			shortages while maintaining strong public safety protections.	
<p>HB 932 By: Walle</p>	<p>Relating to the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact; authorizing fees.</p>	<p>Public Health 11 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 932 improves access to occupational therapy services by joining the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact, which enables qualified occupational therapists (OTs) to practice across member states without needing multiple licenses.</p> <p>Currently, OTs in Texas face administrative challenges when clients relocate or OTs need to move due to state licensure requirements, which can result in a delay in the continuity of care for patients. This can be particularly challenging for Texas military families, who face higher barriers to entry in state-licensed professions due to frequent relocation.</p> <p>HB 932 establishes the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact to improve access to care by allowing licensed OTs to practice across member states with a single, valid license. Compact provisions are outlined for state participation, license acquisition for relocating therapists and military personnel, member states' authority over adverse actions, the Occupational Therapy Compact Commission's creation and rulemaking powers, a coordinated database, oversight and dispute resolution, construction and severability, and the process for amending or withdrawing from the compact. The Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners will administer the compact in Texas and adopt necessary implementation rules.</p> <p>HB 932 reduces licensing obstacles and lessens the administrative burden on the Texas Board of Occupational Therapy Examiners for out-of-state OT applications, effectively increasing access to care statewide.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 849 By: Vasut</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of a county board of park commissioners to hold a meeting by videoconference call.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs, S/C on County & Regional Government 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 849 allows county boards of park commissioners to hold virtual meetings so long as there is a physical location open to the public.</p> <p>The current statute only allows for state governmental bodies and local entities that span three or more counties to hold meetings by videoconference. County boards of park commissioners are not included, which limits their ability to use remote meeting options</p> <p>HB 849 adds county boards of park commissioners to the list of governmental bodies that can hold meetings by videoconference. The presiding officer must still be physically present at a location open to the public.</p> <p>HB 849 gives county park boards the flexibility to meet remotely while maintaining transparency and public access.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



OK for Distribution

<p>HB 1160 By: Hull</p>	<p>Relating to increasing the criminal penalty for the offense of assault committed against certain employees or agents of a utility and to the prosecution of the criminal offense of interference with public duties of those employees or agents; increasing criminal penalties for certain criminal offenses relating to interference with public duties.</p>	<p>Criminal Jurisprudence, S/C on New Offenses and Changed Penalties 9 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1160 increases penalties for interfering with or assaulting utility workers, aiming to better protect those providing essential services during emergencies.</p> <p>Utility workers often operate in hazardous conditions, especially during disasters, to restore electricity, water, and communication infrastructure. However, these workers have increasingly faced harassment and physical threats while performing their duties. Unlike first responders or hospital personnel, utility workers are not currently afforded the same legal protections under Texas law, leaving them vulnerable during critical operations.</p> <p>HB 1160 adds utility employees and agents to the list of protected individuals under the offense of interference with public duties, increasing the punishment for the offense to that of the next higher offense. It also enhances the penalty for assaulting a utility worker from a class A misdemeanor to a third-degree felony if the worker was performing job-related duties and the offender knew, or reasonably should have known they were a utility worker based on their uniform. This bill further raises penalties for interference offenses committed in disaster areas or under evacuation orders and defines “utility” as of electric, telecommunications, video service or cable, gas, a pipeline to transport or sell gas, broadband, water, and sewer service providers.</p> <p>By expanding legal protections and elevating penalties, HB 1160 aims to deter interference and violence against utility workers, especially during emergencies when their roles are most vital.</p> <p>There are concerns that this measure may not actually reduce assaults on utility workers, as the National Institute of Justice reports that increasing penalties does little to deter crime.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p>
<p>HB 1119 By: Gámez Campos</p>	<p>Relating to a biennial report on the regional allocation of mental health beds.</p>	<p>Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1119 mandates detailed reporting and a more transparent methodology for mental health bed allocation, aiming to provide a more equitable distribution of resources across the state.</p> <p>Currently, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) are required to provide reports on the regional distribution of inpatient overnight mental health beds, also referred to as bed days. However, these reports do not clearly explain the methodology behind bed day allocations, which can result in unequal distribution of mental health resources. Without defined and transparent allocation methods, certain areas may face bed shortages, resulting in delays in accessing care for those in need, particularly in underserved or rural communities.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



OK for Distribution

			<p>HB 1119 revises the report on regional bed allocation to improve clarity and transparency. DSHS is no longer included among the entities that submit the report, with HHSC now tasked with calculating the daily bed value and the projected total for the upcoming five years. The report must incorporate a detailed explanation of the bed day allocation methodology, outlining all factors considered in the process. The requirements for evaluating the factors influencing day bed usage and resource availability in each region have been removed from the report. Evaluations must include total spending on mental health services, regional data on mental health facilities, the number of services provided by state-funded facilities, an analysis of state-funded facilities, and the number of entities denied state-funded mental health grants due to funding constraints. Additionally, the bed day utilization review should include a peer review process.</p> <p>HB 1119 enhances the transparency and fairness of mental health bed allocation by requiring more transparent reporting on bed day usage, including detailed methodologies and factors considered, which will help ensure more equitable distribution of mental health resources across the state.</p>	
<p>HB 1612 By: Frank</p>	<p>Relating to direct payment for certain health care provided by a hospital.</p>	<p>Public Health 12 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1612 tackles pricing disparities in hospital billing by limiting the charges that can be billed to uninsured patients, aiming to protect them from excessive medical costs and enhance access to affordable care.</p> <p>Currently, hospitals can charge different prices to patients based on their insurance status, which can result in uninsured patients being charged significantly higher prices than those with insurance coverage. This practice places an undue financial burden on uninsured patients, who may already be facing economic challenges, and deters them from seeking necessary medical care due to cost.</p> <p>HB 1612 limits the charges that hospitals can impose on uninsured patients, protecting them from excessive medical bills and improving access to healthcare. To be eligible for payment reconsideration from hospitals, patients must request this payment pathway within 60 days of receiving their bill. Hospitals must charge uninsured patients no more than 25% above the average amount they typically bill for a service or 50% above the lowest rate agreed upon with insurance companies. CHIP, Medicare, and Medicaid programs are excluded from this consideration in rate setting.</p> <p>HB 1612 promotes greater pricing fairness in hospital billing by capping the charges that uninsured patients can be billed, helping to reduce financial barriers to care and encouraging timely access to necessary medical services.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



OK for Distribution

<p>HB 3041 By: Paul</p>	<p>Relating to measures to support the enrollment of students with a nontraditional secondary education at public institutions of higher education, including eligibility for certain student financial assistance programs.</p>	<p>Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3041 aims to ensure fair treatment of home-schooled and nontraditional students by aligning their college admissions and scholarship eligibility with those of their public school peers. Rather than requiring exceptionally high standardized test scores, the bill proposes using those scores for class rank comparison.</p> <p>Currently, homeschool graduates may qualify for automatic admission through the Top 10% rule (Top 6% for UT Austin) via a formula that estimates class rank based on ACT and SAT test scores. However, this formula has proven flawed, placing an unfair burden on homeschool students to achieve disproportionately high scores. HB 3041 corrects this discrepancy, promoting a more equitable system.</p> <p>HB 3041 ensures all students regardless of educational background are evaluated on equal terms. It revises the Texas Education Code so public universities determine rank for nontraditional applicants by matching standardized test scores to the highest equivalent class rank from historical data, rather than averaging scores across similar groups. Beginning in fall 2026, dual credit enrollment opportunities will also be standardized, ensuring equal access for all students. Additionally, HB 3041 expands eligibility for the TEXAS Grant program and scholarships for top 10% graduates to include nontraditional students, based on the new ranking method.</p> <p>HB 3041 promotes fairness, consistency, and broader access to higher education for all Texas students.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 713 By: Howard Johnson</p>	<p>Relating to an exception to certain reporting requirements for health care providers reviewing selected cases for the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee.</p>	<p>Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 713 improves the timeliness of maternal mortality case reviews by exempting healthcare providers from mandatory reporting requirements when reviewing cases for the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee (TMMMRC).</p> <p>Currently, the TMMMRC is required to redact all maternal mortality records before nurses review cases to ensure they are exempt from mandatory reporting obligations. This requirement causes delays in the committee's ability to examine cases and produce timely reports.</p> <p>HB 713 exempts healthcare providers, including nurses, from mandatory reporting requirements when they review case information for the TMMMRC. HB 713 will save time by eliminating the need for redaction, allowing for faster case reviews and more timely reporting on maternal health outcomes.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3104 By:</p>	<p>Relating to the appointment and compensation of a</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence</p>	<p>HB 3104 updates bailiff appointment authority for certain district courts in Webb County to reflect current court operations and reduce statutory redundancy.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



<p>McLaughlin</p>	<p>bailiff appointed by the judges of certain district courts in Webb County.</p>	<p>11 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent</p>	<p>Under current law, multiple sections govern the appointment and compensation of bailiffs for various district courts across the state. Some of these statutes have become outdated as court structures and practices have evolved. In Webb County, this has resulted in inconsistent language regarding which judges are responsible for appointing bailiffs and how those bailiffs are paid.</p> <p>HB 3104 removes the authority of the 406th District Court in Webb County to appoint a bailiff. Additionally, the bill removes the section that allows the judge of the 341st District Court in Webb County to set the salary of the court's bailiff. This eliminates a unique compensation and appointment structure that other courts in the county don't have and brings the 341st and 406th District Courts in line with standard county procedures.</p> <p>HB 3104 provides clarity to the statute while preserving the rights and pay of current bailiffs.</p>	
<p>HB 3970 By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to the interconnection of large loads; providing an administrative penalty.</p>	<p>State Affairs 15 Ayes <input type="radio"/> Nays <input type="radio"/> PNV <input type="radio"/> Absent</p>	<p>HB 3970 creates an expedited grid interconnection pathway for large loads that are capable of not demanding energy during grid emergencies. Large loads are a threat to grid reliability without proper guidance, and HB 3970 may provide that guidance.</p> <p>ERCOT forecasts that Texas' energy demands will double within 5 years, partly driven by increased interconnection of large loads such as data centers and cryptocurrency mines. While these large loads can consume more energy than cities the size of Lubbock, they are often flexible loads that can be turned off when the grid is experiencing a supply shortage. There is currently limited regulation over these large loads, and they have not always reduced their energy demands in response to grid emergencies. However, a significant number of large loads is anticipated to come to the Texas grid, and a framework for their sustainable interconnection could greatly benefit Texas as it deals with this unprecedented energy demand growth.</p> <p>HB 3970 provides multiple pathways for large loads to receive expedited grid interconnection, while maintaining protections for grid reliability.</p> <p>HB 3970 requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish a program providing an expedited interconnection process for certain large loads. The program must require electric utilities and ERCOT to prioritize interconnection for large loads. If the large load will be co-located with a generation source that is also applying for interconnection, both applications must be processed at the same time.</p> <p>Large loads have two pathways to receive expedited interconnection: (1) the large load can co-locate with a behind-the-meter generation source that can power the full energy demand of the large load within 180 days of</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>interconnection, or (2) the large load can enter into a minimum 10-year contract with ERCOT to establish the load as a flexible load that can be curtailed in response to demand. Both of these pathways ensure that these large loads will not add to grid strain during a grid emergency.</p> <p>If a large load qualifies for expedited interconnection, ERCOT and the utility the load plans to interconnect with may authorize the load to contract with an approved vendor to perform all studies required during the interconnection application process. The utility may also authorize the load to procure all necessary technical equipment required for interconnection.</p> <p>Finally, HB 3970 requires the PUC to impose an administrative penalty on a large load that is approved for expedited interconnection but does not reduce their demand during a grid emergency.</p> <p>HB 3970 meets anticipated energy demand without overly risking grid reliability. HB 3970 could provide the framework necessary for Texas’ energy market to grow responsibly while keeping grid reliability in mind. Legislators should remain skeptical of the purported grid reliability benefits of large loads, as some large loads in the past have either not reduced their demand in response to grid emergencies or have exploited demand-response programs for financial gain. However, HB 3970 builds in certain protections against these bad actors that could prevent this from happening.</p>	
<p>HB 3962 By: Geren Tinderholt</p>	<p>Relating to the eligibility of the INDYCAR Grand Prix of Arlington for funding under the major events reimbursement program.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism 7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3962 aims to promote economic activity and reduce the financial burden of hosting a major sporting event in Texas by making the INDYCAR Grand Prix of Arlington eligible for state reimbursement under the Major Events Reimbursement Program.</p> <p>Major events like the INDYCAR Grand Prix require significant local investment in infrastructure, security, and services, creating financial pressure on host communities. Without eligibility for reimbursement, the full burden of these costs falls on local governments.</p> <p>The bill makes the INDYCAR Grand Prix of Arlington eligible for the major events reimbursement program, which reimburses local governments for taxes generated by large-scale events, allowing the local and state tax revenue generated by the race to help offset cost of hosting.</p> <p>The bill encourages tourism and economic development while reducing local fiscal strain.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



<p>HB 5061 By: Leach Isaac</p>	<p>Relating to prohibiting certain activities by contractors and vendors of state agencies; providing administrative penalties.</p>	<p>Delivery of Government Efficiency 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 5061 prohibits state contractors and vendors from engaging in surveillance, intimidation, or undue influence targeting state employees, lawmakers, or whistleblowers, and establishes strict enforcement mechanisms.</p> <p>There are presently no explicit laws preventing vendors or contractors from using unethical tactics to influence or retaliate against public officials or agency personnel. HB 5061 prohibits contractors and vendors from conducting surveillance or using coercive tactics against legislators, agency employees, or individuals raising concerns about agency operations. It empowers the State Auditor’s Office and Texas Rangers to investigate violations, establishes a complaint and investigation process, and authorizes penalties – including multimillion-dollar fines, contract termination, and multi-year bans from state contracting. The bill also provides whistleblower protections for employees who report violations, including rights to reinstatement, damages, and legal assistance. These provisions aim to increase integrity, accountability, and transparency in state contracting.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 4042 By: Morales, Eddie</p>	<p>Relating to the applicability of certain safety provisions and regulatory fees administered by the Railroad Commission of Texas to gas distribution pipelines.</p>	<p>Energy Resources 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4042 expands existing statute to allow the Railroad Commission (RRC) to collect regulatory and safety fees from propane distributors. This could lead to better oversight of the propane industry.</p> <p>Current statute allows the RRC to collect annual safety and regulatory fees from operators of liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipelines. These fees help cover some of the RRC’s regulatory costs and may only apply to the RRC’s oversight of LNG. The RRC also regulates propane, another liquefied gas, but is not currently permitted to collect annual fees from propane distributors, who handle a similar gas and are otherwise regulated in similar ways.</p> <p>HB 4042 adds propane to certain regulations currently only applicable to LNG by removing the word “natural” from “natural gas” in certain code. This change will allow the RRC to collect regulatory and safety fees from propane distributors. This fee collection could lead to better enforcement of safety standards over the propane industry, and better aligns propane oversight alongside LNG.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 4115 By: Meyer Button Anchía</p>	<p>Relating to the submission and approval of certain proposals by shareholders of nationally listed corporations.</p>	<p>Trade, Workforce & Economic Development 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4115 allows certain corporations to adopt higher thresholds for shareholder proposals..</p> <p>Currently, federal rules require public companies to include shareholder proposals in proxy materials, even from individuals with minimal ownership, which can burden companies and other shareholders with proposals that lack broad support.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>HB 4115 permits nationally listed corporations with a principal office in Texas to require an individual or group of shareholders to hold at least \$1 million in market value or 3% of voting shares for at least six months before soliciting support for a proposal from holders of 67% of voting power.</p> <p>HB 4115 aims to ensure shareholder proposals reflect significant investor interest while reducing distractions from low-ownership filings.</p>	
<p>HB 4490 By: Smithee</p>	<p>Relating to an exemption from required disclosure of information related to the next of kin of deceased persons.</p>	<p>Public Health 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4490 protects next of kin information from public release, except in cases of legal necessity.</p> <p>Currently, under the State Public Information Law, marketing firms can solicit information from a county medical examiner’s office to sell to third parties. This includes next of kin data such as names, relationships, addresses, and phone numbers. As a result, many families are wary of cooperating with a county medical examiner’s office, which can lead to inefficient investigations and delays with the release of remains.</p> <p>HB 4490 specifies that the decedent's next of kin is protected from public disclosure, with the exception that such disclosure can occur via subpoena or other legal authority. This safeguard preserves family privacy while still enabling the necessary disclosure of information for legitimate legal purposes.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1731 By: Campos Oliverson</p>	<p>Relating to the physician assistant licensure compact; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health 11 Ayes 2 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1731 improves access to healthcare by allowing Texas to join the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, enabling licensed physician assistants (PAs) who are in good standing in one state to work in another state within the compact without needing a new license.</p> <p>Currently, Texas is already a member of several occupational licensure compacts, including those for physicians, nurses, physical therapists, psychologists, and emergency medical personnel, to expand workforce mobility and improve access to healthcare services. However, Texas is not part of the interstate compact for PAs, which creates a burdensome licensure application process for out-of-state practitioners and hinders access to care, especially in rural and underserved communities.</p> <p>HB 1731 authorizes Texas to join the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, PAs with an active, unencumbered license in one member state to practice in other compact states without obtaining additional licenses. The compact outlines the rules governing state participation, the procedures for PAs to operate under the compact, and how states can take action against PAs if necessary. The PA Licensure Compact Commission oversees the compact and creates a system for sharing information on PAs across participating states. The compact sets standard requirements for states to follow, ensuring</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>consistent quality among PAs, and covers dispute resolution, enforcement, and the process by which states can change or leave the compact. In Texas, the Texas Physician Assistant Board would manage the compact and create necessary rules.</p> <p>By joining the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact through HB 1731, Texas can reduce licensure barriers, expand its healthcare workforce, and improve timely access to care.</p>	
<p>HB 1705 By: Shofner</p>	<p>Relating to the accreditation of certain postsecondary educational institutions in this state or of certain programs offered by those institutions</p>	<p>Higher Education 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1705 makes mostly symbolic and unnecessary changes to Texas’s accreditation statute in an apparent attempt to align with the Trump administration’s criticism of so-called “woke” accreditation organizations. Rather than addressing any real problem or providing improvements, the bill’s immediate effect is negligible — its only potential impact is negative.</p> <p>Currently, a “recognized accrediting agency” in Texas includes the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and any other organization designated by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). HB 1705 would remove specific references to SACS from the Education Code and replace them with the broader term “recognized accrediting agency” in laws governing public higher education.</p> <p>This change follows a 2019 Trump administration policy shift that eliminated the requirement for institutions to use regionally based accreditors based on claims that regional accreditors were imposing standards promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and resisting conservative reforms. The change allowed colleges and universities to choose any nationally recognized accreditor. More recently, the Trump administration signed an executive order to overhaul the higher education accreditation system, citing alleged ideological overreach and unlawful discrimination.</p> <p>The ability for Texas institutions to choose from any recognized accreditor already exists in current law. HB 1705 makes no impactful change in this regard — it simply removes specific reference to SACS, further legitimizing a move away from the historically recognized accreditor without offering a valid reason for doing so.</p> <p>There are also concerns that university boards of regents — appointed by the governor — could sway to political pressure and push to have an accreditor that is not federally recognized, which would jeopardize students’ financial aid. Under the Federal Higher Education Act, students at institutions not accredited by a federally recognized agency are ineligible for federal financial aid (FAFSA).</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>



			<p>To date, all accreditors recognized by THECB are also federally recognized — a fact that helps mitigate the bill’s immediate risk. However, that could change without legislative oversight, as THECB— whose members are appointed by the governor — could choose to approve a non-federally recognized accreditor.</p> <p>While HB 1705 may seem inconsequential on its own, it is part of a broader effort to politicize university governance and accreditation. This risks undermining the peer-reviewed, non-governmental accreditation process that helps ensure educational quality in the U.S.</p>	
<p>HB 2607 By: Wharton</p>	<p>Relating to the terms of the members of the board of hospital managers and leasing authority of the Walker County Hospital District.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2607 authorizes the Walker County Hospital District to lease undeveloped land, set board terms to 4 years, and extend the maximum lease to 80 years.</p> <p>The current law allows the Walker County Hospital District to lease buildings and facilities, but does not authorize leasing undeveloped land. Private doctors who are interested in building their clinics within the district’s boundaries are prohibited, despite other hospital districts having this authority. The district also already uses staggered four-year terms for its board, but this is not reflected in its enabling legislation. Additionally, the district is allotted to lease buildings for a maximum of 40 years, preventing longer lease terms from occurring.</p> <p>HB 2607 updates the district’s leasing authority to include undeveloped land, such as for a private clinic to be built within district boundaries. It also puts into statute the current practice of four-year staggered board terms. The maximum lease term is changed to 80 years to allow the district more authority in leasing.</p> <p>HB 2607 brings the district’s powers and structure in line with other hospital districts across the state and supports expanded access to health care services. The bill ensures that the hospital district has the authority to make decisions in its best interest.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3556 By: Vasut Metcalf</p>	<p>Relating to certain structures located near a National Wildlife Refuge.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism 6 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>While the stated intent of HB 3556 is to protect migratory birds, in reality it would inhibit further development of renewable wind energy, an area in which Texas leads the nation.</p> <p>HB 3556 applies to counties that have a population less than 500 that border the Gulf of Mexico and have a National Wildlife Refuge, plus their adjacent counties. It mandates that before anyone can build a structure taller than 500 feet near the National Wildlife Refuge, they must notify the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) at least 90 days in advance to give TPWD time to study how the building might affect local wildlife. If TPWD believes the construction will significantly harm wildlife, they can go to court within those 90 days to try and stop or limit it. If TPWD doesn't take any</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>



			<p>legal action within that 90-day period, the builder can move forward. However, a local court can still issue an order to stop the construction if TPWD requests it, and TPWD doesn't have to pay a bond to do so.</p> <p>Wind energy projects already comply with strict federal wildlife protection laws and often work in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies to reduce their environmental impact. Additionally, violations of regulations set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) can lead to significant civil and criminal penalties. Texas is the leading state in the United States for wind energy production. HB 3556 jeopardizes this by attempting to slow the development of new wind energy and increasing risk and uncertainty for renewable investors.</p>	
<p>HB 138 By: Dean Paul Gerdes Hull Leach</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Insurance 6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 138 establishes the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program (HICCAP) at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to assess the potential impact of proposed legislative mandates on health benefit plan issuers in Texas.</p> <p>Currently, there is no mechanism in place to analyze the impact of legislative mandates on private health insurance costs. Although a fiscal note can be provided for legislation affecting state-funded health plans, resources can be minimal and not verified by a third party. According to America's Health Insurance Plans, at least 28 other states have a process to estimate how legislation will affect the cost of private health coverage, which can help lawmakers in those states make informed decisions.</p> <p>HB 138 establishes the Health Impact, Cost, and Coverage Analysis Program (HICCAP) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston to prepare analyses of proposed legislative mandates that would impact health benefit plan issuers in Texas. The Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, or the chair or vice chair of a committee in either chamber can submit a request to the analysis program regardless of whether the legislature is in session or not. Analysis reports must be provided for new legislation within 60 days of the request, unless it is during a regular legislative session, then reports must be provided within 30 days. HICCAP must consider several factors in its analysis, including peer-reviewed literature on the expected impact on public health, the expected increase or decrease in the total cost of healthcare in Texas, the expenses of health plan insurers and policyholders, and an in-depth review of healthcare services impacted. Considerations of the impact on community health, such as reducing hospitalizations and instances of communicable diseases through prevention, must also be addressed in analyses. To fund HICCAP, the Comptroller of Public Accounts will assess an annual fee on each health benefit plan issuer for implementation. Additionally, the Commissioner of Insurance must issue a special data call for an estimate of transparent administrative expenses to all relevant health benefit plan issuers affected by the legislation being analyzed.</p>	<p><u>Favorable with Concerns</u></p>



			<p>HB 138 establishes a structured, data-driven approach to evaluate the public health and financial impacts of proposed health insurance mandates in Texas, enabling more informed legislative decisions; however, several concerns arise. First, unlike other state models, HICCAP allows health benefit plan insurers to include "administrative expenses" related to contractual obligations, such as patient protections, in their analyses. Although the aim is to verify costs through transparency in methodologies, the submitted information from health plans remains unverifiable. Second, HICCAP's timelines for analysis reports, 60 days outside of session and 30 days during, are arbitrary, designed for the needs of the part-time legislature, and may ultimately not allow for the detailed, multisystem analysis intended. Lastly, while HICCAP must address various public health concerns, it lacks community participation and population study groups, which limits insights into health disparities based on race, ethnicity, or geography.</p> <p>While HB 138 marks progress toward evidence-based health insurance policy in Texas, its effectiveness could be hindered by unverifiable cost data, restrictive timelines, and missing mechanisms to address community-level health disparities.</p>	
<p>HB 3689 By: Hunter Oliverson Paul Bonnen Villalobos</p>	<p>Relating to funding of excess losses and operating expenses of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association; authorizing an assessment; authorizing a surcharge.</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3689 reforms the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association's funding by replacing costly public security financing with a sustainable model of state-funded financing, state-arranged financing agreements, and catastrophe surcharges to enhance TWIA's financial stability and ensure timely support for policyholders after disasters.</p> <p>The Texas Windstorm Insurance Association offers windstorm and hail insurance to property owners who are unable to obtain coverage because of the risk of hurricanes. TWIA has typically covered large losses and its operating costs by borrowing money through public securities; however, this approach has proven to be expensive and inefficient due to high interest rates and fees. If the organization takes on too much debt or struggles to repay its outstanding obligations, it risks being unable to meet future policyholder obligations in a timely manner.</p> <p>HB 3689 strengthens TWIA's ability to cover disaster losses by replacing public securities with state-funded financing and allowing the use of catastrophe surcharges and state-arranged financing agreements. TWIA is required to pay insured losses from reserves available before or accrued during the year of the catastrophe, and if funds are insufficient, it can borrow up to \$1 billion through financing agreements with the state. If reserves and financing agreements are inadequate to cover losses, member assessments can be used to pay up to \$1 billion. Members are allowed to purchase reinsurance before any occurrences to cover the new financing structure. The Texas Treasury Safekeeping Trust Company and TWIA's board of directors are authorized to recommend investments for the Catastrophe Reserve Trust Fund, which will protect the fund and generate investment income. Member assessments will no longer fund reinsurance for TWIA, and TWIA will be able to purchase reinsurance as needed. The Texas Insurance Commissioner is permitted to</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>set a catastrophe surcharge to be collected by members if insured losses exceed TWIA’s premium and other revenue, and must dictate amounts, policies, and collections for all applicable insurers. Additionally, the Comptroller must provide TWIA with up to \$500 million in funding before a catastrophic event and up to \$1 billion in funding after such an event, which must be secured and repaid through surcharges.</p> <p>HB 3689 marks a significant reform in TWIA’s funding structure, aiming to enhance financial stability and ensure timely disaster response by reducing reliance on debt and introducing state-arranged financing and catastrophe surcharges.</p>	
<p>HB 1788 By: Hernandez Simmons</p>	<p>Relating to continuing education for barbers and cosmetologists on identifying and assisting victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1788 requires barbers and cosmetologists to complete continuing education on identifying and assisting victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.</p> <p>Currently, barbers and cosmetologists must complete general continuing education requirements to renew their licenses, but there is no specific training on recognizing and responding to signs of abuse or trafficking. HB 1788 directs the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules mandating that license holders complete training on how to identify and assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.</p> <p>This measure aims to equip service professionals, who often interact closely with the public, to recognize signs of abuse and connect victims with resources.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1887 By: Metcalf Lambert Bumgarner</p>	<p>Relating to birth records of adopted persons; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>Public Health 11 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1887 simplifies the process for adult adoptees to obtain a noncertified copy of their original birth certificate without a court order.</p> <p>Currently, an adopted person must go to the court where their adoption took place to obtain their original birth certificate, unless they are an adult and know the names of both parents listed on the certificate. This process can result in delays in obtaining a birth certificate, which can impede an individual's ability to apply for a passport, obtain a driver's license, access healthcare, and handle other legal matters, ultimately complicating everyday life.</p> <p>HB 1887 streamlines access to birth certificates for adult adoptees by requiring the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to provide an adopted person or surviving family member with a noncertified copy of the adopted person’s original birth certificate without a court order. To qualify, the adopted individual must have been born in Texas, a supplemental birth certificate must have been issued, and the requester must provide proof of identity. When issued, the State Registrar must charge a fee equal to that for issuing a non-certified birth certificate copy. Additionally, the Health and Human</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>Services Commission must establish rules to protect birth records containing private adoption information from public access.</p> <p>HB 1887 expedites access to birth certificates for adult adoptees by removing unnecessary court requirements while ensuring privacy protections for adoption details.</p>	
<p>HB 1914 By: Cook</p>	<p>Relating to the modification of a possession order and temporary possession of a child when a conservator of the child is incapacitated.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships</p> <p>10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1914 ensures continuity and stability for children by allowing another conservator to temporarily take over parenting time when the managing conservator becomes incapacitated.</p> <p>Under current law, there is no automatic mechanism to address what happens if a managing conservator becomes incapacitated due to illness, mental health issues, or incarceration. In such cases, a child may be left in a legal gray area, creating confusion or disruption in care until a court can intervene.</p> <p>HB 1914 addresses this gap by explicitly recognizing the incapacitation of the managing conservatorship as a condition that would significantly affect the child’s well-being. This allows the other conservator to temporarily assume possession of the child until the managing conservator is capable of caring for the child or the court determines another conservator.</p> <p>HB 1914 promotes stability, allows for swift transitions, and still protects the child’s welfare through necessary safeguards.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2402 By: Rose</p>	<p>Relating to the determination of fees, charges, and rates for certain benefits under Medicaid.</p>	<p>Human Services</p> <p>10 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2404 excludes payments from discount membership programs from rate-setting calculations for Medicaid reimbursements.</p> <p>Currently, Medicaid reimbursements for prescriptions are typically set by the rate most frequently charged to the public. However, prices from discount membership programs can be included in rate-setting calculations, resulting in lower reimbursement rates for pharmacies and less participation in Medicaid.</p> <p>HB 2404 mandates that fees, charges, or rates related to Medicaid benefits, excluding professional services, do not include any amounts associated with a monthly fee-based membership program.</p> <p>HB 2404 aims to ensure that Medicaid reimbursement rates more accurately reflect the true cost of medications, encouraging greater pharmacy participation.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



<p>HB 2306 By: Villalobos</p>	<p>Relating to changing the eligibility for release on parole of certain inmates serving sentences for trafficking offenses involving child victims and disabled individuals.</p>	<p>Corrections 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2306 ensures that individuals convicted of human trafficking offenses involving children or disabled individuals are not eligible for parole, strengthening protections for vulnerable Texans and reinforcing justice for victims.</p> <p>Under current law, individuals convicted of trafficking may become eligible for parole after serving half their sentence or 30 years, whichever is less, meaning some may seek release after as little as 12 years. This has raised concerns about public safety and whether the justice system is holding these offenders fully accountable for the severity of these crimes.</p> <p>HB 2306 addresses this issue by removing parole eligibility for those who commit or benefit from trafficking offenses targeting children or disabled individuals. It also repeals existing provisions related to their parole eligibility to eliminate inconsistencies in the law.</p> <p>By explicitly removing parole eligibility for these offenses, HB 2306 ensures that full sentences are served and affirms the State’s commitment to protecting its most vulnerable residents from further harm.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 1809 By: Hernandez</p>	<p>Relating to prohibited insurance discrimination on the basis of an insured's marital status following the death of the insured's spouse.</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1809 addresses discriminatory insurance practices by preventing insurers from financially penalizing individuals based on their widowed status.</p> <p>Currently, insurance companies can increase rates for individuals who have lost a spouse. This practice can impose an undue financial burden on widowed individuals, who are often already facing emotional and economic challenges.</p> <p>HB 1809 prohibits insurance companies from denying, canceling, or refusing to renew coverage solely because an individual has been widowed. Additionally, insurance companies are prohibited from charging a widowed person a rate that is different from the rate that would have been charged if they were married.</p> <p>HB 1809 ensures fair treatment of widowed individuals by prohibiting discriminatory insurance practices.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 2350 By: Dutton</p>	<p>Relating to standing in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, S/C on Family & Fiduciary Relationships 11 Ayes</p>	<p>HB 2350 clarifies and streamlines standing in suits affecting the parent-child relationship to ensure consistency and reduce unnecessary litigation.</p> <p>Current statute does not provide clear definitions for who is allowed to petition for custody of a child. Grandparents are the only specified relatives who have this authority. The statute recognizes people within the third degree of consanguinity (relatedness), which includes great-grandparents, to take custody of a child. Additionally, the statute leaves out non-related caregivers who have been taking care of a child in an unofficial guardianship, which is referred to</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



		<p>o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>as kinship care. This limits the available adults who could assume custody of the child to prevent the Department of Family and Child Services (DFPS) from stepping in.</p> <p>HB 2350 allows relatives within the fourth degree of consanguinity, which includes great-grandparents, to petition for custody of a child if they have substantial proof that the parents would significantly impair the child's physical health or emotional development. Additionally, a non-relative who has had substantial contact with the child for at least 12 months can petition for custody under the same reasons. If DFPS returns possession of the child to the parents or has dismissed the case, non-relatives and extended family members cannot intervene to take custody.</p> <p>HB 2350 offers alternatives for custody to keep children out of the foster care system while continuing to protect children and families against unnecessary litigation in family courts.</p>	
<p>HB 3000 By: King Ashby Phelan Frank Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.</p>	<p>Public Health 13 Ayes o Nays o PNV o Absent</p>	<p>HB 3000 enhances emergency medical services in rural Texas by establishing the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to counties for purchasing ground ambulances.</p> <p>The Texas Hospital Association estimates that approximately 586,000 rural Texans lack health insurance, while the rural healthcare system grapples with significant challenges, including a critical workforce shortage and insufficient financial resources. Additionally, the long distances to trauma centers and low population density place further pressure on local emergency medical services (EMS), heightening risks for residents during medical emergencies.</p> <p>HB 3000 aims to enhance emergency response infrastructure in rural communities by mandating the Comptroller of Public Accounts to create and oversee the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program. Counties must have a population of 68,750 or fewer and provide a public or private rural ambulance service to qualify for the grant program. The comptroller is tasked with awarding grants while taking into account the distance to the nearest Level I trauma facility and the county's ability to secure additional funding for adequate ambulance services. Grants are limited to \$500,000 for counties with populations under 10,000 and \$350,000 for those with populations between 10,000 and 68,750. Grants must be used for the purchase of ground ambulances. Additionally, the comptroller must set rules regarding the application process, deadlines for grant applications, monitoring compliance for awardees, and ground ambulances eligible for purchase.</p> <p>HB 3000 seeks to address the healthcare and emergency response challenges faced by rural Texas communities by providing targeted financial support through the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program, helping to ensure better access to critical medical services in underserved areas.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



<p>HB 3237 By: Turner</p>	<p>Relating to certain energy consumption goals for institutions of higher education and certain governmental entities.</p>	<p>State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3237 extends energy savings goals for certain public entities for an additional six years.</p> <p>Under current statute, certain state agencies, universities, and political subdivisions are required to set goals to reduce electric consumption by at least 5% annually from 2019 through 2025. As this requirement is nearing expiration, Texas' grid needs energy savings more than ever—ERCOT projects that energy supply could fall below energy demand as early as Summer 2026.</p> <p>HB 3237 extends the period in which certain political subdivisions, higher education institutions, and state agencies are required to set an annual 5% energy reduction goal to September 1, 2031. The extension of these goal requirements could help Texas reduce energy consumption and meet urgent energy needs.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3326 By: Allen</p>	<p>Relating to certain duties of a public institution of higher education in relation to the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.</p>	<p>Higher Education 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3326 aims to encourage more public higher education employees to take advantage of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program.</p> <p>While federal changes have expanded PSLF access, state-level adjustments are needed to help more Texans benefit from the program, especially adjuncts. HB 3326 modifies the Education Code to ensure institutions count each credit or contact hour as 3.35 hours for PSLF certification. Faculty are considered full-time if their workload averages at least 30 hours per week. Institutions must verify employment status, certify PSLF forms within 60 days, and provide annual written notice to all employees by October 1 regarding PSLF eligibility. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is authorized to adopt implementation rules.</p> <p>HB 3326 enhances access to PSLF for Texas higher education employees by clarifying eligibility, improving employment verification, and increasing outreach to inform workers about available benefits.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3211 By: Dean Gerdes Harless Lalani Phelan</p>	<p>Relating to the participation of optometrists and therapeutic optometrists in managed care plans providing vision benefits.</p>	<p>Insurance 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3211 improves access to vision care by requiring vision insurance companies to adopt transparent, standardized practices for credentialing, billing, and contracting with qualified optometrists.</p> <p>Currently, vision insurance companies have the authority to limit the optometrists eligible to participate in their provider networks. As a result, patients face reduced access to in-network care, forcing them to travel greater distances to obtain affordable treatment.</p> <p>HB 3211 prevents vision insurance companies from denying optometrists or therapeutic optometrists, who meet the necessary credentialing standards, the opportunity to join their network. All vision insurance companies are required to</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>specify reimbursable services using the codes, names, and definitions found in the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System, creating a more accessible billing system. Additionally, new contracts with providers must include a fee schedule. Vision insurance companies are also mandated to implement an online application process for providers wishing to become in-network, along with establishing a timeline for reviewing applications.</p> <p>HB 3211 enhances transparency and equity in vision insurance networks by guaranteeing that qualified optometrists can participate, thereby improving patient care accessibility and simplifying administrative workflows for providers.</p>	
<p>HB 1056 By: Dorazio Hunter Capriglione Raymond</p>	<p>Relating to the issuance of gold and silver specie and the establishment of a currency based on gold and silver; authorizing a fee.</p>	<p>State Affairs 10 Ayes 5 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 1056 would create a new state currency backed by gold and silver, raising serious legal, economic, and logistical problems.</p> <p>In 2018, Texas established the Texas Bullion Depository, becoming the first state with its own gold and silver depository. Texas is currently one of 11 states allowing gold and silver to be used as legal currency, but no state currently mints its own gold coinage. Currently, anyone who owns gold or silver must convert it to U.S. Dollars, the official currency of the country, before using it to make a purchase.</p> <p>Supporters of the bill argue that, in recent years, the Dollar has lost value relative to gold and silver, prompting gold and silver owners to convert it for use in everyday purchases, which some do through the use of specialized gold and silver debit cards. Supporters of HB 1056 argue that gold and silver are less susceptible to inflation than the Dollar, and that they should be accepted as everyday currency, exempt from the capital gains tax. This argument aligns with a broader movement advocating for gold and silver as legal tender, rooted in deep skepticism of the federal government and resistance to traditional financial institutions.</p> <p>HB 1056 requires the Comptroller to establish and issue gold and silver currency. The Comptroller must establish and issue this currency to represent a fraction of a troy ounce of gold or silver. The bill also requires the Comptroller to authorize the Texas Bullion Depository as the state's exclusive issuer of this currency and to ensure that holders of the currency can use it for the payment of debts and transfers. HB 1056 requires the Comptroller to establish this currency in a way that allows for electronic transfer of the currency.</p> <p>Additionally, HB 1056 requires the Comptroller to establish a pooled account in the Texas Bullion Depository to hold in trust all gold and silver owned by Texans who wish to use this currency. The Comptroller would handle deposits or withdrawals of gold or silver from this account and may establish a fee to cover costs associated with the issuance of this currency and all related bill provisions. No money held in this account may be used by the Legislature for appropriations.</p>	<p><u>Unfavorable</u></p>



			<p>The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the sole authority to coin money, and any attempt by a state to create its own currency would almost certainly result in costly legal challenges. Implementing the provisions of this bill would expose the state to significant legal and constitutional risks.</p> <p>Moreover, currency systems are subject to strict federal requirements to prevent corruption and counterfeiting. A state-run currency could create vulnerabilities to federal criminal counterfeiting violations and open the door for misuse by criminal enterprises seeking to evade U.S. monetary systems.</p> <p>There are also serious practical issues with implementation. For example, the Comptroller would be responsible for the secure storage of gold — a cost that was not accounted for in the fiscal note. In addition, because gold is a volatile commodity, the value of any withdrawal certificate would fluctuate daily, complicating its use as a stable medium of exchange.</p> <p>In effect, this bill attempts to create a state-backed currency that would compete with the federal government’s legal tender, raising both constitutional and logistical concerns.</p>	
<p>HB 2081 By: Bucy</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the Building Better Futures Program to support educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities at public and private institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Higher Education 9 Ayes 1 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2081 aims to expand access to inclusive postsecondary education and job training for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by increasing the number of Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) programs in Texas.</p> <p>CTP programs provide IDD students with academic enrichment, independent living skills, and work experiences that build career readiness and promote long-term, gainful employment. According to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), there are only five CTP programs in Texas that are currently approved by the U.S. Department of Education, an insufficient number for a state the size of Texas. For comparison, there are 8 programs in Tennessee, 12 in Pennsylvania, and 20 in Florida.</p> <p>To address this gap, HB 2081 requires the THECB to create and manage the Building Better Futures Program, which expands access to inclusive educational and occupational training for students with IDD through CTP programs at public and private colleges. HB 2081 also requires the THECB to develop rules and a competitive funding process. To be eligible, institutions must be approved or seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Education to offer CTP programs, implement a selective admissions process, and award certificates to graduates. Students must meet residency,</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



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			<p>IDD diagnosis, and participation criteria. Credits earned are non-transferable, and funding may come from appropriations, grants, and donations.</p> <p>HB 2081 is a critical step toward providing equitable opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping them build the skills necessary for meaningful employment and greater community inclusion.</p>	
<p>HB 2187 By: Howard Shofner</p>	<p>Relating to hospital staffing reports and complaint processes and to retaliation and mandatory overtime protections for nurses.</p>	<p>Public Health 13 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 2187 enhances the regulation of nurse staffing in Texas hospitals by improving data sharing between state agencies and protecting nurses who report staffing violations, promoting safer and more accountable healthcare environments.</p> <p>Currently, hospitals must report their nurse staffing policies to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS); however, the regulation and oversight of hospitals is conducted by the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), and there is no current mechanism for sharing staff data between the two agencies. This lack of coordination means that nurses who have concerns about staffing practices must report them directly to their employer. This process can create barriers for nurses seeking to address staffing issues and may delay necessary interventions to ensure safe patient care.</p> <p>HB 2187 closes the communication gap between DSHS and HHSC by requiring DSHS to develop a mandatory reporting and data exchange process between the two agencies. To protect nurses, hospitals are also prohibited from retaliating against a nurse who reports nurse staffing violations or abuses of mandatory overtime. HHSC must enforce provisions governing nurse staffing issues as dictated by the Texas Hospital Licensing Law, specifically those related to staffing, patient care, safety requirements, and compliance with nursing peer review. Additionally, HHSC must establish a process to provide reviews and resolutions of each complaint related to nurse staffing or mandatory overtime prohibitions.</p> <p>HB 2187 strengthens oversight of nurse staffing practices by improving inter-agency coordination and protecting nurses who report concerns, ultimately supporting safer working conditions and better patient care.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3092 By: Gerdes Curry Darby</p>	<p>Relating to a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct an electric transmission line.</p>	<p>State Affairs 14 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3092 increases the state’s capacity to meet rising energy needs by removing unnecessary hurdles from the electric transmission line construction process.</p> <p>ERCOT has identified several transmission chokepoints — specific areas or sections within the transmission network that become bottlenecks, restricting the flow of electricity. These chokepoints exist partly due to rapid population growth outside major cities, which places more demand on grid resources in single locations and threatens grid reliability. Utilities responsible for constructing these transmission lines report that they experience unnecessary delays due to a</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



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			<p>current requirement to amend their certificate of public convenience and necessity (CCN) for any transmission line project greater than 3 miles in length.</p> <p>HB 3092 increases the threshold required for CCN amendments for transmission line projects from three to five miles. This change would only apply to a transmission line that connects an electric utility's existing transmission facilities to a load-serving resource like a substation or metering point.</p> <p>HB 3092 would reduce unnecessary delays to urgently needed transmission line projects, which could help meet growing energy needs and increase grid reliability.</p>	
<p>HB 3308 By: Geren</p>	<p>Relating to charitable raffles conducted by the professional sports team charitable foundations of rodeo organizations sanctioned by certain professional associations or hosting a Professional Rodeo Event at rodeo venues.</p>	<p>Licensing & Administrative Procedures</p> <p>12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3308 expands eligibility for charitable raffles conducted by professional sports team foundations to include rodeo organizations hosting professional rodeo events or sanctioned by major rodeo associations.</p> <p>Currently, only certain professional sports team charitable foundations — such as those tied to leagues like the NFL, NBA, or NASCAR — can hold charitable raffles under Texas law. HB 3308 would extend this to organizations hosting Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) or Women’s Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA) events, or those sanctioned by these groups. It also defines "rodeo venue" to recognize facilities used for these sanctioned events.</p> <p>This change allows rodeo charitable foundations to conduct raffles to support their nonprofit activities, aligning them with other professional sports organizations.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3526 By: Capriglione Bumgarner</p>	<p>Relating to fiscal transparency for bonds issued by local governmental entities.</p>	<p>Pensions, Investments & Financial Services</p> <p>7 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3526 would increase tax transparency by requiring the Bond Review Board to develop and maintain a database with data about local bonds.</p> <p>The Bond Review Board already would be responsible for publishing bond data in a few different ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a searchable database that includes, for each bond issued in the database, the amount of the principal of the bond, the estimated amount of interest on the bond, the estimated total amount to pay the principal of and interest on the bond. This database must be published by September 1st, 2026. • Collecting information about bond elections. Twenty days before an election, local governments would have to send a report to the board for publication on the board’s website that includes the total estimated cost of 	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>the issuance of each proposed bond and a description of the bond. Twenty days after the election, local governments would send a second report with vote counts for each bond proposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect annual reports on unissued securities from local governments that includes the total amount of voter-approved but unissued bonds authorized by the local government and the estimated cost of the issuance of the bonds on the bond proposition. • Providing to the legislature a report on the status of each voter-approved bond issued by a local government that includes, among other things, if a local government requires an increase in the local government’s tax rate in order to pay the principal of and interest on bonds issued by the local government and the amount of the required increase. <p>It is important to note that local governments and the Bond Review Board already collect and publish this information, albeit not all in the same place. This bill merely mandates a new type of reporting and a new database to put this information. According to the Bond Review board, this type of reporting should not be overly burdensome for local governments.</p>	
<p>HB 3750 By: Manuel</p>	<p>Relating to reimbursing certain Department of Family and Protective Services employees for certain legal expenses.</p>	<p>Human Services 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 3750 allows the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to provide reimbursement to employees for legal expenses incurred when seeking protective or restraining orders.</p> <p>Currently, employees at DFPS seeking legal action due to threats encountered in their work must pay for their own expenses when applying for protective or restraining orders. This requirement creates a financial strain on staff already dealing with potentially hazardous situations as part of their job.</p> <p>HB 3750 allows DFPS to reimburse employees for reasonable legal fees associated with obtaining a protective or restraining order related to their work. DFPS can reimburse up to \$5,000 in legal fees.</p> <p>HB 3750 offers financial assistance for essential legal protections, alleviating the financial strain on DFPS employees as they safeguard their safety during their work.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 3527 By: McQueeney</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of manufactured homes.</p>	<p>Intergovernmental Affairs 9 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV</p>	<p>HB 3527 aligns the State definition of “manufactured home” and “HUD-code manufactured home” with federal law and modernizes recordkeeping and consumer disclosure requirements.</p> <p>Currently, the State and federal definitions for a “manufactured home” and “HUD-code manufactured home” do not align. This is a potential regulatory issue for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) because</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



		2 Absent	<p>it oversees the federal manufactured housing program in Texas. The mismatch in definitions could limit the State’s ability to quickly respond to changes at the federal level. Additionally, when a consumer is in the purchasing process the TDCHA’s Manufactured Housing Division gives them 3 days to rescind their contract. However, the current statute only allows 24 hours. The 24-hour requirement gives consumers less time to finalize a purchase contract, which may result in rushed decisions. Lastly, a licensee (manufacturer, retailer, broker, installer, or salesperson) is required to physically maintain records in Texas, which can be burdensome for those who work across state lines.</p> <p>HB 3527 replaces the State’s definition of “manufactured home” and “HUD-code manufactured home” with a direct reference to the federal definition. It also removes the 24-hour contract rescind period, which automatically allows TDHCA to refer to its 3-day period, giving consumers more time to finalize their home purchases. Lastly, it allows licensees more flexibility to store required records electronically instead of at a physical location.</p> <p>HB 3527 provides necessary modernization to the manufactured home installation and purchase process to align with federal government standards and reflect the reality of digital business practices.</p>	
<p>HB 4219 By: Capriglione</p>	<p>Relating to a governmental body’s response to a request for public information.</p>	<p>Delivery of Government Efficiency</p> <p>11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 2 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4219 strengthens enforcement of the Texas Public Information Act by requiring timely responses to public records requests and creating enforcement for noncompliance.</p> <p>State law requires governmental bodies to respond to public information requests, but there are currently no enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance. HB 4219 requires agencies to notify requestors in writing within 10 business days if they have no responsive records or if the information is withheld under a previous determination. If a governmental body fails to respond properly, the requestor can file a complaint with the Attorney General, triggering mandatory open records training for the agency within 6 months and prohibiting the agency from charging the requestor any costs for fulfilling the request. Agencies would also have shortened timelines for seeking an Attorney General ruling if they attempt to withhold information after failing to respond on time. This bill aims to improve compliance and transparency under the Texas Public Information Act.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
<p>HB 4230 By: Metcalf Flores Isaac</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a hike and bike trail to be known as the Bicentennial Trail.</p>	<p>Culture, Recreation & Tourism</p> <p>6 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 3 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4230 establishes a framework for creating a statewide pedestrian and bicycle trail, known as the Bicentennial Trail, that links major historical and environmental sites across Texas. It would enhance outdoor recreation, conservation, and cultural preservation.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



			<p>A 2022 study by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department found that a significant obstacle to developing a cohesive trail network is a lack of coordination among state agencies. This lack of alignment has stalled progress in creating regional and statewide trails, despite public interest.</p> <p>HB 4230 directs the General Land Office (GLO) to lead the creation of the Bicentennial Trail, a statewide hike and bike trail connecting key historical and natural sites from the Alamo to the State Capitol, including several Texas springs. The GLO is authorized to adopt rules, partner with other agencies, and coordinate land acquisition without using eminent domain.</p> <p>The bill provides a collaborative framework for developing a unified trail system promoting outdoor recreation, conservation, and the appreciation of Texas' historical and environmental treasures..</p>	
<p>HB 4290 By: Darby</p>	<p>Relating to a qualifying cogenerator that serves a large load and a colocated desalination facility.</p>	<p>State Affairs 15 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4290 would open existing statute to allow oil and gas facilities to provide for the desalination of produced water and use the desalinated water to cool data centers. While desalination technology needs to be studied more and is currently far from viability, HB 4290 could reduce grid strain, decrease water scarcity, and decrease earthquake risk caused by injection wells.</p> <p>A byproduct of oil drilling is produced water, which is either recycled for oil drilling, injected back underground, or can be desalinated for limited uses. Oil drilling and injection wells are harmful for the environment, but desalination of produced water could serve additional uses for water-intense technologies like data centers. However, current statute does not allow desalinated water to be used on digital industries.</p> <p>HB 4290 updates existing statute to include certain oil and gas facilities under the definition of “cogenerators” - energy generators that provide two distinct products. Under HB 4290, oil and gas facilities that generate (1) electricity and (2) heat would be considered cogenerators. This change in definition only applies to an oil and gas facility that provides heat to a co-located desalination facility and electricity to a co-located data center. This change in definition could allow for complexes with oil and gas energy generation, desalination, and data centers all connected and in the same location. Under this model, oil and gas drilling would produce heat and use it to desalinate produced water, and the desalinated water would be used to provide necessary cooling for data centers.</p> <p>Although this desalination technology is still far from viability, HB 4290 could lead to great benefits for the energy industry. It could lead to reduced usage of injection wells, less strain on the grid, and less demand on our scarce water supply. Additionally, co-locating energy generation with energy-intense data centers could increase energy efficiency and</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>



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			cut down on the state’s transmission needs. Furthermore, treating produced water currently costs more than twice as much as injecting the water underground. By allowing produced water and desalination to be co-located, HB 4290 could decrease water treatment costs. This could lead to less reliance on injection wells, which would improve existing earthquake problems in the Permian Basin.	
HB 5238 By: Lopez, Ray Capriglione	Relating to a governmental body's response to a request for public information.	Delivery of Government Efficiency 12 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 5238 extends offenses to disrupting a public meeting or procession to cover virtual disruptions. The Penal Code currently criminalizes obstructing or interfering with lawful meetings, processions, or gatherings through physical actions or verbal disturbances. HB 5238 expands this offense to include electronic disruptions, such as hacking or interfering with the virtual components of a meeting or event. This change reflects the rise of hybrid and online gatherings and seeks to protect both in-person and virtual events from unlawful interference.	<u>Favorable</u>
HB 4804 By: Hefner	Relating to the revocation of a driver's license or personal identification certificate and to disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle.	Homeland Security, Public Safety & Veterans' Affairs 10 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 1 Absent	HB 4804 brings Texas into compliance with federal regulations and strengthens oversight of individuals on the State’s terrorist offender registry by aligning driver’s license procedures with those already applied to sex offenders. Some commercial driver’s license (CDL) holders may request hearings following disqualification from operating a commercial motor vehicle. However, this process violates federal rules, putting Texas at risk of losing highway funding or decertification of the state’s CDL program. Additionally, although the state recently established a terrorist offender registration program similar to the sex offender registry, it does not yet include the same license revocation safeguards that help maintain accurate records. HB 4804 removes CDL holders ability to contest disqualifications through certain notice and hearing procedures. It also applies existing laws requiring the automatic annual expiration and renewal of driver’s licenses and personal identification cards for registered sex offenders to individuals on the terrorist offender registry. This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to revoke personal identification cards and drivers licenses from individuals convicted of terrorism if they don’t come in to apply for a renewal. These updates ensure that Texas maintains compliance with federal CDL regulations and improves public safety by using regular license renewals to track the home address of individuals on the terrorist registry, mirroring the system already in place for sex offenders.	<u>Favorable</u>



<p>HB 4749 By: Landgraf</p>	<p>Relating to reconstitution of the petit jury wheel and grand juror and petit juror qualifications in certain counties.</p>	<p>Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 11 Ayes 0 Nays 0 PNV 0 Absent</p>	<p>HB 4749 helps small counties ensure access to fair and functioning juries by allowing qualified jurors to be drawn from neighboring counties within the same judicial district.</p> <p>The current statute requires a person to reside in the specific county to be selected to serve on a jury. These strict residency requirements are limiting for small counties that may not have enough qualified individuals to serve on a jury, delays in jury selections and overusing the same individuals. These challenges threaten the efficiency and fairness of the local justice system in rural communities.</p> <p>HB 4749 allows counties with less than 1,000 residents to consider residents from contiguous counties (share a border) within the same judicial district when selecting grand and petit jurors. All other juror qualifications remain unchanged.</p> <p>HB 4749 gives small counties the tools they need to maintain a steady and representative jury pool without compromising juror qualifications or judicial integrity.</p>	<p><u>Favorable</u></p>
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