

Hello all:

Thanks to everyone who attended our meetings with legislators, important Committee Chairs and the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker during Collin County Days. I believe we have been successful so far sounding alarms and beating back SB 182 (revenue cap bill) and appraisal cap bills. However, legislators are determined to pass significant tax relief this session and we will have to keep an eye on how the legislation will impact cities. This week, Senator Nelson heard many of the tax relief bills before her committee.

She did pull SB 182 and sent back over to the Comptrollers office to determine a fiscal note on the bill. Every bill has to have a fiscal note, or a number on what financial impact passage of this bill will have on the state budget or the state. The good news is that this action created a delay and any delay in the process helps to slow down its progress and lessen the chances of passage. We will be watching to see if it comes back. The mayor did a very good job explaining the negative impact the bill would have on cities and especially high growth cities and because of the outcry from cities the bill has been slowed and hopefully will be killed a slow death.

Even so, one of the recurring themes in all of our meetings was that --okay you don't support revenue caps, you don't want appraisal caps-- what will you support? What is your middle ground because we believe property taxes are too high and we want to provide relief. The mayor indicated cities may be willing to support some version of a homestead exemption.

Please take a look at the attached bill SB1. This is the main homestead exemption bill, which was heard in committee and give me your thoughts on this bill. (Mr. Muehlenbeck, this is the bill you inquired about today. Please let me know your thoughts and anyone else as soon as you can.)

Every tax relief bill has opponents and proponents. The Senate's tax relief package, which is somewhere around \$4 billion, is a combination of a homestead exemption (Senate Bill 1), franchise rate reduction (Senate Bill 7) and franchise tax floor adjustment (Senate Bill 8).

Testimony before the Senate Finance Committee was expected to focus on other bills. Instead, business groups aligned to talk about property tax relief being the preferred route over any reduction in the franchise tax, which continues to diminish each session.

Bill Hammond of the Texas Association of Business and Todd Staples of the Texas Oil and Gas Association joined Dale Craymer of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association to argue that these tax cuts were not the right vehicle to spark business activity and the bills defeated the original intent to create a broad-based low rate tax across industries.

Also of note this week, the Senate passed the first major piece of legislation SB 5 and SJR 5- The bill and the constitutional amendment will dedicate \$2.5 billion a year to Transportation. SJR 5, as passed by the Senate, would constitutionally dedicate the first \$2.5 billion of the existing vehicle sales, use, and rental taxes to General Revenue Fund with the next \$2.5 billion going to the State Highway Fund. All revenues in excess of \$5 billion would be split fifty percent to the State Highway Fund, thirty percent to the General Revenue Fund, and twenty percent to the Available School Fund. None of this revenue would be eligible for use on current or future toll roads.

Conservative forecasts for this revenue stream state it will generate over \$2 billion annually for Texas roads. Currently, SJR 5 awaits action in the House. If passed by the House, it will be sent to the voters for approval in the November 2016 election. It passed the Senate 28-2 and has been received in the house. This is the only piece of legislation that has moved in the first 60 days so far. Only legislation that has been designated as an emergency by the governor can be passed in the first 60 days.

The 60th day is next Friday March 13. It is also bill filing deadline day. So, this is the time in the session when things are moving very fast and getting crazy. Committees in both houses are meeting everyday.

Also of note, Rep. Sanford filed our HOT tax bill. It is HB 2095. We have asked Senator Taylor to file a companion bill in the Senate. He has a draft of the bill and I will check with his office early next week to see if they will beat the filing deadline. We have also asked Rep. Jodie Laubenberg to co-author the bill in the house. Since, she is the only Collin County representative who is a Chairman, we will have a better chance of getting the bill passed if she is a co-author. The mayor and the rest of the delegation met with her and she said she would help us. I will also follow-up with her early next week.

The legislative tracking report is rather long, but this is the time to point out any bills that we strongly oppose or support, so please let me know. I do have the city's top ten list.

Have a great weekend!

Best,

Angela Hale

Bill Number: TX84RSB 1

Filed: 02-24-2015

Author: Nelson, Jane

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to certain restrictions on the imposition of ad valorem
3 taxes and to the duty of the state to reimburse certain
4 political subdivisions for certain revenue loss.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Section 11.13, Tax Code, is amended by amending
7 Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1) and (n-1) to read as
8 follows:

9 (b) An adult is entitled to exemption from taxation by a
10 school district of a portion [~~\$15,000~~] of the appraised value of
11 the adult's residence homestead equal to 25 percent of the
12 median market value in the current tax year of all residence
13 homesteads in the state, except that only \$5,000 [~~\$10,000~~] of
14 the exemption applies [~~does not apply~~] to an entity operating
15 under former Chapter 17, 18, 25, 26, 27, or 28, Education Code,
16 as those chapters existed on May 1, 1995, as permitted by

17 Section 11.301, Education Code. For purposes of this
18 subsection, the Legislative Budget Board shall determine the
19 median market value in the current tax year of all residence
20 homesteads in the state as of July 25 and publish that value in
21 the Texas Register.

22 (b-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), for purposes of
23 computing the amount of the exemption under that subsection for
24 the 2015 tax year, the Legislative Budget Board shall determine

1 the median market value in that tax year of all residence
2 homesteads in the state as of September 30 and publish that
3 value in the Texas Register. This subsection expires December
4 31, 2016.

5 (n-1) The governing body of a taxing unit that adopted an
6 exemption under Subsection (n) for the 2014 tax year may not
7 reduce the amount of or repeal the exemption. This subsection
8 expires December 31, 2024.

9 SECTION 2. Section 11.26(a), Tax Code, is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 (a) The tax officials shall appraise the property to which
12 this section applies and calculate taxes as on other property,
13 but if the tax so calculated exceeds the limitation imposed by
14 this section, the tax imposed is the amount of the tax as
15 limited by this section, except as otherwise provided by this
16 section. A school district may not increase the total annual
17 amount of ad valorem tax it imposes on the residence homestead
18 of an individual 65 years of age or older or on the residence
19 homestead of an individual who is disabled, as defined by
20 Section 11.13, above the amount of the tax it imposed in the
21 first tax year in which the individual qualified that residence
22 homestead for the applicable exemption provided by Section
23 11.13(c) for an individual who is 65 years of age or older or is
24 disabled. If the individual qualified that residence homestead
25 for the exemption after the beginning of that first year and the
26 residence homestead remains eligible for the same exemption for
27 the next year, and if the school district taxes imposed on the

1 residence homestead in the next year are less than the amount of
2 taxes imposed in that first year, a school district may not
3 subsequently increase the total annual amount of ad valorem
4 taxes it imposes on the residence homestead above the amount it
5 imposed in the year immediately following the first year for
6 which the individual qualified that residence homestead for the
7 same exemption, except as provided by Subsection (b). If the
8 first tax year the individual qualified the residence homestead
9 for the exemption provided by Section 11.13(c) for individuals
10 65 years of age or older or disabled was a tax year before the
11 2015 [~~1997~~] tax year, the amount of the limitation provided by
12 this section is the amount of tax the school district imposed
13 for the 2014 [~~1996~~] tax year less an amount equal to the amount
14 determined by subtracting \$15,000 from the amount of the
15 exemption under Section 11.13(b) for the 2015 tax year and
16 multiplying that amount by [~~\$10,000 times~~] the tax rate of the
17 school district for the 2015 [~~1997~~] tax year, plus any 2015
18 [~~1997~~] tax attributable to improvements made in 2014 [~~1996~~],
19 other than improvements made to comply with governmental
20 regulations or repairs.

21 SECTION 3. Section 26.05, Tax Code, is amended by adding
22 Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

23 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), the governing body
24 of a taxing unit shall adopt a tax rate for the 2015 tax year
25 before the later of October 31 or the 60th day after the date
26 the certified appraisal roll is received by the taxing unit.
27 This subsection expires December 31, 2016.

1 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 41, Education Code, is
2 amended by adding Section 41.0011 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 41.0011. COMPUTATION OF WEALTH PER STUDENT FOR 2015-
4 2016 SCHOOL YEAR. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
5 chapter, in computing a school district's wealth per student for
6 the 2015-2016 school year, a school district's taxable value of
7 property under Subchapter M, Chapter 403, Government Code, is
8 determined as if the increase in the residence homestead
9 exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas
10 Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax increases
11 under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the 2015 tax
12 year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend that article
13 adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, had been
14 in effect for the 2014 tax year. This section expires September
15 1, 2016.

16 SECTION 5. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is
17 amended by adding Section 42.2518 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 42.2518. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
19 AND LIMITATION ON TAX INCREASES. (a) For the 2015-2016 and
20 2016-2017 school years, a school district is entitled to
21 additional state aid to the extent that state and local revenue
22 under this chapter and Chapter 41 is less than the state and
23 local revenue that would have been available to the district
24 under Chapter 41 and this chapter as those chapters existed on
25 January 1, 2015, if the increase in the residence homestead
26 exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas
27 Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax increases

1 under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
2 applicable tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend
3 that article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
4 2015, had not occurred.

5 (b) The lesser of the school district's currently adopted
6 maintenance and operations tax rate or the adopted maintenance
7 and operations tax rate for the 2014 tax year is used for the
8 purpose of determining additional state aid under this section.

9 (c) The commissioner, using information provided by the
10 comptroller and other information as necessary, shall compute
11 the amount of additional state aid to which a district is
12 entitled under this section. A determination by the
13 commissioner under this section is final and may not be
14 appealed.

15 (d) This section expires August 31, 2017.

16 SECTION 6. Effective September 1, 2017, Subchapter E,
17 Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 42.2518
18 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 42.2518. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
20 AND LIMITATION ON TAX INCREASES. (a) Beginning with the 2017-
21 2018 school year, a school district is entitled to additional
22 state aid to the extent that state and local revenue under this
23 chapter and Chapter 41 is less than the state and local revenue
24 that would have been available to the district under Chapter 41
25 and this chapter as those chapters existed on January 1, 2015,
26 excluding any state aid that would have been provided under
27 former Section 42.2516, if the increase in the residence

1 homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas
2 Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax increases
3 under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
4 applicable tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend
5 that article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
6 2015, had not occurred.

7 (b) The lesser of the school district's currently adopted
8 maintenance and operations tax rate or the adopted maintenance
9 and operations tax rate for the 2014 tax year is used for the
10 purpose of determining additional state aid under this section.

11 (c) The commissioner, using information provided by the
12 comptroller and other information as necessary, shall compute
13 the amount of additional state aid to which a district is
14 entitled under this section. A determination by the
15 commissioner under this section is final and may not be
16 appealed.

17 SECTION 7. Section 42.252, Education Code, is amended by
18 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

19 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
20 in computing each school district's local share of program cost
21 under this section for the 2015-2016 school year, a school
22 district's taxable value of property under Subchapter M, Chapter
23 403, Government Code, is determined as if the increase in the
24 residence homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article
25 VIII, Texas Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax
26 increases under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
27 2015 tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend that

1 article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015,
2 had been in effect for the 2014 tax year. This subsection
3 expires September 1, 2016.

4 SECTION 8. Section 42.302, Education Code, is amended by
5 adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

6 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
7 in computing a school district's enrichment tax rate ("DTR") and
8 local revenue ("LR") for the 2015-2016 school year, a school
9 district's taxable value of property under Subchapter M, Chapter
10 403, Government Code, is determined as if the increase in the
11 residence homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article
12 VIII, Texas Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax
13 increases under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
14 2015 tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend that
15 article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015,
16 had been in effect for the 2014 tax year. This subsection
17 expires September 1, 2016.

18 SECTION 9. Section 46.003, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

20 (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
21 in computing a district's bond tax rate ("BTR") and taxable
22 value of property ("DPV") for the 2015-2016 school year, a
23 school district's taxable value of property under Subchapter M,
24 Chapter 403, Government Code, is determined as if the increase
25 in the residence homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c),
26 Article VIII, Texas Constitution, and the additional limitation
27 on tax increases under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect

1 for the 2015 tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to
2 amend that article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular
3 Session, 2015, had been in effect for the 2014 tax year. This
4 subsection expires September 1, 2016.

5 SECTION 10. Section 46.032, Education Code, is amended by
6 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

7 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter,
8 in computing a district's existing debt tax rate ("EDTR") and
9 taxable value of property ("DPV") for the 2015-2016 school year,
10 a school district's taxable value of property under Subchapter
11 M, Chapter 403, Government Code, is determined as if the
12 increase in the residence homestead exemption under Section 1-
13 b(c), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, and the additional
14 limitation on tax increases under Section 1-b(d) of that article
15 in effect for the 2015 tax year as proposed by the joint
16 resolution to amend that article adopted by the 84th
17 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, had been in effect for the
18 2014 tax year. This subsection expires September 1, 2016.

19 SECTION 11. Chapter 46, Education Code, is amended by
20 adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

21 SUBCHAPTER D. STATE AID FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION AND LIMITATION
22 ON TAX INCREASES

23 Sec. 46.071. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION
24 AND LIMITATION ON TAX INCREASES. (a) Beginning with the 2015-
25 2016 school year, a school district is entitled to additional
26 state aid under this subchapter to the extent that state and
27 local revenue used to service debt eligible for assistance under

1 this chapter is less than the state and local revenue that would
2 have been available to the district under this chapter as it
3 existed on January 1, 2015, if the increase in the residence
4 homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas
5 Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax increases
6 under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
7 applicable tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend
8 that article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
9 2015, had not occurred.

10 (b) Subject to Subsections (c)-(g), additional state aid
11 under this section is equal to the amount by which the loss of
12 local interest and sinking revenue for debt service attributable
13 to the increase in the residence homestead exemption under
14 Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, and the
15 additional limitation on tax increases under Section 1-b(d) of
16 that article in effect for the applicable tax year as proposed
17 by the joint resolution to amend that article adopted by the
18 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, is not offset by a gain
19 in state aid under this chapter.

20 (c) For the purpose of determining state aid under this
21 section, local interest and sinking revenue for debt service is
22 limited to revenue required to service debt eligible for
23 assistance under this chapter that was issued on or before
24 January 1, 2015, including refunding of that debt, subject to
25 Section 46.061.

26 (d) To the extent that the revenue is not included in the
27 calculation of state aid under Section 42.2518, local

1 maintenance and operations revenue for lease-purchase agreements
2 eligible for assistance under this chapter as described by
3 Section 46.004 is included for the purpose of calculating state
4 aid under this section.

5 (e) The effective tax rate used to calculate state aid
6 under this section may not exceed the lesser of the district's
7 current effective tax rate or the tax rate that would have been
8 necessary for the current year to make payments for eligible
9 debt service, as defined under this section, if the increase in
10 the residence homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article
11 VIII, Texas Constitution, and the additional limitation on tax
12 increases under Section 1-b(d) of that article in effect for the
13 applicable tax year as proposed by the joint resolution to amend
14 that article adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
15 2015, had not occurred.

16 (f) If the amount required to pay debt service eligible
17 under this section is less than the sum of state and local
18 assistance provided under this chapter, including the amount of
19 additional aid provided under this section, the district may not
20 receive aid under this section in excess of the amount that,
21 when added to the district's local interest and sinking revenue
22 for debt service for the school year, as defined by this
23 section, and state aid under Subchapters A and B, equals the
24 amount required to pay the eligible debt service.

25 (g) The commissioner, using information provided by the
26 comptroller and other information as necessary, shall compute
27 the amount of additional state aid to which a district is

1 entitled under this section. A determination by the
2 commissioner under this section is final and may not be
3 appealed.

4 SECTION 12. Section 403.302(j), Government Code, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 (j) For purposes of Chapter 42, Education Code, the
7 comptroller shall certify to the commissioner of education:

8 (1) a final value for each school district computed
9 on a residence homestead exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article
10 VIII, Texas Constitution, of \$5,000;

11 (2) a final value for each school district computed
12 on:

13 (A) a residence homestead exemption under
14 Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas Constitution, of \$15,000;
15 and

16 (B) the effect of the additional limitation on
17 tax increases under Section 1-b(d), Article VIII, Texas
18 Constitution, as proposed by H.J.R. No. 4, 75th Legislature,
19 Regular Session, 1997; ~~and~~

20 (3) a final value for each school district computed
21 on the effect of the reduction of the limitation on tax
22 increases to reflect any reduction in the school district tax
23 rate as provided by Section 11.26(a-1), (a-2), or (a-3), Tax
24 Code, as applicable; and

25 (4) a final value for each school district computed
26 on:

27 (A) the amount of the residence homestead

1 exemption under Section 1-b(c), Article VIII, Texas
2 Constitution, in effect for the applicable tax year; and
3 (B) the effect of the additional limitation on
4 tax increases under Section 1-b(d), Article VIII, Texas
5 Constitution, as proposed by the joint resolution to amend that
6 subsection adopted by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session,
7 2015.

8 SECTION 13. This Act applies to each tax year that begins
9 on or after January 1, 2015.

10 SECTION 14. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
11 Act takes effect on the date that the constitutional amendment
12 proposed by the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015,
13 providing for an exemption from ad valorem taxation for public
14 school purposes of a portion of the market value of a residence
15 homestead equal to 25 percent of the median market value of all
16 residence homesteads in the state, providing for a reduction of
17 the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may
18 be imposed for those purposes on the homestead of an elderly or
19 disabled person to reflect the increased exemption amount,
20 authorizing the legislature to prohibit a political subdivision
21 that has adopted an optional residence homestead exemption from
22 reducing the amount of or repealing the exemption, and
23 prohibiting the imposition or collection of a tax on the
24 conveyance, including by sale, lease, or other transfer, of an
25 interest in real property takes effect. If that constitutional
26 amendment is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.



Bill Status Report

03-06-2015 - 14:05:34

Ⓐ - Action in the date range Ⓜ - Link to Related Information () - Priority

Angela Hale

[HB 55](#) [Martinez, Armando\(D\)](#) Relating to the use of the Texas Enterprise Fund for veterans hospitals.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic and Small Business Development

[HB 79](#) [Guillen, Ryan\(D\)](#) Relating to exemptions from the sales and use tax and the franchise tax for certain businesses during an initial period of operation in the state.

Remarks:

Sales Tax Exemption: would, among other things, exempt from sales and use taxes the sale to, or storage, use, or other consumption by, a new business of a taxable item that will be directly used or consumed by the business during the first ten years of the business's operation.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

[HB 82](#) [Guillen, Ryan\(D\)](#) Relating to the allocation of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.

Companions: [HB 158](#) Larson, Lyle (Identical)
 2-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
[HB 1078](#) Paul, Dennis (F) (Identical)
 3- 2-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Remarks:

Sales Tax: would repeal the state law prohibiting the state comptroller from crediting to the Parks and

Wildlife Department or the Texas Historical Commission any amount of taxes imposed on the sale of sporting goods in excess of the amounts appropriated to the department or commission, respectively. (See H.J.R. 33 .)

Bill History: 02-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 85 Craddick, Tom(R) Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications services used for the navigation of certain farm and ranch machinery and equipment.

Companions: SB 140 Perry, Charles (F) (Identical)
3- 3-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

Remarks: Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt from sales and use taxes telecommunications services exclusively provided or used for the navigation of farm and ranch machinery and equipment. (Companion bill is S.B. 140 by Perry.)

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 106 Flynn, Dan(R) Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry the handgun.

Companions: HB 291 Huberty, Dan (Identical)
2-11-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Homeland Security and Public Safety
HB 415 Riddle, Debbie (Identical)
2-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Homeland Security and Public Safety

Remarks: Open Carry: would provide that a concealed handgun licensee may carry a concealed or unconcealed handgun.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Homeland Security and Public Safety

HB 114 Flynn, Dan(R) Relating to the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions.

Remarks: Capital Appreciation Bonds: would provide that a political subdivision may not issue capital appreciation bonds that are secured by property taxes unless: (1) the bonds have a scheduled maturity date that is not later than 20 years after the date of issuance; (2) the governing body of the political subdivision has received a written estimate of the cost of the issuance; (3) the

governing body of the political subdivision has determined in writing whether any personal or financial relationship exists between the members of the governing body and any financial advisor, bond counsel, bond underwriter, or other professional associated with the bond issuance; (4) the governing body of the political subdivision posts on its website and enters into the minutes various information regarding the issuance, including: (a) the total amount of the bonds to be voted on; (b) the length of maturity of the bonds; (c) the projects to be financed with the bond proceeds; (d) the total amount of the political subdivision's outstanding bonded indebtedness at the time of the election and updated quarterly; and (e) the information provided under (2) and (3), above; (5) the total amount of capital appreciation bonds does not exceed 25 percent of the political subdivision's total outstanding bonded indebtedness; and (6) the political subdivision does not extend the maturity date of an issued capital appreciation bond.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Investments and Financial Services

HB 122 Pickett, Joe(D) Relating to the Texas Mobility Fund.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that: (1) debt obligations for state transportation needs may not be issued after January 1, 2015; and (2) the Texas Mobility Fund may be used to repay the principal and interest on bonds that have already been issued for state transportation needs.

Bill History: 03-05-15 H Committee action pending House Transportation

HB 128 Goldman, Craig(R) Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of mineral interests having a value of less than a certain amount.

Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would exempt from property taxes a mineral interest that has a taxable value of less than \$2,000 (Note: current law exempts from property taxes a mineral interest that has a taxable value of less than \$500).

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 129 Goldman, Craig(R) Relating to the allocation to the state highway fund of revenue from the taxes imposed on the sale, rental, or use of motor vehicles and other taxes imposed on motor vehicles.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would allocate all motor vehicle sales tax proceeds to the state highway fund.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 133 Simpson, David(R)

Relating to the repeal of the additional ad valorem taxes imposed as a result of certain changes in the use of open-space land appraised as agricultural land.

Companions: SB 362 Estes, Craig (Identical)
2- 2-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks:

Property Tax Exemption: would repeal the additional property taxes imposed as a result of certain changes in the use of open-space land appraised as agricultural land.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 134 Simpson, David(R)

Relating to certain information included with ballot propositions for elections to authorize state and local general obligation bonds.

Position: Opposed

Remarks: Local Debt: would, among other things, require a political subdivision that issues a general obligation bond to: (1) include the following amounts, with each stated as a total amount and per capita amount for the then-current population of the political subdivision, on the ballot proposition for the general obligation bond: (a) the then-current general obligation debt of the local government; (b) the maximum amount of additional general obligation debt that would be authorized if the proposition passed; and (c) the maximum estimated cost to repay the general obligation debt that would be authorized by the proposed amendment, including principal and interest, at a stated likely interest rate; and (2) certify the then-current general obligation debt, likely interest rate for the proposed bonds, and estimated maximum repayment cost in accordance with the likely interest rate for purposes of the information required to be on the ballot proposition.

Bill History: 02-11-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 139 Stickland, Jonathan(R)

Relating to the posting of certain notices for political subdivisions on the comptroller's Internet website.

Remarks: Notice by Internet Posting: would, except in regard to a notice of election, do the following: (1) require a city to provide the comptroller with an electronic copy of a notice required by law to be published in a newspaper not later than the third day before the date the city is required to first publish the notice in the newspaper; (2) require a city to determine by official action whether it will exclusively provide notice in the manner described in (1), above, or provide notice by both newspaper publication and in the manner described in (1), above; (3) provide that if a city decides to exclusively provide notice in the manner described in (1), above, the city: (a) is exempt from providing notice in a newspaper; but (b) must publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the city once a week for four consecutive weeks the Internet website at which the city's notice may be located; (4) require the comptroller to establish and maintain a web page on the comptroller's website to post the notices described in (1), above, not later than the third day after the date the city provides the notice to the comptroller; (5) require the comptroller to establish a system to allow a person, on request, to receive an e-mail alert for an update to a category of notices on the web page established under (4), above, and to maintain an archive on the website of notices posted on the web page; and (6) authorize the comptroller to adopt rules to implement and administer the notice by internet posting program.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Transparency and Operation

HB 142 Stickland,
Jonathan(R)

Relating to the authority of the governing body of a local authority to impose a civil penalty for certain violations recorded by an automated traffic control system or a photographic traffic signal enforcement system.

Remarks: Red Light Cameras: would: (1) prohibit all automated traffic enforcement, including red light cameras; (2) eliminate the state trauma account funded by the state's portion of red light camera fines; and (3) allow a current contract between a city and its red light camera administration company to continue so long as the contract existed as of June 1, 2015.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 151 Guillen, Ryan(D)

Relating to authorizing a credit representing motor fuels taxes against, and imposing, a mileage tax and to the use of revenue from that tax.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would, among other things: (1)

create a tax to be imposed on the number of vehicle miles traveled during a tax period by a motor vehicle subject to inspection; (2) define the tax period to be the 12 months between a vehicle's inspection period; (3) provide a total exemption for vehicles that travel less than 5,000 miles in the tax period; (4) provide that the tax is equal to the difference between the following, rounded to the nearest whole dollar: (a) the number of miles traveled during the tax period multiplied by one cent; and (b) a credit as defined by the bill and representing motor fuels taxes paid by the owner of the vehicle; (5) direct the comptroller to establish a road construction account in the state highway fund and to deposit the revenue from the tax imposed by the bill to the credit of that account to be used only for the purpose of maintaining public roadways in this state.

Bill History: 02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 156 Larson, Lyle(R)

Relating to the use of proceeds of bonds sold and delivered by a home-rule municipality for a specific purpose.

Remarks:

Local Debt: would: (1) provide that a home rule city may use the unspent proceeds of bonds that have been sold and delivered for a specific purpose only for that specific purpose, including retiring the outstanding bonds; and (2) eliminate the option of a home rule city to hold an election to approve the use of the unspent proceeds for a different purpose.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Investments and Financial Services

HB 157 Larson, Lyle(R)

Relating to the rates of sales and use taxes imposed by municipalities.

Remarks:

Sales Tax: would: (1) allow a city to hold an election to impose a dedicated sales and use tax for sports and venue districts, crime control and prevention districts, economic development corporations, property tax relief, or street maintenance at any rate that is an increment of at least one-eighth of one percent and that would not result in a combined rate that exceeds the maximum local sales and use tax rate of two percent; and (2) allow a city to hold an election to impose its general sales and use tax at any rate that is an increment of at least one-eighth of one percent and that would not result in a combined rate that exceeded the maximum local sales and use tax rate of two percent.

Bill History: 03-10-15 H Meeting set for 8:30 A.M., E2.010 House

Ways and Means

HB 158	Larson, Lyle(R)	Relating to the allocation of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.
	Companions:	HB 82 Guillen, Ryan (Identical) 2-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
	Bill History:	02-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 164	White, James(R)	Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry the handgun.
	Remarks:	Open Carry: would provide, among other things, that a concealed handgun licensee may also carry an unconcealed handgun.
	Bill History:	02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Homeland Security and Public Safety

HB 165	Larson, Lyle(R)	Relating to the Texas Liberty Preservation Act.
	Bill History:	02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on Select on State/Federal Power Responsibility

HB 174	Martinez Fischer, Trey(D)	Relating to requiring a living wage for those that do business with the state.
	Remarks:	Eminent Domain: would: (1) prohibit a state agency, political subdivision, or a corporation created by a governmental entity from taking private property through the use of eminent domain if the taking is for a recreational purpose, including a parks and recreation system or a specific park, greenbelt, or trail; and (2) provide that the determination by the entity proposing to take the property that the taking does not involve an act or circumstance prohibited by the bill does not create a presumption with respect to whether the taking involves that act or circumstance.
	Bill History:	02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 193	Murphy, Jim(R)	Relating to the phaseout and repeal of the franchise tax.
	Remarks:	Proposes a 25 percent reduction in the tax rate each year until the tax is phased out entirely in 2019.
	Bill History:	02-10-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 201	Leach, Jeff(R)	Relating to the procedure for action by the Texas
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Commission on Environmental Quality on an application for a water right.

Companions: [SB 109](#) Taylor, Van (F) (Identical)
1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs

Remarks:

Water Rights: would: (1) amend the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's review of an application for a water right, including adding a requirement that the executive director determine whether the applicable water conservation and drought contingency plans of the applicant are adequate; and (2) prohibit the TCEQ from referring an issue regarding a water right application to the State Office of Administrative Hearings, unless the issue is a disputed question of fact and is relevant and material to a decision on the application.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

[HB 202](#) Leach, Jeff(R) Relating to the allocation of certain motor vehicle sales, use, and rental tax revenue to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 203](#) Leach, Jeff(R) Relating to the allocation of revenue derived from the taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of new and used motor vehicle tires and parts to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

[HB 206](#) Leach, Jeff(R) Relating to an exemption from the sales tax for firearms and hunting supplies for a limited period.

Remarks: Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt from sales and use taxes firearms and hunting supplies if the sale takes place during a period beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the Friday before the last full weekend in August and ending at 12 midnight on the following Sunday.

Bill History: 02-10-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

[HB 208](#) Leach, Jeff(R) Relating to the applicability of project design and construction requirements to agencies or instrumentalities of, or agreements between, governmental entities subject to those requirements.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Transparency and Operation

HB 250 Leach, Jeff(R) Relating to the phaseout and repeal of the franchise tax.

Companions: HB 552 Huberty, Dan (Identical)
2-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Bill History: 02-11-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 275 Ashby, Trenton(R) Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of farm products.

Companions: SB 732 Nichols, Robert (Identical)
2-25-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would exempt eggs from property taxes as a "farm product."

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 276 Ashby, Trenton(R) Relating to the eligibility of land owned by certain members of the armed services of the United States for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as qualified open-space land.

Remarks: Property Tax: would provide that land owned by a deployed member of the armed services remains eligible for appraisal as qualified open-space land, even if the land ceases to be devoted principally to agricultural use to the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area, if the service member intends to use the land in that manner upon returning to the property.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 286 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to collection costs that may be imposed in connection with certain delinquent ad valorem taxes owed by disabled veterans.

Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would provide that the penalty owed by a disabled veteran to a taxing unit or appraisal district for delinquent property taxes is lower under certain circumstances.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 292 Stephenson, Phil(R) Relating to authorizing development corporations to finance projects to support primary job training facilities and programs at certain educational institutions.

Remarks: Economic Development Corporations: would authorize a Type A or Type B economic development corporation (EDC) to use corporate revenues on primary job training facilities at a public technical college or high school located in the city limits of an EDC's authorizing city, or at a public junior college with a service area that includes any portion of the city limits of an EDC's authorizing city if: (1) the city council of the EDC's authorizing city adopts a resolution authorizing the EDC to finance the project; or (2) the city council of the EDC's authorizing city orders an election on the issue after receiving a petition signed by at least 10 percent of the number of voters that participated in the last general election held in the city.

Bill History: 02-11-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic and Small Business Development

HB 321 Keough, Mark (F)(R) A bill relating to the repeal of the franchise tax.

Bill History: 02-11-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 337 Gonzalez, Mary(D) Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for books and magazines purchased, used, or consumed by certain university and college students.

Remarks: Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt from sales and use taxes the sale, use, or consumption of a book or magazine that is written for educational, instructional, or pedagogical purposes and is purchased by a full-time or part-time college student who receives financial assistance.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 351 Giddings, Helen(D) Relating to the exemption from the sales tax for certain school art supplies during limited periods.

Remarks: Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt certain school art supplies from sales and use tax during limited periods of time.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 361 Springer, Drew(R) Relating to the uniform election date.

Companions: [SB 975](#) Campbell, Donna (Identical)
3- 5-15 S Filed

Remarks:

Uniform Election Dates: would provide that, with certain exceptions, every general or special election in the state, including city elections, shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

[HB 365](#) Elkins, Gary(R) Relating to the calculation of the ad valorem rollback tax rates of certain taxing units.

Companions: [SB 182](#) Bettencourt, Paul (F) (Identical)
3- 2-15 S Not heard in committee Senate Finance

Position: Opposed

Remarks: We oppose this bill

Revenue Cap: would: (1) lower the property tax rollback rate from eight percent to four percent, with an exception for a city located in an area declared a disaster area by the governor or president of the United States during the current tax year; and (2) provide that a city must hold a ratification election to adopt a tax rate that exceeds the four-percent rollback rate (as opposed to current law, which only requires an election if a petition is received from the citizens). Companion bill is S.B. 182 by Bettencourt

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

[HB 373](#) Simmons, Ron(R) Relating to the allocation of certain revenue from the taxes imposed on the sale, rental, or use of motor vehicles to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that, beginning in increments in 2015 and completed in 2020, the net revenue derived from the state sales tax imposed on the sale of a motor vehicle sold in this state shall be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

[HB 376](#) Simmons, Ron(R) Relating to the additional tax imposed on land appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as open-space

land if a change in use of the land occurs.

Remarks: Property Tax: would provide that a property owner who conveys land appraised as agricultural property to a person who changes the use of the land may be subject to additional taxes if the owner reacquires the land within five years and no longer uses it for agriculture.

Bill History: 03-10-15 H Meeting set for 8:30 A.M., E2.010 House Ways and Means

HB 393 McClendon, Ruth
 Jones(D) Relating to the registration fee for motor vehicles with a gross weight of 6,000 pounds or less.

Remarks: Transportation Funding: would increase by \$10 the motor vehicle registration fee for vehicles under 6,000 pounds.

Bill History: 03-12-15 H Meeting set for 8:00 A.M., E2.012 House Transportation

HB 395 McClendon, Ruth
 Jones(D) Relating to the rates of the state motor fuel taxes and to the use of additional revenue derived from those taxes.

Remarks: Transportation Funding: would, among other things, raise the state's gas tax from 20 to 30 cents per gallon and direct that the increase be deposited in the state highway fund.

Bill History: 02-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 396 McClendon, Ruth
 Jones(D) Relating to the state minimum wage, including adjustments based on the consumer price index and authorization for a county or municipality to establish a local minimum wage.

Remarks: Minimum Wage: would: (1) raise the minimum wage for all employers with 26 employees or more; and (2) allow each city or county to adopt a minimum wage higher than the federal and state minimum wages.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 399 Harless, Patricia(R) Relating to taxes wholly or partly deposited to the credit of the state highway fund.

Remarks: Transportation Funding: would incrementally increase the state's gas tax from 20 to 30 cents by 2018, and would thereafter index annual increases or decreases to the highway cost index. (See H.J.R. 48 .)

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 401 Harless, Patricia(R) Relating to certain fees deposited to the credit of the state highway fund.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would in 2016 increase by \$24.25 the motor vehicle registration fee for vehicles under 6,000 pounds and in 2017 increase the fee by an additional \$25. (See H.J.R. 48.)

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 432 Munoz, Sergio(D) Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the total appraised value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran.

Companions:

HB 660	Raymond, Richard	(Identical)
	2-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
HB 992	Bonnen, Dennis	(Identical)
	3- 2-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
SB 910	Zaffirini, Judith	(Identical)
	3- 3-15 S Filed	

Remarks:

Property Tax Exemption: would provide a complete residence homestead property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a 100-percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect, but only if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the disabled veteran. (See H.J.R. 51 .)

Bill History: 02-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 445 Raney, John(R) Relating to providing notice of the availability of paid leave for military service to public officers and employees.

Remarks:

Military Paid Leave: would require a city, or other governmental entity, to give an employee an annual accounting of the state-mandated military paid leave time that the employee has used that year.

Bill History: 02-25-15 H Committee action pending House Defense and Veteran's Affairs

HB 455 Johnson, Eric(D) Relating to a body worn camera program for certain law enforcement agencies in this state.

Companions: SB 158 West, Royce (Identical)
1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

Remarks:

Body Cameras: would provide, among other things, that: (1) a law enforcement agency in this state shall apply to the Department of Public Safety for a grant to equip officers with body cameras if the agency employs officers who: (a) are engaged in traffic or highway patrol or otherwise regularly stop or detain motor vehicles; or (b) respond to calls for assistance from the public; (2) a law enforcement agency that receives "a grant" from the department to provide body cameras to its officers or that otherwise operates a body worn camera program shall adopt a policy for the use of body cameras; (3) before a law enforcement agency may operate a body camera program, the agency must provide training to: (a) officers who will wear the body cameras; and (b) any other personnel who will come into contact with video and audio data obtained from the use of body cameras. (Companion bill is S.B. 158 by West.)

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Select on Emerging Issues in Law Enforc

HB 469 Metcalf, Will (F)(R) Relating to the allocation of certain motor vehicle sales tax revenue to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that, beginning in increments in 2017 and completed in 2026, the revenue derived from the state sales tax imposed on the sale of a motor vehicle sold in this state shall be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund. (See H.J.R. 53 .)

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 474 Reynolds, Ron(D) Relating to requiring certain law enforcement officers to wear body worn cameras.

Remarks:

Body Cameras: would provide, among other things, that: (1) a law enforcement agency in this state shall equip with body worn cameras all officers who are engaged in traffic or highway patrol or otherwise regularly stop or detain motor vehicles or who respond to calls for assistance from the public; (2) a law

enforcement agency that is not able to equip all officers described in (1) with body worn cameras because it would cause financial hardship shall submit to the Texas Department of Public Safety an annual report that: (a) states that the agency lacks the money to equip with body worn cameras all officers who are required to wear a camera; and (b) includes both the number of cameras in use by the agency and the number of cameras required under (1); (3) a law enforcement agency is not required to equip all officers described in (1) with body worn cameras until the agency receives the necessary money; (4) each officer equipped with a body worn camera shall: (a) activate the camera when responding to calls for assistance and when performing other law enforcement activities, including traffic stops, pursuits, arrests, searches, or interrogations; and (b) if practicable, before engaging with a person who will be recorded, provide the person with verbal notice of the recording; (5) a recording created with a body worn camera and documenting an incident that is the subject of an investigation or complaint may not be deleted or destroyed before the completion of the investigation into the incident or the final disposition of the complaint regarding the incident; (6) a recording that is not required to be retained under (5) shall be deleted or destroyed as soon as practicable after the 180th day after the date the recording is made; and (6) a recording made by a body worn camera is public information.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Select on Emerging Issues in Law Enforc

HB 484 Capriglione, Giovanni(R) Relating to the eligibility of a person to be a candidate for or holder of a public elective office.

Remarks: Elections: would provide, among other things, that in order for an individual to be an eligible candidate for city office and qualify for the office, the individual must be a registered voter in the territory from which the office is elected for six months preceding the regular filing deadline for a candidate's application for a place on the ballot.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 486 Howard, Donna(D) Relating to the availability on the Internet of personal financial statements filed by public officials.

Remarks: Financial Statements: would require the city secretary in a city with a population of 100,000 or more to remove the home address of an individual from a financial statement before posting the statement on the city's website.

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 490 Rodriguez, Eddie(D) Relating to the authority of the governing body of a taxing unit that adopts an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a percentage of the appraised value of an individual's residence homestead.

Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would authorize a city that adopts or has adopted a local option residence homestead property tax exemption to establish a dollar-amount ceiling on the application of such exemption. (See H.J.R. 57 .)

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 491 Hernandez, Ana(D) Relating to exempting textbooks purchased, used, or consumed by university and college students from the sales and use tax for limited periods.

Companions: SB 232 Schwertner, Charles (Identical)
1-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks: Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt the sale, use, or consumption of college textbooks from sales taxes during two seventeen-day periods, one beginning in August and one beginning in January. (Companion bill is S.B. 232 by Schwertner.)

Bill History: 02-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 529 Larson, Lyle(R) Relating to the composition of the Texas Transportation Commission and the selection of members of that commission.

Remarks: Texas Transportation Commission: would provide that the Texas Transportation Commission shall consist of three members who are elected statewide. (Currently, the commission consists of five members are appointed by the governor and approved by the Senate.)

Bill History: 02-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 532 McClendon, Ruth Jones(D) Relating to the ability of a nonexempt employee to participate in certain academic, extracurricular, and developmental activities of the employee's child.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 539 King, Phil(R)

Relating to the procedural requirements for the adoption of a municipal regulation, limitation, or prohibition on the production, storage, or transportation of oil or natural gas.

Position: Opposed

Remarks:

Regulation of Oil or Natural Gas: would provide that a city with authority to adopt an oil or gas measure may not adopt one unless the city complies with the numerous and complex requirements of the bill, including submitting various information to the state related to the alleged costs of the measure to the state and remitting payment to the state for its alleged losses as determined by a state agency.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Energy Resources

HB 540 King, Phil(R)

Relating to the submission to the attorney general of a measure proposing the enactment or repeal of a municipal ordinance.

Remarks:

Initiative and Referendum: this bill would apply only to a home rule city that has initiative and referendum provisions in the city charter. The bill would provide that: (1) before ordering an election as required by charter, the city shall submit a measure proposed by petition to enact a new ordinance or repeal an existing ordinance to the attorney general; (2) the attorney general shall, not later than the 90th day after submission: (a) determine whether any portion of the proposed measure would violate the Texas or federal constitution, a state statute, or a rule adopted as authorized by state statute; (b) determine whether passage of the measure would cause a governmental taking of private property for which the Texas or federal constitution would require compensation to be paid to the property owner; and (c) advise the city of its determinations; (3) the city may not hold an election on the proposed measure if the attorney general has determined that any portion of the proposed measure would violate the Texas or federal constitution or a state statute or rule or would cause a governmental taking of private property; and (4) to the extent that the requirements of the bill conflict with a charter provision requiring the city to order an election within a period following receipt of a petition, the bill controls and the period during which the city must order the election is extended to the extent necessary to comply with the bill.

Bill History: 02-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 548	Johnson, Eric(D)	Relating to the consideration of criminal history record information regarding applicants for public employment.						
	Remarks:	Employee Background Checks: would prohibit a public employer, including a city, from asking about an employment applicant's criminal history record information unless: (1) the applicant has been offered a conditional offer of employment or an interview; (2) the applicant would be working with children; or (3) a criminal history information check is required by other law.						
	Bill History:	02-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Transparency and Operation						
HB 565	Burkett, Cindy(R)	Relating to powers of private toll project entities.						
	Bill History:	02-18-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation						
HB 738	Larson, Lyle(R)	Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of the rental or leasing of housing accommodations.						
	Companions:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="625 936 670 984">SB 267</td> <td data-bbox="711 947 922 974">Perry, Charles (F)</td> <td data-bbox="1179 947 1300 974">(Identical)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="711 989 1256 1047">3-10-15 S Meeting set for 9:00 A.M., E1.016, Senate Business and Commerce</td> </tr> </table>	SB 267	Perry, Charles (F)	(Identical)	3-10-15 S Meeting set for 9:00 A.M., E1.016, Senate Business and Commerce		
SB 267	Perry, Charles (F)	(Identical)						
3-10-15 S Meeting set for 9:00 A.M., E1.016, Senate Business and Commerce								
	Bill History:	02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Urban Affairs						
HB 752	Dutton, Harold(D)	Relating to the eligibility of property used for affordable housing for ad valorem tax benefits under the Texas Economic Development Act.						
	Bill History:	02-23-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means						
HB 903	Capriglione, Giovanni(R)	Relating to the investment of a portion of the economic stabilization fund balance.						
	Companions:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="625 1478 711 1505">SB 116</td> <td data-bbox="719 1478 894 1505">Taylor, Van (F)</td> <td data-bbox="1179 1478 1300 1505">(Identical)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="719 1505 1300 1562">1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance</td> </tr> </table>	SB 116	Taylor, Van (F)	(Identical)	1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance		
SB 116	Taylor, Van (F)	(Identical)						
1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance								
	Bill History:	02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations						
HB 907	Phillips, Larry(R)	Relating to the authority of a county or municipality to regulate the location of halfway houses.						
	Bill History:	02-25-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs						

HB 935	Guillen, Ryan(D)	Relating to the approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of baccalaureate degree programs offered by public junior colleges.
	Position:	Support
	Bill History:	02-25-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education
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HB 957	Bohac, Dwayne(R)	Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.
	Position:	Opposed
	Bill History:	03-02-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
<hr/>		
HB 1120	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to creation of entities affiliated with a church organized as a nonprofit corporation.
	Bill History:	03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry
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HB 1121	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to a study on the implementation of a traffic light synchronization program.
	Bill History:	03-02-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
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HB 1126	Workman, Paul(R)	Relating to the qualifications for incentives for the film, television, and multimedia production industries.
	Bill History:	03-04-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic and Small Business Development
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HB 1155	Alvarado, Carol(D)	Relating to the creation of the Recruit Texas Program to facilitate the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering complex or high-skilled employment opportunities.
	Bill History:	03-04-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic and Small Business Development
<hr/>		
HB 1182	Shaheen, Matt (F)(R)	Relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds.
	Companions:	SB 102 Hinojosa, Chuy (Identical) 1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs
	Remarks:	Remarks copied from: TX84RSB 102 (02-13-2015 - 15:58:18) Local Debt: would require: (1) a ballot proposition submitted for an election to authorize a political

subdivision to issue bonds to state: (a) the then-current combined principal and interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations of the political subdivision on time and in full; (b) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the bonds to be authorized on time and in full; and (c) if the bonds are supported by property taxes, the annual increase in property taxes attributable to the bonds to be issued that each homeowner of an average-priced home within the political subdivision may be required to pay; (2) a political subdivision to post the ballot proposition language to its website as soon as practicable after the official ballots have been prepared and maintain the proposition on the website until the day following the election.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 1183 Shaheen, Matt (F)(R) Relating to the authority of certain entities to enter into a comprehensive development agreement.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 1257 Shaheen, Matt (F)(R) Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public money for lobbying activities or lobbyists.

Position: Opposed

Remarks: JJ Rocha 0 0 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 1 284 1648 Red Media Group 33 9 1923 14.0 Normal 0 false false false EN-US JA X-NONE /* Style Definitions */ table.MsoNormalTable {mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-priority:99; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; }

H.B. 1257 (Shaheen) – Lobbying : would: (1) prohibit a city that imposes a tax from spending public money to directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature, except that: (a) an officer or employee of a city could provide information to the legislature upon request; and (b) an elected officer of a city could advocate for or against or otherwise attempt to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature while acting as an officer of the city; (2) allow a city to spend public money in the name of the city for membership fees and dues of a nonprofit association or organization of cities only if: (a) a

majority of the city council votes to approve membership; (b) the association or organization exists for the betterment of local government and the benefit of all local officials; (c) the association or organization is not affiliated with a labor organization; (d) the association or organization does not directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature; and (e) the association or organization does not directly or indirectly contribute money, services or other valuable things to a political campaign or endorse a candidate or group of candidates for public office; (3) provide that (2)(d), above, does not prevent a person from providing information for a member of the legislature or appearing before a legislative committee at the request of the committee or a member of the legislature; (4) prohibit a city from employing in any capacity a person required to register as a lobbyist; and (5) provide that if a city, association, or organization engages in certain prohibited activities, as described above, that a taxpayer of the city may seek injunctive relief and, if the taxpayer is the prevailing party, may recover reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

Bill History: 03-04-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House General Investigating and Ethics

HB 1283 Simmons, Ron(R) Relating to a proposition to approve the issuance of bonds or other debt.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 1384 Davis, Sarah(R) Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

Companions: SB 271 Ellis, Rodney (Identical)
1-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education

Position: Support

Bill History: 02-12-15 H Filed

HB 1554 Shaheen, Matt (F)(R) Relating to a report on local government operations prepared by the comptroller.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Filed

HB 1556 Miller, Rick(R) Relating to prohibition of certain regulations by a county, municipality, or other political subdivision.

Bill History: 02-18-15 H Filed

HB 1574	Munoz, Sergio(D)	Relating to limitations imposed on baccalaureate degree programs offered by public junior colleges.
	Bill History:	02-18-15 H Filed
HB 1585	Paul, Dennis (F)(R)	Relating to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue in certain municipalities.
	Bill History:	02-18-15 H Filed
HB 1822	Laubenberg, Jodie(R)	Relating to the creation of two family district courts in Collin County.
	Position:	Support
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 1834	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to the operation of toll projects.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 1835	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to a prohibition on converting certain segments or lanes of a state highway to toll projects or managed lanes.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 1836	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to the allocation of certain sales tax revenue to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 1837	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to approval of the study of, design for, and construction of a proposed toll project by the commissioners court of the county in which the toll project is to be located.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 1838	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to the provision of a plan regarding the elimination of toll roads.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 H Filed
HB 2095	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to undertake a qualified hotel project.
	Position:	Support
	Bill History:	03-02-15 H Filed
HJR 8	Otto, John(R)	Proposing a constitutional amendment to dedicate certain money to the purpose of retiring state debt early.

Companions: [HJR 68](#) Otto, John (Identical)
2-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee
on House Appropriations
[SJR 25](#) Nelson, Jane (Identical)
2- 2-15 S Introduced and referred to committee
on Senate Finance

Bill History: 02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on
House Appropriations

[HJR 27](#) [Pickett, Joe\(D\)](#) Proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the
uses of revenue from motor vehicle registration fees,
taxes on motor fuels and lubricants, and certain
revenue received from the federal government.

Remarks: Transportation Funding: would amend the Texas
Constitution to provide that: (1) subject to legislative
allocation, appropriation, and direction, three-fourths of
the net revenue from the motor fuel tax shall be used
for the sole purpose of constructing and maintaining
public highways, and one-fourth of the net revenue
shall be allocated to school funding; and (2) for a
biennium, the legislature may not appropriate funds
derived from the revenue described (1), above, for a
purpose other than acquiring rights-of-way or
constructing or maintaining public roadways in an
amount that exceeds the lesser of: (a) the total amount
of those funds appropriated for a purpose other than
acquiring rights-of-way or constructing or maintaining
public roadways in the preceding biennium; or (b) the
maximum amount that may be appropriated under (a),
above, reduced by 20 percent from the preceding
biennium if the estimate of anticipated revenue from all
sources made in advance of the regular session for the
biennium exceeds the total amount of revenue from all
sources for the preceding biennium by more than three
times the amount of the reduction.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on
House Appropriations

[HJR 28](#) [Pickett, Joe\(D\)](#) Proposing a constitutional amendment prescribing the
purposes for which revenue from motor vehicle
registration fees, certain motor vehicle-related taxes,
and certain revenues received from the federal
government.

Companions: [HJR 29](#) Pickett, Joe (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee
on House Appropriations
[SJR 12](#) Perry, Charles (F) (Identical)
2- 2-15 S Introduced and referred to committee
on Senate Finance

Remarks: Transportation Funding: would amend the Texas

Constitution to provide that the net revenue from motor vehicle registration fees and motor fuels tax shall be used for the sole purpose of constructing and maintaining public highways, provided that one-fourth of that revenue remains allocated to public school funding. (Companion bill is S.J.R. 12 by Perry.)

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 29 Pickett, Joe(D)

Proposing a constitutional amendment prescribing the purposes for which revenue from motor vehicle registration fees, certain motor vehicle-related taxes, and certain revenues received from the federal government.

Companions: HJR 28 Pickett, Joe (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
SJR 12 Perry, Charles (F) (Identical)
2- 2-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 33 Guillen, Ryan(D)

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the appropriation of the net revenue received from the imposition of the state sales and use tax on sporting goods.

Companions: HJR 39 Larson, Lyle (Identical)
3- 4-15 H Rereferred to Committee on House Ways and Means

Remarks: Sales Tax: would amend the Texas Constitution to provide that, for each state fiscal year, the net revenue received from the collection of any state taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods is automatically appropriated when received to the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission, or their successors in function, and is allocated between those agencies as provided by general law. (See H.B. 82 .)

Bill History: 03-04-15 H Rereferred to Committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 36 Larson, Lyle(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment to limit the purposes for which revenues from motor vehicle registration fees, taxes on motor fuels and lubricants, and certain revenues received from the federal government may be used.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would amend the Texas

Constitution to provide: (1) that, subject to legislative appropriation, allocation, and direction: (a) three-fourths of the net revenue that is remaining after payment of all refunds allowed by law and expenses of collection that is derived from taxes on motor fuels and lubricants used to propel motor vehicles over public highways and on new and used motor vehicle tires and new and used motor vehicle part shall be used for the sole purpose of constructing and maintaining public highways; and (b) one-fourth of the net revenue shall be allocated to the available school fund; and (2) certain limits on the amounts that may appropriated for those purposes each biennium.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 39 Larson, Lyle(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the appropriation of the net revenue received from the imposition of the state sales and use tax on sporting goods.

Companions: HJR 33 Guillen, Ryan (Identical)
3- 4-15 H Rereferred to Committee on House Ways and Means

Bill History: 03-04-15 H Rereferred to Committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 45 Leach, Jeff(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment concerning the limitation on the rate of growth in appropriations and the use of unencumbered surplus state revenues to provide for a rebate of state franchise taxes.

Bill History: 02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 48 Harless, Patricia(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment limiting the permissible uses of the state highway fund, including further limiting the use of additional tax and fee revenue attributable to changes to certain state taxes and fees.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would amend the Texas Constitution to provide that revenue from increases in the state sales tax on motor vehicles, state gas tax, and state registration fees must be credited to the state highway fund, which can be used only to plan, design, construct, and maintain nontolled highways. (See H.B. 399 and H.B. 401.)

Bill History: 03-04-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 51 Munoz, Sergio(D) Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse.

Companions: HJR 66 Raymond, Richard (Identical)
2-23-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
HJR 75 Bonnen, Dennis (Identical)
3- 2-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
SJR 40 Zaffirini, Judith (Identical)
3- 3-15 S Filed

Remarks:

Property Tax Exemption: would amend the Texas Constitution to permit the legislature to provide a complete residence homestead property tax exemption for the surviving spouse of a 100-percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect, but only if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the disabled veteran. (See H.B. 432 .)

Bill History: 02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 53 Metcalf, Will (F)(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating certain revenue derived from the tax imposed on the sale of motor vehicles to the state highway fund.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would amend the Texas Constitution to authorize revenue from the state sales tax imposed on the sale of a motor vehicle to be deposited to the credit of the state highway fund. (See H.B. 469 .)

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 55 Villalba, Jason(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to a person's free exercise of religion.

Remarks:

Freedom of Religion: would amend the Texas constitution to provide that government may not "burden in any way" a person's free exercise of religion, unless the burden is: (1) necessary to further a compelling governmental interest; and (2) the least

restrictive means of furthering that interest.

Bill History: 03-03-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HJR 57 Rodriguez, Eddie(D) Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the governing body of a political subdivision that adopts an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a percentage of the market value of homestead.

Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would amend the Texas Constitution to authorize a city that adopts or has adopted a local option residence homestead property tax exemption to take official action before July 1st to establish a dollar-amount ceiling on the application of such exemption.. (See H.B. 490.)

Bill History: 03-04-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 68 Otto, John(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to dedicate certain money to the purpose of retiring state debt early.

Companions: HJR 8 Otto, John (Identical)
2-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations
SJR 25 Nelson, Jane (Identical)
2- 2-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Bill History: 02-26-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 71 Bohac, Dwayne(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to set a lower limit on the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Position: Opposed

Bill History: 03-02-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

SB 1 Nelson, Jane(R) Relating to certain restrictions on the imposition of ad valorem taxes and to the duty of the state to reimburse certain political subdivisions for certain revenue loss.

Bill History: 03-02-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 5 Nichols, Robert(R) Relating to the allocation of certain motor vehicle sales tax revenue to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Companions: [HB 1370](#) Phillips, Larry (Identical)
2-12-15 H Filed

Position: Support

Bill History: 03-05-15 H Received in the House

SB 7 Nelson, Jane(R) Relating to decreasing the rates of the franchise tax.

Position: Support

Remarks: Would decrease franchise tax rate from 1 percent to 0.85 percent for most taxpayers; and from .5 to 0.425 for businesses primarily engaged in retail or wholesale activity. This would mean an across-the-board 15 percent rate cut.

Bill History: 03-03-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 8 Schwertner, Charles(R) Relating to the total revenue exemption for the franchise tax.

Position: Support

Remarks: Would increase the small business exemption threshold from \$1 million to \$4 million.

Bill History: 03-03-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 11 Birdwell, Brian(R) Relating to the carrying of concealed handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education.

Companions: [HB 937](#) Fletcher, Allen (Identical)
3- 5-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Homeland Security and Public Safety

Bill History: 02-23-15 S First placement on Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 15 Nelson, Jane(R) Relating to state tax reductions and the limit on appropriations from certain state tax revenue for a state fiscal biennium.

Bill History: 03-04-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 16 Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Relating to excepting certain appropriations from computations regarding the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations.

Companions: [HB 2338](#) Keffer, Jim (Identical)
3- 4-15 H Filed
[SB 101](#) Hinojosa, Chuy (Identical)

1-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Bill History: 03-04-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 39 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to the preference given by state and local governmental entities, including public institutions of higher education, to agricultural products produced or grown in this state.

Remarks:

Purchase of Agricultural Products: would: (1) allow cities that purchase agricultural products to give preference to products produced or grown in the state when the cost does not exceed 107 percent of the cost of those produced or grown outside of the state and the quality is equal; and (2) require cities to give preference to agricultural products produced or grown in Texas if the cost and quality is equal.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 50 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to ad valorem tax liens on personal property.

Remarks:

Property Tax: would authorize the attachment of a property tax lien on personal property, regardless of whether the personal property is located within the boundaries of the taxing unit in whose favor the lien attaches.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 61 Huffines, Donald (F)(R) Relating to the allocation and use of revenue derived from certain transportation-related taxes.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that: (1) all of the revenue from the state gasoline and special fuels taxes be credited to the state highway fund; and (2) money deposited to the state highway fund may be used only for acquiring rights-of-way and constructing public roadways.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 63 Huffines, Donald (F)(R) Relating to the qualifications for and time that a person may serve in certain offices.

Remarks: Term Limits: would, among other things: (1) provide that a person is not eligible to be elected to a full or partial term in any elective office, including a city office, if on the date the term begins the person has served in that office during any part of each of eight or more calendar years; (2) provide that service in more than one elective position on a governing body is considered service in the same office; (3) authorize a person to continue to serve in an office after the end of a term as a holdover under the Texas Constitution; (4) provide that service in office before January 1, 2016, does not count for purposes of determining whether a person is disqualified from election to office under the bill; and (5) authorize a political subdivision to impose a more restrictive limit on the time or number of terms a person may serve in elective office by charter, ordinance, order, or other appropriate means. (See S.J.R. 6 .)

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 71 Ellis, Rodney(D) Relating to the eligibility of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as recreational, park, or scenic land.

Remarks: Property Tax: provides that a person is entitled to an designated appraisal of recreational, park, or scenic land for property tax purposes only if the land is restricted and use of the land is available to the public without a fee or for a nominal fee.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 80 Ellis, Rodney(D) Relating to a periodic review of state and local tax preferences.

Remarks: Economic Development: would: (1) require the comptroller to identify all state and local tax preferences and present a schedule to the Legislative Budget Board every odd- numbered year under which each tax preference is reviewed once during each twelve-year period; and (2) require the Legislative Budget Board to evaluate all state and local tax preferences and develop a report on the reviews of the tax preferences.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 100 Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Relating to the enterprise zone program.

Remarks: State Enterprise Zones: would, among other things, provide that a county may create an enterprise zone

within a city provided the county first enters into an interlocal agreement with the city specifying which entity has jurisdiction over the zone.

Bill History: 01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop

SB 102 Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds.

Companions: HB 1182 Shaheen, Matt (F) (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

Position: Opposed

Remarks: Local Debt: would require: (1) a ballot proposition submitted for an election to authorize a political subdivision to issue bonds to state: (a) the then-current combined principal and interest required to pay all outstanding debt obligations of the political subdivision on time and in full; (b) the estimated combined principal and interest required to pay the bonds to be authorized on time and in full; and (c) if the bonds are supported by property taxes, the annual increase in property taxes attributable to the bonds to be issued that each homeowner of an average-priced home within the political subdivision may be required to pay; (2) a political subdivision to post the ballot proposition language to its website as soon as practicable after the official ballots have been prepared and maintain the proposition on the website until the day following the election.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 103 Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Relating to a prohibition on the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by local governments.

Companions: HB 1750 Shaheen, Matt (F) (Identical)
2-20-15 H Filed

Remarks:

Capital Appreciation Bonds: would prohibit a county, city, special district, school district, junior college district, or other political subdivision from issuing capital appreciation bonds that are secured by property taxes, unless the capital appreciation bonds are being issued for the purpose of financing transportation projects.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

SB 109 Taylor, Van (F)(R) Relating to the procedure for action by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on an application for a water right.

Companions: HB 201 Leach, Jeff (Identical)
2-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Natural Resources

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs

SB 110 Taylor, Van (F)(R) Relating to the eligibility for service retirement annuities from a public retirement system of public officers or employees convicted of certain offenses.

Companions: HB 1538 Meyer, Morgan (F) (Identical)
2-17-15 H Filed

Remarks: Retirement Benefits: would: (1) make an elected individual ineligible for a public retirement annuity if: (a) they are convicted of a felony or class A or B misdemeanor related to the performance of their public service; and (b) a judge makes a finding that they are ineligible; (2) prohibit a conviction from affecting the annuity of an alternate payee; (3) require the governing body of a public retirement system to create rules to implement the bill's requirements; and (4) make the system resume full payments if an individual is later determined not guilty or innocent of the crime that lead to the ineligibility.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 129 West, Royce(D) Relating to achievement benchmarks in fiscal notes and to legislative review of those benchmarks.

Remarks: Economic Development: would, among other things, require that: (1) the Legislative Budget Board include in any fiscal note for a bill that authorizes a state or local tax preference (defined to include many economic development incentives) a statement of the purpose of the bill and a set of reasonable benchmarks to measure whether and to what degree the bill's purposes have been achieved; (2) the Legislative Budget Board evaluate whether the benchmarks have been met before the first day of the third regular legislative session after a tax preference bill becomes law and provide a report on the board's findings; and (3) the report to contain a review of whether the tax preference statute should be amended or repealed.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Committee on Administration

SB 139 Perry, Charles (F)(R) Relating to use of money in the state highway fund.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that: (1) money that is required to be used for public roadways by the Texas Constitution or federal law and that is deposited in the state treasury to the credit of the state highway fund be used only: (a) to improve the state highway system; or (b) to mitigate adverse environmental effects that result directly from construction or maintenance of a state highway. (This bill would end "diversion" of state transportation money that is currently funding the Texas Department of Transportation.) (See S.J.R. 12 .)

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 140 Perry, Charles (F)(R) Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications services used for the navigation of certain farm and ranch machinery and equipment.

Companions: HB 85 Craddick, Tom (Identical)
2- 9-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Bill History: 03-03-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 156 Nichols, Robert(R) Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Position: Opposed

Remarks:

Appraisal Cap: would: (1) reduce the property tax appraisal cap on homesteads from ten percent to five percent; (2) authorize a county commissioners court to call an election to increase the homestead appraisal cap for all taxing jurisdictions in the county back to some percentage between six and ten; and (3) prohibit a subsequent election from occurring for ten years after such an election is held. (See S.J.R. 14 .)

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 157 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to exempting books purchased, used, or consumed by certain university and college students from the sales and use tax for limited periods.

Remarks:

Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt from sales and use taxes books purchased by college students receiving funding under certain financial assistance programs if

the purchase takes place during specified time frames prior to each semester.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 158 West, Royce(D) Relating to a body worn camera program for certain law enforcement agencies in this state.

Companions: HB 455 Johnson, Eric (Identical)
2-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Select on Emerging Issues in Law Enforc

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 178 Nichols, Robert(R) Relating to prohibiting the use of eminent domain to take private property for recreational purposes.

Position: Opposed

Remarks: Eminent Domain: would: (1) prohibit a state agency, political subdivision, or a corporation created by a governmental entity from taking private property through the use of eminent domain if the taking is for a recreational purpose, including a parks and recreation system or a specific park, greenbelt, or trail; and (2) provide that the determination by the entity proposing to take the property that the taking does not involve an act or circumstance prohibited by the bill does not create a presumption with respect to whether the taking involves that act or circumstance.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 181 Ellis, Rodney(D) Relating to the electronic recording and admissibility of certain custodial interrogations.

Remarks:

Electronic Recording of Interrogations: would, among other things: (1) require a police department to make an audio or audiovisual electronic recording of custodial interrogations of persons suspected of or charged with certain offenses; (2) set out good cause reasons that make electronic recording infeasible; (3) require preservation of the electronic recording for a specified time; (4) require a prosecutor to provide a defendant with a copy of the recording; and (5) exempt the electronic recording from release under the Texas Public Information Act, except when it must be released under the law enforcement exception.

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on

Senate Criminal Justice

SB 182	Bettencourt, Paul (F)(R)	Relating to the calculation of the ad valorem rollback tax rates of certain taxing units.
	Companions:	<p>HB 365 Elkins, Gary (Identical) 2-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means</p>
	Position:	Opposed
	Bill History:	03-02-15 S Not heard in committee Senate Finance
SB 184	Schwertner, Charles(R)	Relating to state highway funds.
	Remarks:	Transportation Funding: would end the diversion of state highway fund money that currently supports the Department of Public Safety. (See S.J.R. 15 .)
	Bill History:	01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance
SB 228	Creighton, Brandon (F)(R)	Relating to an exemption from the sales tax for firearms and hunting for a limited period.
	Remarks:	Sales Tax Exemption: would exempt firearms and hunting supplies from sales and use taxes during the last full weekend in August. (Companion bill is H.B. 206 by Leach.)
	Bill History:	01-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance
SB 232	Schwertner, Charles(R)	Relating to exempting textbooks purchased, used, or consumed by university and college students from the sales and use tax for limited periods.
	Companions:	<p>HB 491 Hernandez, Ana (Identical) 2-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means</p> <p>HB 641 Canales, Terry (Identical) 2-19-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means</p>
	Bill History:	01-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance
SB 248	Estes, Craig(R)	Relating to the allocation of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.

Remarks:

Sales Tax: would repeal the state law prohibiting the state comptroller from crediting to the Parks and Wildlife Department or the Texas Historical Commission any amount of taxes imposed on the sale of sporting goods in excess of the amounts appropriated to the department or commission, respectively. (See S.J.R. 18 .)

Bill History:

01-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 271 Ellis, Rodney(D)

Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

Companions:

HB 1384 Davis, Sarah (Identical)
2-12-15 H Filed

Position:

Support

Bill History:

01-28-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education

SB 307 Hancock, Kelly(R)

Relating to dedicating certain state revenue to the purpose of retiring state general obligation debt.

Bill History:

02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 319 Taylor, Van (F)(R)

Relating to lobbying by former members of the legislature.

Companions:

HB 213 Button, Angie (Identical)
3- 5-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House General Investigating and Ethics
HB 314 Fallon, Pat (Identical)
3- 4-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House General Investigating and Ethics

Bill History:

02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 444 Hall, Bob (F)(R)

Relating to the exercise of eminent domain by certain toll road corporations.

Companions:

HB 1004 Davis, Yvonne (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

Bill History:

03-11-15 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016 Senate Transportation

SB 450	Schwertner, Charles(R)	Relating to the liability of a political subdivision of this state for certain claims relating to land acquired by the political subdivision under certain circumstances.
Companions:		HB 1406 Sheets, Kenneth (Identical) 2-13-15 H Filed
Bill History:		03-09-15 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Senate Chamber Senate State Affairs
SB 458	Lucio, Eddie(D)	Relating to the aerospace and aviation office of the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office and to the aerospace and aviation advisory committee.
Companions:		HB 1984 Bonnen, Greg (Identical) 2-26-15 H Filed
Position:		Support
Bill History:		02-09-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
SB 465	Taylor, Van (F)(R)	Relating to the eligibility for service retirement annuities from the Employees Retirement System of Texas or the Teacher Retirement System of Texas of certain employees convicted of certain offenses.
Bill History:		02-10-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs
SB 516	Bettencourt, Paul (F)(R)	Relating to increasing the period of time for exempting freeport goods from ad valorem taxation.
Remarks:		JJ Rocha 0 0 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 1 35 205 Red Media Group 4 1 239 14.0 Normal 0 false false false EN-US JA X-NONE /* Style Definitions */ table.MsoNormalTable {mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-priority:99; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; }
		S.B. 516 (Bettencourt) – Freeport Property Tax Exemption : would extend from 175 to 365 the number of days by which freeport goods must be transported outside the state in order to be exempt from property taxation.
Bill History:		03-02-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 632	Fraser, Troy(R)	Relating to certain funds for the enhancement of the state's economic and educational competitiveness, including the creation of the governor's university research initiative.
	Position:	Support
	Bill History:	02-23-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
SB 633	Fraser, Troy(R)	Relating to a pan american games trust fund, an olympic games trust fund, a major events trust fund, a motor sports racing trust fund, an events trust fund for sporting and non-sporting events.
	Position:	Support
	Bill History:	02-23-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
SB 650	Taylor, Van (F)(R)	Relating to audits of the music, film, television, and multimedia fund.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
SB 651	Taylor, Van (F)(R)	Relating to an audit of Major Events trust funds conducted by the state auditor.
	Bill History:	02-24-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
SB 711	Burton, Konni (F)(R)	Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public money for lobbying activities or lobbyists.
	Position:	Opposed
	Bill History:	03-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs
SB 736	Taylor, Van (F)(R)	Relating to the disclosure on personal financial statements of certain contracts with governmental entities.
	Bill History:	03-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs
SJR 1	Nelson, Jane(R)	Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for an exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes of a portion of the market value of a residence homestead based on the median market value.
	Bill History:	03-02-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance
SJR 6	Huffines, Donald	Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide

(F)(R) qualifications for and limit the time that a person may serve in certain offices.

Remarks:

Term Limits: would amend the Texas Constitution to, among other things: (1) provide that a person is not eligible to be elected to a full or partial term in any elective office, including a city office, if on the date the term begins the person has served in that office during any part of each of eight or more calendar years; (2) provide that service in more than one elective position on a governing body is considered service in the same office; (3) authorize a person to continue to serve in an office after the end of a term as a holdover under the Texas Constitution; (4) provide that service in office before January 1, 2016 does not count for purposes of determining whether a person is disqualified from election to office under this bill; and (5) authorize a political subdivision to impose a more restrictive limit on the time or number of terms a person may serve in elective office by charter, ordinance, order, or other appropriate means. (See S.B. 63 .)

Bill History: 01-27-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SJR 10 Campbell, Donna(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to an individual's or religious organization's freedom of religion.

Remarks:

Freedom of Religion: would amend the Texas constitution to provide that: (1) government may not "burden" an individual's or religious organization's freedom of religion; (2) the right to act or refuse to act in a manner motivated by a sincerely held religious belief may not be burdened unless the government proves it has a compelling governmental interest and has used the least restrictive means to further that interest; and (3) a burden for purposes of (1) and (2), above, includes indirect burdens such as withholding benefits, assessing penalties, or denying access to facilities or programs.

Bill History: 02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SJR 12 Perry, Charles (F)(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment prescribing the purposes for which revenue from motor vehicle registration fees, certain motor vehicle-related taxes, and certain revenues received from the federal government may b

Companions: HJR 28 Pickett, Joe (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee

on House Appropriations
HJR 29 Pickett, Joe (Identical)
3- 3-15 H Introduced and referred to committee
on House Appropriations

Position: Support

Bill History: 02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on
Senate Finance

SJR 14 Nichols, Robert(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or less of the appraised value of the property.

Position: Opposed

Remarks:

Appraisal Cap: would amend the Texas Constitution to permit the legislature to: (1) reduce the property tax appraisal cap on homesteads from ten percent to five percent; and (2) authorize a county commissioners court to call an election to increase the homestead appraisal cap for all taxing jurisdictions in the county back to some percentage between six and ten. (See S.B. 156 .)

Bill History: 02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on
Senate Finance

SJR 15 Schwertner, Charles(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment prescribing the purposes for which revenue from motor vehicle registration fees, certain motor vehicle-related taxes, and certain revenues may be used.

Remarks:

Transportation Funding: would provide that three-quarters of the state's motor vehicle registration fees and the state's gas tax shall be credited to the state highway fund to be used only for the purpose of constructing and maintaining public highways. (See S.B. 184 .)

Bill History: 02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on
Senate Finance

SJR 18 Estes, Craig(R) Relating to the appropriation to the net revenue received from the imposition of the states sales and use tax on sporting goods.

Remarks:

Sales Tax: would amend the Texas Constitution to provide that, for each state fiscal year, the net revenue received from the collection of any state taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods is automatically appropriated when received to the Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Historical Commission, or their successors in function, and is allocated between those agencies as provided by general law. (See S.B. 248.)

Bill History: 02-02-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SJR 29 Bettencourt, Paul (F)(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to extend the number of days that certain tangible personal property to be transported outside of this state is exempt from ad valorem taxation.

Companions: HJR 20 Bohac, Dwayne (Identical)
2-19-15 H Filed
HJR 25 Bohac, Dwayne (Identical)
2-24-15 H Filed

Remarks: JJ Rocha 0 0 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 2015-02-12T17:04:00Z 1 40 232 Red Media Group 4 1 271 14.0 Normal 0 false false false EN-US JA X-NONE /* Style Definitions */ table.MsoNormalTable {mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-priority:99; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin; }

S.J.R. 29 (Bettencourt) – Freeport Property Tax Exemption : would amend the Texas Constitution to extend from 175 to 365 the number of days by which freeport goods must be transported outside the state in order to be exempt from property taxation. (See **S.B. 516**, below.)

Bill History: 03-02-15 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

- End of Report -