
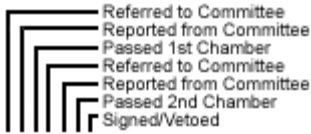
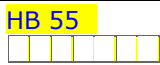
 - Action in the date range  - Link to Related Information () - Priority


Referred to Committee
Reported from Committee
Passed 1st Chamber
Referred to Committee
Reported from Committee
Passed 2nd Chamber
Signed/Vetoed

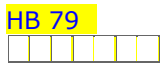


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Angela Hale

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

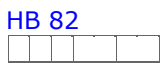
Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

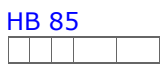
HB 82  **Guillen, Ryan(D)** Relating to the allocation of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.

Companions: **HB 158** Larson, Lyle (Identical)
11-10-14 H Filed

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

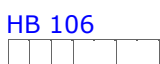
HB 85  **Craddick, Tom(R)** Relating to a sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications services used for the navigation of certain farm and ranch machinery and equipment.

Companions: **SB 140** Perry, Charles (Identical)
11-10-14 S Filed

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

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)
11-14-14 H Filed
[HB 415](#) Riddle, Debbie (Identical)
12- 1-14 H Filed

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

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

[HB 114](#) Flynn, Dan(R)

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Relating to the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

[HB 122](#) Pickett, Joe(D)

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Relating to the Texas Mobility Fund.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

[HB 128](#) Goldman, Craig(R)

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Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of mineral interests having a value of less than a certain amount.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

[HB 129](#) Goldman, Craig(R)

Relating to the allocation to the state highway fund of revenue from

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the taxes imposed on the sale, rental, or use of motor vehicles and other taxes imposed on motor vehicles.

Specific Remarks:

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

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 133

Simpson, David(R)

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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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 134

Simpson, David(R)

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

Specific 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.

General Remarks:

Changes formula for retirement annuity calculation for individuals who become members of elected class after 9/1/15--specifically, retirement annuity would be equal to the number of years of service credit in the class, not to exceed 12 years of service, times two percent of \$125,000.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 139

Stickland,
Jonathan(R)

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

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 157 Larson, Lyle(R)

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

Specific 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.

General Remarks:

Would require the sales tax rate adopted by cities to be in one-eighth of one percent increments; however, it does not allow the combined rate of all local sales taxes to exceed the two percent cap.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 158 Larson, Lyle(R)

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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)
11-10-14 H Filed

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 164 White, James(R)

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Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry the handgun.

Specific Remarks:

Open Carry: would provide, among other things, that a concealed handgun licensee may also carry an unconcealed handgun.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 165 Larson, Lyle(R)

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Relating to the Texas Liberty Preservation Act.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 174 Martinez Fischer,

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Trey(D)

Relating to requiring a living wage for those that do business with the state.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 193 Murphy, Jim(R)

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Relating to the phase-out and repeal of the franchise tax.

General Remarks:

Proposes a 25 percent reduction in the tax rate each year until the tax is phased out entirely in 2019.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 201 Leach, Jeff(R)

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Relating to the procedure for action by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on an application for a water right.

Companions: SB 109 Taylor, Van (Identical)
11-10-14 S Filed

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 202 Leach, Jeff(R)

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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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 203 Leach, Jeff(R)

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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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 206 Leach, Jeff(R)

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Relating to an exemption from the sales tax for firearms and hunting supplies for a limited period.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 208 Leach, Jeff(R)

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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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HB 250 Leach, Jeff(R)

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Relating to the phase-out and repeal of the franchise tax.

Companions: HB 552 Huberty, Dan (Identical)
12-18-14 H Filed

Bill History: 11-12-14 H Filed

HB 275 Ashby, Trenton(R)

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Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of farm products.

Specific Remarks: Property Tax Exemption: would exempt eggs from property taxes as a

"farm product."

Bill History: 11-12-14 H Filed

HB 276 Ashby, Trenton(R)
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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.

Specific 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: 11-12-14 H Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-13-14 H Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-14-14 H Filed

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

Bill History: 11-17-14 H Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-18-14 H Filed

HB 351 Giddings, Helen(D) Relating to the exemption from the sales tax for certain school art

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supplies during limited periods.

Specific Remarks:

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

Bill History: 11-20-14 H Filed

HB 361

Springer, Drew(R)

Relating to the uniform election date.

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Specific 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: 11-21-14 H Filed

HB 365

Elkins, Gary(R)

Relating to the calculation of the ad valorem rollback tax rates of certain taxing units.

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Companions: SB 182 Bettencourt, Paul (Identical)
11-13-14 S Filed

Position: Opposed

Specific 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

General Remarks: Identical to SB 182 by Bettencourt

Bill History: 11-24-14 H Filed

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.

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Specific 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: 11-24-14 H Filed

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.

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Specific 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: 11-24-14 H Filed

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

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

General Remarks: Would increase current \$50.75 registration fee for motor vehicles under 6,000 pounds to \$60.75, effective 1/1/16.

Bill History: 11-26-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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.

General Remarks: Would raise the gas tax from 20 cents to 30 cents per gallon.

Bill History: 11-26-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-26-14 H Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-26-14 H Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-26-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 12-02-14 H Filed

HB 445 Raney, John(R)

Relating to providing notice of the availability of paid leave for military service to public officers and employees.

Specific 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: 12-04-14 H Filed

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)
11-10-14 S Filed

Specific 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: 12-04-14 H Filed

HB 469 Metcalf, Will(R)

Relating to the allocation of certain motor vehicle sales tax revenue to the state highway fund and to the uses of that revenue.

Specific 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: 12-08-14 H Filed

HB 474 Reynolds, Ron(D)

Relating to requiring certain law enforcement officers to wear body worn cameras.

Specific 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: 12-08-14 H Filed

HB 484 Capriglione,
Giovanni(R)

Relating to the eligibility of a person to be a candidate for or holder of a public elective office.

Specific 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: 12-10-14 H Filed

HB 486 Howard, Donna(D)

Relating to the availability on the Internet of personal financial statements filed by public officials.

Specific 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: 12-10-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 12-11-14 H Filed

HB 491 Hernandez Luna,
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)
12- 9-14 S Filed

Specific 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: 12-11-14 H Filed

HB 529 Larson, Lyle(R)

Relating to the composition of the Texas Transportation Commission and the selection of members of that commission.

Specific 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: 12-16-14 H Filed

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: 12-17-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 12-17-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 12-17-14 H Filed

HB 548 Johnson, Eric(D)

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Relating to the consideration of criminal history record information regarding applicants for public employment.

Specific 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: 12-18-14 H Filed

HJR 27 Pickett, Joe(D)

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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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 28 Pickett, Joe(D)

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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)
11-10-14 H Filed
SJR 12 Perry, Charles (Identical)
11-10-14 S Filed

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 29 Pickett, Joe(D)

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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)

11-10-14 H Filed

SJR 12 Perry, Charles (Identical)

11-10-14 S Filed

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 33 Guillen, Ryan(D)

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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)

11-10-14 H Filed

Specific 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: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 36 Larson, Lyle(R)

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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.

Specific 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 be appropriated for those purposes each biennium.

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 39 Larson, Lyle(R)

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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)

11-10-14 H Filed

Bill History: 11-10-14 H Filed

HJR 45 Leach, Jeff(R)

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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: 11-14-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 11-26-14 H Filed

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.

Specific 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: 12-02-14 H Filed

HJR 53 Metcalf, Will(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating certain revenue derived from the tax imposed on the sale of motor vehicles to the state highway fund.

Specific 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: 12-08-14 H Filed

HJR 55 Villalba, Jason(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to a person's free exercise of religion.

Specific 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: 12-10-14 H Filed

HJR 57
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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.

Specific 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: 12-11-14 H Filed

SB 39
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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.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 50
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Zaffirini, Judith(D)

Relating to ad valorem tax liens on personal property.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 61
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Huffines, Donald(R)

Relating to the allocation and use of revenue derived from certain transportation-related taxes.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 63
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Huffines, Donald(R)

Relating to the qualifications for and time that a person may serve in certain offices.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 71 Ellis, Rodney(D)

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Relating to the eligibility of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as recreational, park, or scenic land.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 80 Ellis, Rodney(D)

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Relating to a periodic review of state and local tax preferences.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 100 Hinojosa, Chuy(D)

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Relating to the enterprise zone program.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 102 Hinojosa, Chuy(D)

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Relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions to issue bonds.

Specific 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

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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 140 Perry, Charles(R)

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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)
11-10-14 H Filed

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 156 Nichols, Robert(R)

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Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Position: Opposed

Specific 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 .)

General Remarks:

Would propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to limit the appraised vlaue of a residence homestead to 5 percent per year and to allow the voters to establish a higher limit of 10 percent on a local option basis (SJR 14)

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 157 Zaffirini, Judith(D)

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Relating to exempting books purchased, used, or consumed by certain university and college students from the sales and use tax for limited periods.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SB 158 West, Royce(D)

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Relating to a body worn camera program for certain law enforcement agencies in this state.

Companions: HB 455 Johnson, Eric (Identical)
12- 4-14 H Filed

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-12-14 S Filed

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

Specific 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: 11-12-14 S Filed

SB 182 Bettencourt, Paul(R) Relating to the calculation of the ad valorem rollback tax rates of certain taxing units.

Companions: HB 365 Elkins, Gary (Identical)
11-24-14 H Filed

Position: Opposed

Bill History: 11-13-14 S Filed

SB 184 Schwertner, Charles(R) Relating to state highway funds.

Specific 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: 11-17-14 S Filed

SB 228 Creighton, Brandon(R) Relating to an exemption from the sales tax for firearms and hunting for a limited period.

Specific 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: 12-05-14 S Filed

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: HB 491 Hernandez Luna, Ana (Identical)
12-11-14 H Filed

Bill History: 12-09-14 S Filed

SB 248 Estes, Craig(R)

Relating to the allocation of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods.

Specific 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: 12-16-14 S Filed

SJR 6 Huffines, Donald(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment to provide qualifications for and limit the time that a person may serve in certain offices.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SJR 10 Campbell, Donna(R)

Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to an individual's or religious organization's freedom of religion.

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SJR 12
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Perry, 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 received from the federal government may b

Companions: HJR 28 Pickett, Joe (Identical)
11-10-14 H Filed
HJR 29 Pickett, Joe (Identical)
11-10-14 H Filed

Position: Support

Bill History: 11-10-14 S Filed

SJR 14
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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

Specific 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: 11-10-14 S Filed

SJR 15
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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 received from the federal government may b

Specific 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: 11-17-14 S Filed

SJR 18
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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.

Specific 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: 12-16-14 S Filed

