

The Texas A&M University System

Office of Governmental Relations

September 2005



79th Legislative Session

Final Report, Regular Session, 1st and 2nd Called Sessions

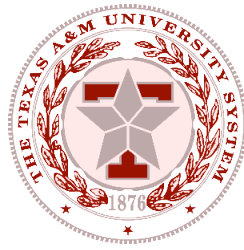


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Overview of the 79th Regular Session

One of the oft-repeated platitudes in the Capitol is “each session has its own personality.” Perhaps that is because the issues of priority to the electorate change, and because each new session welcomes another class of freshly elected members with their new personalities and pledges to take the place of the departing ones. And so it was that the context and personality of the Regular Session of the 79th Legislature were primarily defined around the twin issues of public education reform and property tax relief/shift. And since both of these are by definition “district defined” issues, Members found little room to maneuver. Just as the \$10 billion funding shortfall dominated the 78th Legislative Session, these two themes framed the policy, appropriative, and political considerations of the 79th Legislative Session...and both remain unresolved at this writing.

Appropriations Overview

Another Capitol cliché goes “every session is 90% about the budget...and the other 10% is poetry,” and though clearly that is an exaggeration, it still serves to indicate how important this bill is. Therefore, the first subject addressed in this overview section will be the budget bill, first as related to higher education in general, and secondly with special reference to the institutions and agencies of The Texas A&M System. A more detailed analysis of the appropriations bill, including data, may be found within the body of this report.

While the demands of all sessions are severe enough, the appropriations process brings its own acute level of intensity, first because of the tight request-response cycle and multiple opportunities for miscommunication under its highly compressed calendar, but more so because the stakes are so high—every institution’s well-being for the next two years rests heavily on its appropriations. The appropriations process begins several months after the end of a previous session, usually in the spring of the even numbered year when the state’s Big Three elected officers set the budget parameters, and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and Governor’s Office send out the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) instructions. And it ends only when the House and Senate finally pass the conference committee report and the Governor signs it; usually this process is concluded in June, but on occasion not until the end of a, or several, called sessions.

Leading in to the 79th Session, early projections of a small surplus for the 2006-07 biennium allowed some hope that the reductions of the 78th might be restored. However, when Governor Perry, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and Speaker Craddick set forth the parameters for the budget, they instructed all state agencies to limit their appropriation requests to not more than 95 percent of their then-current (i.e., 2004-05 biennial) spending level. Accordingly, when the 79th Session opened in January 2005, the "base bill" proposed by the LBB for the 2006-07 biennium reflected for almost all agencies the mandated 5 percent reduction to each institution's 2004-05 funding (important exceptions: the A&M research and service agencies and higher education's formula funding). However, the 5 percent reductions applied to all non-formula items, and additionally, the universities and health related institutions were told to cover increases in debt service for their already authorized and issued tuition revenue bonds (TRBs). The effect was a greater than 5 percent, in many cases significantly greater, cut in funding for non-formula programs at the academic and health related institutions in order to cover TRB debt service requirements. In short, the Session opened with higher education well behind the funding curve.

Successes

By the end of the session, the funding picture for **all higher education** had changed, and for the better. In summary:

- 1) The legislature added \$160 million for the universities and \$58 million for the health related institutions in new General Revenue (GR) to cover statewide enrollment growth and strengthen the formula funding for all;
- 2) New GR funding of \$94 million was added to cover debt service for outstanding TRBs, both principal and interest;
- 3) Increased funding of \$141 in General Revenue was added to cover the health insurance premiums for higher education employees;
- 4) The full 5% reduction to non-formula items (including special items) was restored for the health-related institutions; and,
- 5) All but ½ of one percent of the five percent reduction was restored for the universities.

Especially important to the A&M System, its research and service agencies were spared the mandated 5 percent reductions faced by most state agencies and were largely included in the statewide employee pay raise.

In addition, the Legislature adopted two structural changes that put the funding formulas on sounder footing, and, for the most part, benefited A&M System academic institutions. The changes provided for: 1) a uniform and fairer method of calculating the state's/institutions' split of the cost of employee benefit costs; and 2) an empirical cost-study-based methodology for establishing relative formula funding rates among the academic disciplines.

Major appropriations actions related to A&M System institutions and agencies **as a group** include the following:

- an 8 percent increase in funding for the A&M System universities, compared to an 8.9 percent increase for all public universities (note: since the enrollment of System universities grew less than that of all universities statewide, and formula funding is based on enrollment, our universities were treated equitably);
- a 9.6 percent increase for the Health Science Center, compared to 9.2 percent for all health-related institutions;

- a 5 percent reduction to the A&M System Office appropriation due to the mandatory LAR reduction; and,
- in addition to restoring the 5% cuts, \$5.6 million in new funding was appropriated to cover partially the maintenance and operation costs of our research and extension facilities located throughout the state.

With respect to actions taken in behalf of **specific A&M System institutions**, the legislature approved the following: another \$20 million for the second installment of Texas A&M University's Faculty Reinvestment initiative; \$3 million in carry-over funding for Prairie View A&M University's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) related programs; \$0.5 million for the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management at Texas A&M University -Kingsville; \$1.7 million to the Texas Transportation Institute for an International Transportation Studies Center; and, \$0.4 million to the Texas Engineering Experiment Station for the Energy Systems Laboratory. Two other key non-funding changes included expanding the OCR related priority program list to include the Undergraduate Medical Academy at Prairie View A&M, and assigning the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to study and make recommendations regarding extra funding for Texas A&M University at Galveston as a special purpose institution.

Separately and importantly, the legislature approved a 10.6 percent increase in funding of the state's share of employees' group health insurance costs for the A&M System-managed Health Insurance Plan. Given the continuing rapid increase in health care costs, it is significant that no action was taken to change or reduce health insurance benefits for A&M System employees, although this is sure to be an on-going concern.

Unfinished Business

As to disappointments, two items stand out: first, we were unsuccessful in earning legislative support for start-up and operating funding to open Texas A&M-Kingsville's new pharmacy school this fall; and secondly, the Legislature did not authorize capital construction funding, i.e., new tuition revenue bonds, for any institutions of higher education. For the A&M System, this means no bonds were authorized for the construction of new campuses in San Antonio, Central Texas and Texarkana, nor to fund numerous urgently needed capital projects among our existing institutions.

One other disappointment related to cleaning up a "loose end" of the decision made in the 78th Session regarding indirect cost recovery. Language was included in HB 2233, by Jim Keffer, that would have deleted "indirect cost recovery" as one of the elements of the statutorily defined "educational and general" fund group. This, along with the decision to no longer include indirect cost recovery in the bill pattern method of finance for the academic and health related institutions, would have completed the implementation of the policy decision made in the 78th Legislature to exclude indirect cost recovery as a method of financing the formulas. However, the conference committee report on HB 2233 was killed on a technicality at the end of the session.

In summary, the bottom line regarding appropriations is that the 79th Legislature treated the Texas A&M System and all of higher education well considering the major funding demands posed by public education and health and human services.

Overview of Other Issues

A number of major policy issues other than the budget were addressed by the 79th Legislature. However, two major issues, school finance and property tax relief, were so complex and highly charged that they remained unresolved, despite intense efforts on the part of the leadership and broad agreement as to the importance of resolving them. Nonetheless, the 79th did successfully address a number of major policy issues.

The purpose of this section of the report is to summarize some of these major issues, with special attention to those of importance to The Texas A&M University System. Since the programs and services of system members literally “cover Texas,” and beyond, the range of legislative issues that affect the A&M System is extensive. In addition, some issues that failed to be resolved this session will be noted because they remain as priorities.

Higher Education Issues

In addition to undivided attention to the appropriations bill, several higher education policy issues were addressed by the 79th Legislature. A brief overview of some of the key ones is provided below; further details relating to individual bills may be found within the body of this report.

Tuition Deregulation. Amid debate and notwithstanding some reservations, the 78th Legislature granted university and system boards of regents new authority to set tuition. However, some legislators, particularly in the Senate, continued to hold reservations regarding the implementation of that decision. The full Senate added an amendment to SB 1228 that would have returned tuition-setting authority to the Legislature in 2008. However, this bill was never scheduled for a hearing in the House. The Senate action was widely believed to have been intended to express its concern over the size of tuition increases authorized by a few of the boards.

Top 10. Following the 5th Circuit Court’s decision in the *Hopwood* case, the Texas Legislature in 1997 passed a bill that has been dubbed the “Top 10” law because it provides automatic admission to any public university in Texas to high school students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their class. Numerous proposals were made to relax its provisions in order to allow universities more flexibility in determining the composition of their prospective freshmen classes. Bills to amend the Top 10 law included HB 2330, by Representative Geanie Morrison, SB 320, by Senator Jeff Wentworth, and SB 333, by Senator Royce West. Notwithstanding intense efforts to resolve the differences, none of the bills passed. However, all indications are that this is likely to remain an issue for the 80th Legislative Session.

Tuition Revenue Bonds. Under the “alternating session” pattern that had informally become customary since 1991, the 79th Session was expected to be a tuition revenue bond (TRB) session. In keeping with that expectation, Texas institutions of higher education submitted their requests for new TRBs for capital improvement projects which amounted to \$3.2 billion. By the end of the session, the projects that appeared to have gained some traction had been trimmed to about \$1.1 billion. During the conference committee process, a miscommunication occurred

between the co-chairs of the conference committee report on the legislation, and the bill was allowed to die.

Student Regents. Higher education student government organizations and their leaders had sought representation on university boards of regents for more than 30 years; they succeeded in the 79th Regular Session. Representative Patrick Rose was successful in getting the House to add virtually identical language to both SB 34, by Senator Judith Zaffirini, and SB 1227, by Senator Shapiro; the Senate concurred, thereby adding a student regent to each of the state's 10 public university governing boards. The student regents will have no vote but can attend and participate in meetings of the board of regents. The Governor will make the appointments with the advice of the chancellors and student government groups.

Emerging Technology Fund

Cited as one of Governor Perry's top priorities in his State of the State address, the Emerging Technology Fund proposed to help bring thousands of new high-tech jobs to Texas. HB 1765, authored by Representative Morrison and sponsored by Senator Shapiro, creates the \$200 million Texas Emerging Technology Fund to promote economic and technological opportunities, and therefore position Texas to become more competitive at a national and global level. This fund is intended to increase research collaboration between the public and private sectors and to develop new Regional Centers of Innovation and Commercialization. The fund will also match federal and private sector research grants and attempt to attract leading researchers from outside the state to Texas institutions of higher education.

Public Education/Property Tax Reform

Because the Governor designated public education finance and reform as an emergency, lawmakers focused on revising the most controversial aspect of school finance, dubbed *Robin Hood*, from the onset of the session. The consensus was that public opinion compelled any education reform bill to include major restructuring and reduction of local property taxes. However, there was less agreement as to who would pay the taxes that would be required to replace the revenue associated with reducing property taxes and how much they would pay.

Under current law, higher property value districts are required to "share" their tax dollars with poorer districts, pursuant to a ruling of the Texas Supreme Court which mandated every Texan to have equal access to education despite disparity in the amount of taxable wealth per student among Texas' 1000 plus school districts. A state district court ruling, on appeal to the Texas Supreme Court at this date, found that the existing property tax cap amounted to a state-wide property tax, and therefore was unconstitutional, and that current school spending was neither adequate nor equitable.

Determined to find a legislative solution to public school finance before the high court's ruling, the leadership sought to create an education funding system fully compliant with the constitution. The goals, embraced in principle and in varying degrees by all, were to reduce local property tax rates by up to 33 percent, increase spending in exchange for improved effectiveness and accountability of public education, and expand pay and benefits to teachers...all the while restructuring revenue sources and keeping the total tax consequence "neutral."

However, from the outset each chamber pursued a different path toward achieving these goals. The House preferred increased consumption taxes to replace the reduced property tax revenues while the Senate tended toward the concept of a statewide property tax, supplemented by a local tax increment for "Excellence." Representative Kent Grusendorf and Senator Florence Shapiro, authors of the education reform bills in the House and Senate respectively, sought to implement new, but differing policies relating to funding formulas, standardized testing, teacher pay increases and resource allocations. The House version of both the tax restructuring and education reform bill was passed in mid-March; the Senate version was approved in early May. Time to adjournment itself became a major consideration, ratcheting up the pressure for reaching a solution as legislative process deadlines set in.

Further complicating the issue was that neither version of the proposed education reforms enjoyed the full support of the three major elements of the public education community – teachers, administrators and school boards. Similarly, none of the tax reform, i.e. "tax swap," proposals was embraced by the major affected constituencies – business, consumers, and non-corporate business groups. Despite round-the-clock efforts late in the session seeking a compromise on the restructure of major facets of public education and the funding of property tax reform, the issues remained unresolved at the end of the regular session.

Lawsuit Reform

The two primary pieces of lawsuit reform legislation addressed during the 79th Legislature dealt with **asbestos litigation** and **workers' compensation reform**. According to a frequently cited study by the Rand Institute, the cost of asbestos litigation has exceeded \$70 billion nationally, with forty percent of all claims arising from Texas. SB 15, authored by Senator Janek, and sponsored by Representative Joe Nixon, narrowed substantially the requirements for filing asbestos and silica related lawsuits. Now, only claimants with serious illnesses caused by inhaling asbestos and silica are eligible to sue companies making products containing such materials, and doctors making such diagnoses must have an established relationship with the patient when examinations are conducted for litigation purposes. SB 15 also contains a provision expanding time-to-file suit limitations that will allow claimants who have been exposed to asbestos or silica, but are not yet sick, to file suit if becoming ill in the future. As enacted, SB 15 requires all cases to be filed individually and gives preference to hearings and trials where the claimant has been diagnosed with serious asbestos or silica related diseases.

Governor Perry called on legislators to relieve Texas employers from some of the highest workers' compensation costs in the nation during his State of the State address. HB 7, by Representative Burt Solomons, and SB 5, by Senator Todd Staples, though considered competing and conflicting bills, both sought aggressive and comprehensive changes to the Texas workers' compensation system. Toward the end of the session, an agreement was finally reached, and HB 7 was enacted as the compromise vehicle. HB 7 abolishes the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission and transfers regulatory authority to a single, governor-appointed commissioner housed in the Texas Department of Insurance while creating the Office of Injured Employee Counsel to serve as an advocate for injured workers. The bill also creates physician networks similar to those in commercial health plans and provides a small increase in benefits paid to injured workers.

Transportation

The 78th Legislature passed major transportation legislation creating the "Trans-Texas Corridor," a \$184 billion plan to construct four-thousand plus miles of toll ways, railways and utility lines. HB 2702, by Representative Krusee, Chairman of the House Transportation committee, modified last session's legislation by establishing stricter guidelines for toll roads while specifying no tax-funded highways may be converted to toll roads without voter approval. The bill also gives more rights to property owners affected by the construction of the Corridor. If a new toll road bisects a landowner's property, the state must offer to buy any remaining land left with little or no value to the owner. Additionally, if construction of the corridor diminishes the value of property, the state must compensate the owner for the lost value. Current law only requires landowners participating in the project to be offered a lump sum payment or long-term royalties on the land.

Social Issues

The 79th Legislature addressed a number of polarizing social issues, including a proposed amendment to the Texas Constitution defining marriage, parental consent for certain abortions, and Adult and Child Protective Services reform. The 78th Legislature enacted the Defense of Marriage Act defining marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman. Thirty-nine other states have enacted similar legislation; however, since lawsuits have arisen challenging some Defense of Marriage Acts, some states have proposed to amend their constitution in order to provide "clarity." HJR 6, by Representative Warren Chisum, proposed an amendment to the Texas Constitution defining marriage as the union of only one man and one woman, and prohibiting the recognition by the state, or any political subdivision of the state, of any legal status identical or similar to marriage. The resolution passed both houses and will go to the voters in November.

Another highly charged issue related to the requirement of parental consent for minors to obtain an abortion. Current law states that girls under the age of eighteen must notify their parents of their intent to have an abortion. HB 1212, by Representative Phil King, tightened the rules and made it more difficult for a court to grant permission for such an abortion without the parents' knowledge. The bill was considered to be dead in the House until Representative Will Hartnett attached it as an amendment to the Sunset Bill extending the Texas Board of Medical Examiners, following which it was passed by both chambers. The amendment also included provisions to revoke a physician's license if he or she performs a third-trimester abortion on a woman, unless the procedure is necessary to save the life of the mother or if carrying the fetus to term would cause severe mental damage or paralysis to the fetus.

After documented and widespread problems in the state's Adult and Child Protective Services programs, Governor Perry declared reform of the programs an emergency at the outset of the session. In the House of Representatives, discussions of Child Protective Services reforms sparked hours of debate. Particularly heated controversy ensued when Representative Robert Talton proposed an amendment to the reform legislation that, if adopted, would have barred homosexuals from serving as foster parents and would have removed children who were currently living in homes with homosexual foster parents. The Senate's companion bill, SB 6, by Senator Jane Nelson, did not include the most controversial provisions and was ultimately passed by both chambers. SB 6 makes system-wide changes to strengthen the effectiveness of the Department of Family and Protective Services by

privatizing direct foster care services while retaining authority over safety-focused services. It also requires coordination between the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Texas Education Agency and the Department of Family and Protective Services to develop outreach programs for foster children and makes it a state felony to report false accusations of abuse with malicious intent.

Other Key Issues

During the 79th Regular Session of the Legislature several other major policy bills were filed, some of which passed and most of which did not. Examples of the higher profile bills include telecommunications reform, life without parole, and judicial pay raises.

One of the most far-reaching business issues addressed by lawmakers in the regular session was telecommunications reform. HB 3179 by Representative King, Chairman of House Regulated Industries Committee, would have made it easier for telephone companies such as SBC and Verizon to compete in offering cable television services. The bill would have allowed phone companies to obtain statewide cable franchises rather than city-by-city franchises as cable companies must. Currently cities must require cable companies to offer the same services to all homes, but HB 3179 would have allowed the phone companies to offer cable service only in areas they chose to serve-dubbed "cherry picking" by detractors. Ultimately, negotiations between the House and Senate stalled on the legislation, prompting its author to declare it dead for the session.

Spurred by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to ban the execution of convicts who committed their crimes before they turned eighteen, legislation offering juries the option to sentence convicts in capital murder cases to life without the possibility for parole was introduced again and this time easily passed the 79th Texas Legislature. SB 60, by Senator Eddie Lucio, removed the possibility of a convicted offender being granted parole after serving forty years of a life sentence for capital murder. Before passage of this bill, Texas was one of only two, among the 38 states that execute capital offenders, that does not allow jurors the sentencing option of life-without-parole.

One of the most public disagreements involved SB 368, the judicial pay raise bill authored by Senator Duncan, sponsored by Representative Keel. The bill would have increased state district court judges' salaries up to \$125,000 in an attempt to make judgeships more competitive with private sector jobs. Since existing state law ties lawmakers' pensions to the salaries paid to state district judges, members were sharply divided on this matter. Critics objected to legislators' boosting their own retirement pensions, and all the more so after failing to come up with a solution for public school finance which effectively denied a raise to public school teachers. However, Representative Keel, who authored his own version of the legislation, killed the bill on a technicality on the last day of the regular legislative session.

Vetoes

Once legislation passes both the House and the Senate, it is sent to the Governor; the governor then has the option to sign a bill, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto it. At the conclusion of the 79th Legislative Session, Governor Perry vetoed 19 pieces of legislation. However, the most significant veto

occurred over public education finance. To encourage legislators to solve the education and property tax conundrum in the upcoming special session, the Governor vetoed the entire \$33.6 billion public school funding section of the appropriations bill.

Appropriations

NOTE:

Data integrating Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 10 from the 79th Regular Session, House Bill 1 in the 1st Called Session, and the Governor's Veto Proclamation on SB1 are unavailable by method of finance at the date of printing. This report has in the past included an integrated summary of these actions. However, since that summary is dependent on the unavailable data, each of the following actions is discussed and displayed separately. When the integrated data become available, we will issue an addendum to this report that provides the final, integrated budget numbers.

Overview of the State Budget

During the regular session, the Legislature passed two key pieces of appropriations legislation, Senate Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and House Bill 10, the Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

Senate Bill 1

SB1 appropriated \$65.6 billion in General Revenue Funds (GR), which was \$5.9 billion over the 2004-05 biennium, a 9.8 percent increase. The All Funds appropriation totaled \$139.4 billion for 2006-07, a \$12.8 billion increase over the 2004-05 biennium, a 10.1 percent increase.

Highlights of SB 1

Health and Human Services

- An increase of \$4.9 billion in All Funds and \$2.3 billion in General Revenue and General Revenue–Dedicated Funds for Medicaid programs.
- Funding increases for the Children's Health Insurance Program, including additional funding to cover caseload increases and restoration of benefits, and funding increases for reform of Child Protective Services.

Education

- Changes in public education in Senate Bill 1 were vetoed by the Governor. So changes are discussed below under HB1, 1st Called Session.
- A decrease of \$0.2 billion for TRS-Care, the healthcare system for retired school employees, primarily due to a large 2005 reserve, and implementation of federal Medicare legislation.
- Enrollment growth is funded for institutions of higher education. General Revenue formula funding for institutions of higher education is enhanced. The recommendations also reflect projected growth of \$0.1 billion in General Revenue–Dedicated Funds, primarily in tuition and fees.

Criminal Justice

- an increase of \$0.1 billion in General Revenue Funds to address projected population increases and rising healthcare and utility costs, replace one-time land sales receipts and partially replace lost federal funds.

Employee Benefits

- \$0.6 billion All Funds increase for a state employee pay raise (including related benefits).
- \$3.0 billion in All Funds for state employee healthcare costs. This reflects an increase of \$0.4 billion in General Revenue Funds for increased medical and drug costs.

Bond Debt Service

- An increase of \$0.3 billion in General Revenue Funds to cover principal and interest needs for existing general obligation and tuition revenue bonds and to account for the fact that 2004-05 biennial appropriations covered interest-only payments on commercial paper and certain TRBs.

Transportation

- A \$1.2 billion increase in Federal Funds and a \$1.7 billion increase in Other Funds over the 2004-05 base level, which are due primarily to additional finance tools made available to the Department of Transportation.

The following table summarizes the actions in Senate Bill 1 only.

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE BUDGET
General Revenue Funds, in millions
Senate Bill 1 Appropriations for 2006-07
Compared to 2004-05 Expended/Budgeted Level

Function	Expended/ Budgeted 2004-05*	SB 1 2006-07**	Biennial Change	Percent Change
Article I - General Government	\$ 1,480.3	\$ 1,674.3	\$ 194.0	13.1 %
Article II - Health and Human Services	15,508.6	17,862.0	2,353.4	15.2 %
Article III - Agencies of Education	34,383.5	36,859.4	2,475.9	7.2 %
Public Education	24,233.8	25,877.4	1,643.6	6.8 %
Higher Education	10,149.7	10,892.0	832.3	8.2 %
Article IV - The Judiciary	318.0	334.7	16.7	5.3 %
Article V - Public Safety/Corrections	6,569.9	6,998.5	428.6	6.5 %
Article VI - Natural Resources	485.3	437.1	(48.2)	(9.9 %)
Article VII - Bus./Eco. Development	256.0	252.9	(3.1)	(1.2 %)
Article VIII - Regulatory	377.0	404.1	27.1	7.2 %
Article IX - General Provisions		439.0	439.0	NA
Article X - The Legislature	321.4	313.7	(7.7)	(2.4 %)
Grand Total	\$ 59,700.0	\$ 65,575.7	\$ 5,875.7	9.8 %

*Includes anticipated supplemental spending needs as of December 2004 (excludes House Bill 10).

Does **NOT adjust for appropriations made by, or transferred to House Bill 10 and does **NOT** adjust for the Governor's Veto Proclamation and HB1, 1st Called Session, 79th Legislature.

NOTE: Biennial change and percentage change have been calculated on actual amounts before rounding. Therefore, table and figure amounts may not add because of rounding. Amounts shown for each article include an allocation of certain statewide appropriations for retirement, social security and debt service. These numbers will not reconcile with the higher education table.

Source: Legislative Budget Board, Summary of the Conference Committee Report for Senate Bill 1

House Bill 10, Supplemental Appropriations

House Bill 10 provided for supplemental appropriations to cover shortfalls in funding for the 2004-05 biennium and served as a vehicle bill to fund some programs for the 2006-07 biennium. The bill appropriated \$2.9 billion in All Funds, including \$553 million from the General Revenue Fund and \$1.16 billion from the Economic Stabilization Fund, for a broad array of programs. Health and Human Services received the majority of the funds: \$1.8 billion in All Funds, including over \$800 million for Medicaid, \$235 for CHIPS, and \$258 million for Child Protective Services.

In addition, HB10 provided \$200 million in funding for the Emerging Technology Fund that was created by House Bill 1765. HB 1765 established the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to cultivate economic and technological opportunities that will allow Texas to remain competitive in both national and global markets. For additional information, see the explanation below in the Appropriations-Related Legislation section.

Veto Proclamation and Special Sessions

The Governor's Veto Proclamation totaled \$23.4 billion in General Revenue and \$35.3 billion in All Funds. This included a veto of the appropriations to the Texas Education Agency because the Legislature did not pass legislation for public school finance reform. The vetoes excluding the Texas Education Agency amounted to \$576.6 million in General Revenue and \$1.7 billion in All Funds. Included in the vetoes was the \$108 million that had been appropriated for debt service in anticipation of passage of HB 2329, the tuition revenue bond authorization bill that did not pass.

The veto of the Texas Education Agency and public education funding resulted in the Governor's calling the Legislature back into special session in June 2005, primarily to address public school finance, although other issues including tuition revenue bonds were added to the call. While the Legislature passed an appropriations bill during the special session (House Bill 1, 79th Legislature, 1st Called Session) that restored in part the vetoed funding for public education, it did not pass public education finance reform legislation in the 1st or 2nd Called Sessions. The legislature also did not pass a tuition revenue bond bill. The amount appropriated to public education in HB1, 1CS was \$625.7 million less than the amount included in SB1.

The Governor called the Legislature back for a second special session, which also ended in gridlock on public education finance reform.

Higher Education Funding

Well in advance of the 79th Legislative Session, appropriations expectations were once again lowered to below the then current level of funding. In June 2004 prior to preparing the Legislative Appropriations Requests (LAR) for the 2006-07 biennium, the LBB and Governor's Office sent a letter to all state agencies and institutions of higher education directing that state agencies and institutions of higher education request no more than 95 percent of the GR and GR-Dedicated amounts appropriated for the 2004-05 biennium. Ultimately the Legislature restored the mandated LAR reductions and provided additional funding for most of higher education, resulting in \$793.3 million, or an 8.6 percent, increase in General Revenue for the 2006-07 biennium; additional detail is provided below.

HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING General Revenue Funds, in millions Senate Bill 1 Appropriations for 2006-07 Compared to 2004-05 Expended/Budgeted Level

	2006-07	Difference	% Change
General Academics	\$ 3,889.5	\$ 318.4	8.9 %
Health Related Institutions	2,008.3	168.9	9.2 %
Two Year Institutions			
Community Colleges	1,627.6	120.5	8.0 %
TSTC	120.5	(20.3)	-14.4 %
Lamar State Colleges	47.6	4.6	10.8 %
A&M System Agencies*	280.0	7.1	2.6 %
System Offices	26.3	4.1	18.4 %
Higher Education Coordinating Board	739.4	72.4	10.9 %
Food and Fibers Commission	2.7	(0.0)	0.0 %
Higher Education Fund	350.0	-	0.0 %
Research Development Fund**	-	(23.3)	NA
Higher Ed. Group Insurance	937.1	140.9	17.7 %
Total, Higher Education***	\$ 10,028.9	\$ 793.3	8.6 %

Notes:

* Does not include an estimated \$9 million in additional funding for the state employee pay raise for the agencies. The Texas Transportation Institute's operating funds are from the State Highway Fund and are included within this table.

** 2006-07 includes \$42.8m in Research Development Funds that are now appropriated directly to the institutions. In 2004-05 these funds were appropriated separately (and subsequently vetoed and reinstated for FY05 only).

*** These totals do not reconcile to the overview table on page 11 because the overview table includes the allocation of certain statewide appropriations for retirement, social security and debt service for each article, which are not included here.

General Academics

The 79th Legislature increased funding for the general academics by \$318.4 million over the 2004-05 biennium, which represents an 8.9 percent increase in General Revenue. The changes in formula funding and non-formula funding are described below. The table below itemizes the funding for the A&M System academic institutions.

A&M System General Academic Institutions General Revenue Funds, in millions Senate Bill 1 Appropriations for 2006-07 Compared to 2004-05 Expended/Budgeted Level

General Academics	2006-07 *	Change	% Change
Texas A&M University	\$ 437,597,353	\$ 21,326,270	5.1 %
Texas A&M Univ. at Galveston	23,057,224	2,225,498	10.7 %
Prairie View A&M University	110,596,896	18,725,413	20.4 %
Tarleton State University	63,228,892	8,153,037	14.8 %
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi	86,869,615	5,567,806	6.8 %
Texas A&M University - Kingsville	71,391,292	5,255,178	7.9 %
Texas A&M International University	66,545,874	3,759,219	6.0 %
West Texas A&M University	56,135,758	6,217,180	12.5 %
Texas A&M - Commerce	60,877,085	1,022,117	1.7 %
Texas A&M - Texarkana	20,185,437	1,892,139	10.3 %
A&M System Academics	\$ 996,485,426	\$ 74,143,857	8.0 %

Notes: *2006-07 includes \$42.8m in Research Development Funds that are now appropriated directly to the institutions. In 2004-05 these funds were appropriated separately (and subsequently vetoed and reinstated for FY05 only).

Formulas

- The formula base for 2004-05 that is used for comparison includes the 2004-05 Formula Hold Harmless; HB1, 78th Legislature, Regular Session, Article III Special Provisions, Section 56 reductions; and the GR added in the 2004-05 biennium to implement the change in policy regarding indirect cost recovery.
- The 5 percent mandated LAR reduction was restored to the formulas.
- \$160.1 million in new funding was added to the formulas to cover growth and to provide an enhanced level of formula funding for institutions.
- The Legislature changed the methodology used for determining the proportional amount of Other Educational & General Income associated with Higher Education Group Insurance Premiums that is used to fund the formulas. During the session, it was discovered that the proportionality used to calculate the Other E&G Income group insurance deduction from the formulas was inconsistent among the institutions. The LBB had based this

deduction on data reported in the group insurance schedule in the LARs. These data were inconsistent among institutions and did not correspond to the proportionality ratio that is reported to the State Comptroller in the Accounting Policy Statement 011 (APS 11) and the ratio that is used for the actual proportional payment for all benefits. The Legislature directed that APS 11 be used to calculate the group insurance proportionality. Since this is the same proportionality ratio used for other benefits (TRS, ORP, and OASI), this action brought about consistency in proportionality for all benefits.

- In addition, it was determined that institutions were reporting their indirect cost recovery funds differently in their APS 11 reports. In order to maintain consistency among institutions, the institutions submitted revised APS 11 calculations that excluded the indirect cost recovery funds from the proportionality ratio. Therefore, in determining the Other E&G Income deduction for health insurance from the formulas, the revised calculations that excluded indirect cost recovery funds from the Other E&G deduction were used.
- The other impact of making the change from using the LAR schedule to the APS 11 ratio is that it excluded the AUF funds from impacting the proportionality calculation. In reviewing the LAR data, it was discovered that the three institutions that receive AUF funds were including a portion or all of their AUF associated personnel in the LAR group insurance schedule. When the LAR schedule was used to determine the proportionality, this had the impact of allowing the institutions to earn GR through the formulas for the Other E&G being deducted for health insurance associated with AUF employees. The Legislature made the policy decision to use the APS 11 proportionality calculation to ensure that the AUF was not impacting the GR distribution of the formulas.
- **Hold harmless** funding is provided to **UT Austin** (\$8.5 million) related to excluding AUF employees from the group insurance proportionality calculations. Hold harmless is also provided to **A&M Texarkana** (\$0.7 million) and **Angelo State University** (\$0.4 million) for losses in GR formula funding for those institutions. A&M Texarkana's loss in formula funding was due to increases in Estimated Other E&G Income and a 9.8 percent decline in their relative utilities rates. They experienced an increase in weighted semester credit hours of 7.3 percent and an increase in predicted square feet of 6.6 percent.

Non-formula

- Non-formula items include tuition revenue bond debt service, all special items, *Institutional Enhancement*, Workers' Compensation Insurance/ Unemployment Compensation Insurance, *Excellence*, and Office of Civil Rights Priority Plan.
- Tuition revenue bond debt service on existing authorized bonds was fully funded. This was an increase of \$49.9 million over the 2004-05 biennium.
- For all other non-formula items, 4.5 percent of the pre-session mandated 5 percent reduction to non-formula items was restored. However, each individual non-formula line item was not restored; instead the sum of the restored amount was added to each institution's *Institutional Enhancement* line item. The amount funded for each non-formula item was based on how each institution spread the 5 percent non-formula reduction in preparing the Legislative Appropriations Request.

- For Prairie View A&M University and Texas Southern University, \$3 million and \$1.6 million respectively in unexpended balances for the Office of Civil Rights Priority Programs was appropriated.
- New or increased special items include:
 - Texas A&M University - \$20 million in Institutional Enhancement for Faculty Reinvestment
 - Texas A&M-Kingsville – \$510,000 for the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management
 - West Texas A&M University – \$40,000 for the Small Business Development Center
 - The University of Texas at Austin
 - \$2.1 million for the Bureau of Economic Geology
 - \$14.6 million for Institutional Enhancement
 - University of Houston – \$5 million for Faculty Excellence
 - Texas Tech University
 - \$5 million for Faculty Excellence
 - \$400,000 for the Hill Country Educational Network
 - University of North Texas System / South Dallas – \$3 million for new faculty
 - Stephen F. Austin State University – \$1.7 million for Rural Nursing Initiative

Comparison of A&M Academics with UT and All Academics Appropriations and Enrollment

	Change in WSCH	Change in GR funding	Spread*
A&M System Academics	-0.66 %	8.04 %	8.70
Texas A&M	-4.40 %	5.12 %	9.52
UT System Academics	0.40 %	8.62 %	8.22
UT Austin	-5.55 %	4.01 %	9.56
All General Academics	-0.26 %	8.92 %	9.18

*The spread reflects the **effective** change in funding once changes in weighted semester credit hours are accounted for.

Research Development Fund

For the 2004-05 biennium, the Research Development Fund was appropriated as a separate item of appropriation similar to the Higher Education Fund and was to be allocated by the Coordinating Board at a later date. However, the fund was vetoed by the Governor for the 2004-05 biennium and restored via budget execution for only the 2005 fiscal year. For the 2006-07 biennium, the Legislature allocated the funds to each institution and appropriated \$42.8 million in a new goal within each institution’s bill pattern.

Indirect Cost Recovery

In the 78th Legislature, HB1887 was passed which prohibited Indirect Cost Recovery funding to be used as a method of finance in the formulas. Prior to the 2004-05 biennium, 50 percent of an academic institution's indirect cost recovery funds were used as an offset to the GR earned by that institution in the formulas and the other 50 percent was included as a line item of appropriation. The 79th Legislature further implemented the policy change of allowing institutions "to keep" their earned indirect cost recovery by completely eliminating it from the funds appropriated through the institution's bill pattern.

Health Related Institutions

The 79th Legislature increased funding for the health related institutions by \$168.9 million over the 2004-05 biennium which represents an 9.2 percent increase in General Revenue. The changes in formula funding and non-formula funding are described below. The table below itemizes the funding for each of the health related institutions.

Health Related Institutions General Revenue Funds, in millions Senate Bill 1 Appropriations for 2006-07 Compared to 2004-05 Expended/Budgeted Level

Health Related Institutions	2006-07	Change	% Change
UT Southwestern	\$ 259,008,428	\$ 57,069,248	28.3 %
UTMB	438,291,032	10,138,571	2.4 %
UTHSC – Houston	261,574,351	17,757,271	7.3 %
UTHSC - San Antonio	258,036,653	11,549,539	4.7 %
MD Anderson	288,772,298	20,488,595	7.6 %
UT HC Tyler	65,889,470	1,295,164	2.0 %
A&M HSC	124,214,168	10,928,409	9.6 %
UNT HSC	96,964,971	12,355,206	14.6 %
Texas Tech HSC	<u>215,499,059</u>	<u>27,305,594</u>	14.5 %
Total, All Health Related Institutions	\$2,008,250,430	\$ 168,887,597	9.2 %

Formulas

- The 5 percent reduction that was mandated in the LAR was fully restored.
- The Legislature provided \$18.3 million in new general revenue funding to cover a 6.9 percent growth in full-time-student equivalents at the health related institutions.
- In addition, \$40 million in new GR funds was added to enhance the formulas. This funding was distributing across the three formulas as follows:
 - \$30 million to Instruction
 - \$5 million to Research
 - \$5 million to Infrastructure

- A new formula for graduate medical education (GME) was adopted and added \$19.8 million in General Revenue. Funds are distributed to the health science centers based on each health science center's proportionate share of residents. A provision in Article IX, General Provisions of the General Appropriations Act (SB1), directs the Comptroller of Public Accounts to reallocate the GME funds based on information provided by the Legislative Budget Board.
- New small class supplements were provided to the A&M Health Science Center for the Institute of Biotechnology graduate biomedical class small class, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for an Austin-based medical school class, and the University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston for a Brownsville-based public health class.

Non-formula

- Non-formula items include tuition revenue bond debt service, all special items, *Institutional Enhancement*, WCI/UCI, and patient care activities.
- Tuition revenue bond debt service on existing authorized bonds was fully funded. This amounted to an increase of \$43.6 million over the 2004-05 biennium for the health related institutions.
- For the health-related institutions, the full 5 percent reduction that was mandated in the LARs was restored.
- New special items include:
 - UT Southwestern new special items:
 - \$15 million – Metroplex Comprehensive Medical Imaging Center
 - \$2 million – Center for Treatment and Research on Sickle Cell Disease
 - UTMB: \$5 million to support their hospital operations
 - UTHSC – Houston: \$5 million for special item funding
 - MD Anderson: \$10 million to support their hospital operations
 - UT-Tyler HSC: \$1million to support their hospital operations
 - UTHSC-San Antonio: \$3 million for Laredo extension (Art. IX)
 - Tx. Tech HSC:
 - \$3 million for the Midland Residency,
 - In Art. II: \$13.5 million for Midland residency building
 - UNT HSC: \$3.1 million

Indirect Cost Recovery

In the 78th Legislature, HB1887 was passed which prohibited Indirect Cost Recovery funding to be used as a method of financing the formulas. Unlike the general academic institutions, indirect cost recovery funds have never been used as an offset to the general revenue in the health-related formulas, but rather 100 percent was included as a line item of appropriation. However, like the general academics in the 79th Legislature, the indirect cost recovery funds are completely eliminated from the funds appropriated in the health related institutions' bill patterns.

A&M System Research and Service Agencies

The Legislature provided direct appropriations increases totaling \$7.1 million, or a 2.6 percent increase. In addition, the Legislature included A&M System agencies in the across-the-board pay raise for state employees. Those agency employees whose gross annual salary is less than \$75,000 are eligible for the pay raise. It is estimated that the agencies will receive approximately \$9 million in additional funding for the pay raise, making their estimated change from the previous biennium 5.6 percent.

Other increases in funding include:

- The 5 percent mandated reduction in the LARs was fully restored.
- The Legislature provided \$5.6 million in new funding for infrastructure needs outside Brazos County for the agriculture-related agencies.
- Texas Transportation Institute received \$1.7 million in new funding to establish an international transportation research center in El Paso.
- House Bill 2129 directs a contract to Texas Engineering Experiment Station for \$216,000 each year for the Energy System Lab.
- Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station received \$100,000 each for viticulture programs (in Art. IX).

A&M System Research and Service Agencies General Revenue Funds, in millions Senate Bill 1 Appropriations for 2006-07 Compared to 2004-05 Expended/Budgeted Level

Agencies *	2006-07	Change	% Change
TAES	\$ 103,824,841	\$ 3,455,063	3.4 %
TCE	89,885,470	1,108,828	1.2 %
TEES	23,229,885	-	0.0 %
TTI	11,869,772	1,702,192	16.7 %**
TEEX	11,785,552	(1)	0.0 %
TFS	29,818,843	699,991	2.4 %
TVMDL	<u>9,593,965</u>	<u>99,924</u>	1.1 %
Total, Agencies	\$ 280,008,328	\$ 7,065,997	2.6 %
 Including Pay Raise, est	 \$ 289,008,328	 \$ 16,065,997	 5.9 %

Notes:

* Does not include funding for state employee pay raise.

** TTI funding is Fund 006 State Highway Fund.

Higher Education Group Insurance

Funding for Higher Education Group Insurance totaled \$937.1 million in General Revenue, which is an increase of \$140.9 million or 17.7 percent over the 2004-05 spending level. The funding level also provides an additional \$0.1 million in State Highway Fund 006 for the Texas Transportation Institute. The funding increase is intended to provide approximately 50 percent of the projected increase in health care costs. For the Texas A&M Health Insurance Program, the appropriation increased by \$14.3 million, or 10.6 percent.

This appropriation provides funding for the General Revenue health insurance contributions from the state for the three higher education health insurance providers in higher education: The Texas A&M University System, The University of Texas System and the Employees Retirement System. The ERS administers the health insurance program for all of higher education, including the community colleges, other than the A&M and UT Systems. The funding increases among these three programs vary depending on the actual snapshot enrollment of the employees and retirees in each system as of December 1, 2004. In addition, for the general academic institutions, the proportionality between General Revenue and Other Educational and General Income was based on a proportionality calculation submitted to the LBB during the session that used the Accounting Policy Statement 011 format, but excluded indirect cost recovery from the calculations. See a more detailed explanation under the general academics.

Riders: Article III Special Provisions

The following section summarizes the changes to the Article III Special Provisions:

Sec. 30, General Academic Funding.

Provides funding rates for formulas for 2006-07:

- Instruction and Operations Support - \$55.72 / weighted SCH, including the weight of \$15.44 for Veterinary Medicine;
- Teaching Experience Supplement – 10 percent; and
- Infrastructure Support - \$6.37 per square foot.

Updates the matrix to use the relative cost-based matrix weights. These new cost-based weights use the average of three years of expenditure data and phase the new rates in 50 percent.

Sec. 31, Health Related Institutions Funding.

Provides funding rates for health institutions funding formulas for 2006-07:

- Instruction and Operations - \$10,987 per weighted student;
- Infrastructure Support - \$8.47 per square foot for all institutions excluding UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and UT Health Center at Tyler; the rate for those two institutions is \$8.06 per square foot; and
- Research Funding - \$1,412,500 plus 1.73 percent of research expenditures.
- Changed rates for Mission Specific Support activities at UT M.D. Anderson and UT Health Center at Tyler.

Adds two new subsections related to the new appropriation for Graduate Medical Education (GME) which provide the funding rate of \$2,403 per resident and provide the purpose of the funds.

Sec. 40. A&M Service Agencies' Infrastructure. Updates amounts for each agency and deletes reference to Capital Equity and Excellence Funding.

Sec. 54. Performance Reporting. Directs the LBB and Coordinating Board to work with all institutions of higher education to align the performance measures for all institutions of higher education with the measures included in the statewide accountability system as developed by the Coordinating Board.

Sec. 55. Mission Specific Support. Directs the LBB and Coordinating Board to consult with the Texas A&M University at Galveston to develop a funding allocation rate to be considered for the Marine and Maritime instruction, Ship Operation and Maintenance, and Marine Terminal Operation in accordance with the 1994 study by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Sec. 56. Texas A&M University System Cost Efficiencies. Intent rider stating that the A&M University System research and service agencies are to contract or out-source administrative functions within the research and service agencies, Texas A&M University and/or the Texas A&M University System in the most cost-effective extent with the goals of reducing administrative costs, increasing efficiencies and capitalizing on economies of scale.

Sec. 57. Contingent Appropriations for Small Business Development Centers.

Consolidates all the Small Business Development Center contingency riders into a single rider. The rider includes the existing contingency language and the rider lists each SBCD by lead centers and affiliated centers and appropriation amounts.

Sec. 58. Display and Availability of Health Information. Intent rider that states that an institution of higher education that spends appropriated money to support a student health center will make available to female students copies of the current edition of the brochure published by the Department of State Health Services entitled "A Woman's Right to Know."

Sec. 59. Report Concerning Designated Tuition. Requires each institution of higher education to report detailed information on designated tuition. The rider requires that the information is to be derived from actual fee bills and must reflect actual charges before waivers or exemptions for statutory tuition; designated tuition; mandatory fees; and average college and course fees.

Sec. 60. Benefits Proportionality for Institutions for Higher Education. New intent rider stating that during fiscal years 2006 and 2007 the Legislative Budget Board use the Comptroller's Accounting Policy Statement 011 as a basis for determining proportional health insurance appropriations for public institutions of higher education beginning in the biennium starting September 1, 2007.

Sec. 61. Appropriations for the Research Development Fund. Lists the amounts that are appropriated in each affected institution's "Research Development Fund" strategy and limits those funds to be expended only for the purpose defined in Education Code §62.091.

Deleted Sections

- Special Items
- Debt Service Related to Tuition Revenue Bonds
- Maintenance, Construction, and Policing of Campus Roads and Streets
- Health-Related Institutions of Higher Education
- Additional Tuition Revenue Bonds

Riders: Article IX General Provisions

The following section lists the major changes made to the provisions in Article IX, followed by a detailed listing of all other amended, new, and deleted provisions.

Key Changes

5.04. Transportation Expense. Sets the mileage reimbursement rate as the maximum fixed mileage allowance specified in IRS revenue rulings under federal tax regulations. Removes the minimum and maximum restrictions on the reimbursement rate (previously a minimum of 25 cents and a maximum of 35 cents). Removes requirement that the Comptroller conduct a biennial study of the actual expenses associated with employee use of a personally owned vehicle and report to the Legislature.

5.06. Travel Meals and Lodging Expenses. Increases employee reimbursement rates to \$85/day for lodging and \$36/day for meals. Chief administrator may authorize reimbursement for meals for travel without an overnight stay at a rate of \$36/day.

5.09. Expenditures for Commercial Air Travel. NEW ITEM - Adds section that reduces appropriations per biennium by \$4,994,716 for state agencies and \$3 million for higher education institutions effective September 1, 2005. Reduction amounts per agency will be determined by the Texas Building and Procurement Commission based on historical travel expenditures and must be approved by the LBB and Governor's Office. The intent is to encourage agencies to purchase airline tickets at least 14 days before travel.

6.14. Limitation on State Employment Levels. Adds a provision to reduce agency FTE caps by 2 percent with the exception of the Governor's Office, Comptroller's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and agencies with fewer than 300 FTEs. Allows the LBB and Governor to consider requests for exemptions. Adds that requests can be submitted, not only to exceed FTE limitations, but also to reduce FTEs. Also adds a provision to allow the LBB and Governor to reduce FTEs below the levels established in the GAA during the biennium for an agency or higher education institution when a program has been transferred from the agency.

9.06 Higher Education Institution Data Centers. NEW ITEM- Adds section requiring institutions of higher education to inventory their data center services, have the results examined by the internal audit department, and submit the results to DIR. DIR is to use the information to prepare a report regarding possible data service center consolidation to be submitted to the LBB and Governor by September 1, 2006.

13.17 Appropriation for a Salary Increase for General State Employees. Provides for a compensation increase for state employees of 4 percent, with a minimum of \$100 per month, beginning September 1, 2005 and of 3%, with a minimum of \$50 per month, beginning September 1, 2006. Higher education is not included except for the General Revenue portion of employees of the A&M System research and service agencies whose gross salary is below \$75,000 per year (once the salary increase is included). The salary increase is also intended to cover the entire proportion of the salary increase for county extension agents that would

otherwise be paid from county funds. The rider appropriates \$350 million in GR, \$30 million in GR-Dedicated, and \$205 million in Other Funds to the Comptroller to fund salary increases. The section does not specify how the funds will be allocated to agencies. Instead, it requires the Comptroller to make rules to administer the section. Increases longevity for state employees to \$20 per month for every 2 years of service (previously every 3 years of service) and increases hazardous duty pay to \$10 per month for each year of service (previously \$7 per month); however, new funding is not provided for the increases in longevity or hazardous duty pay for any state agency.

Listing of all other changes:

4.04. Per Diem of Board or Commission Members and Advisory Committee Members. Increases the rate of reimbursement from \$110 to \$121 per day for meals and lodging. Modifies the limit for reimbursement for advisory committee members from 90 percent of the committee's FY 2003 total expenditures to the greater of 90 percent of FY 2003 expenditures or the total committee reimbursement expenditures in FY 2004.

4.07. Contract Workforce. Deletes provision requiring a report to the LBB, SAO, and Governor on the use of contract workforce. Also deletes the requirement for the SAO to report agency non-compliance to the Comptroller and Legislative Audit Committee. Instead, the SAO may require interim reports or additional information from an agency.

6.01. Definitions (General Limitations on Expenditures). Limits exemption from the requirement to have an appropriation in order to expend earned or received federal funds to institutions and agencies of higher education whose earned federal funds are held outside the state treasury. Previously, there was no reference to applying the exemption only to higher education entities whose funds are outside the treasury.

6.08. Appropriation Transfers. Reduces the amount that agencies may transfer from one appropriation to another from 25 percent to 12.5 percent. This is not applicable to institutions of higher education but applies to the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

6.11. Salaries to be Proportional by Fund. Renames to "Benefits Paid Proportional by Fund" and only lists benefits as being required to be proportional. Adds requirement that the Comptroller consult with the LBB and SAO in developing administration rules and report format. Clarifies that community or junior colleges are included in the requirement to file a report showing the proportionality of funds. Adds a stipulation that the review for compliance must be completed at least biennially by the SAO. Previously there were no requirements regarding the frequency of reviews. Limits the review to only those agencies and institutions receiving funds appropriated in Article II, III, or VI in the GAA.

6.19. Expenditures for State Federal Relations. Adds definition of "travel" that applies to this section. It includes only those activities involving federal funds or impacting federal policies. Previously, trips to Washington D.C. required notification to the Office of State-Federal Relations. Adds any trips to Reagan-National, Dulles, and Baltimore Washington International airports are subject to the reporting requirement.

6.21. Court Representation and Outside Legal Counsel. Modifies LBB notification regarding settlements. Previously, an entity receiving funds from a settlement was required to notify the LBB of both the terms of the settlement and their plans for using the funds. Now the Office of the Attorney General will notify the LBB regarding the terms of the settlement. This notification is required by no later than the 20th day of the month following approval of the settlement, replacing the deadline of 12 or more days before the approval of the settlement.

6.22. Judgments and Settlements. Clarifies language, but no substantive change or impact.

6.30. Payments to the State Office of Risk Management (SORM). Previously, if agency assessments by SORM exceeded worker compensation payments for the year by more than 10 percent, the excess was returned to General Revenue. Now the excess will be returned to the agencies. An excess of 10 percent or less will continue to be used to lower the overall assessment amount to agencies the following year. Adds a requirement that agencies must report to SORM the specific funding sources for payments of the assessment.

6.31. Consolidated Funds. No change from previous biennium.

6.32. Demographic and Statistical Studies. Adds a provision that agencies must determine if the University of Texas at San Antonio has the resources to assist the agency in a study required by the Legislature which includes statistical or demographic analysis. Previously, agencies were only required to consider the Texas Legislative Council.

6.34. Use of Appropriations to Contract for Audits. NEW ITEM - Adds section to restrict the use of appropriated funds to contract with an outside auditor. Agencies are required to either (1) enter an IAC with the SAO for the services, or (2) have the SAO review and approve the scope of the audit and if the agency does not have statutory authority to enter into a contract, delegate the authority to the agency to enter into a contract.

6.35. Restriction on Expenditures for Lobbying Activities. NEW ITEM - Adds section prohibiting the use of funds appropriated under the Act to compensate a registered lobbyist. Provides an exception for persons employed by a state agency or institution from this provision.

7.04. Contract Notification: Amounts Greater than \$50,000. Clarifies what constitutes a contract that must be reported to the LBB. Also clarifies what contracts are not included in reporting. Assigns interlocal agreement to the contracts that do not have to be reported. Previously, a contract that was already being reported under Government Code §§ 2054.008 (major information systems), 2166.2551 (construction), 2254.006 (professional services), or 2254.0301 (consulting services), was required to be reported. The new section exempts those contracts from the reporting requirement. Establishes a deadline of October 1 of the fiscal year for reporting to the LBB.

7.05. Contract Notification. Amounts Greater than \$500,000. **NEW ITEM-** Removes contracts greater than \$500,000 from the rules set out in 7.04 and creates separate criteria for reporting to the LBB. Both single contracts and a series of contracts between one entity and a state agency which meet the \$500,000 threshold

are subject to the reporting requirement. Unlike the above section 7.04, contracts to be reported do include purchase orders, interagency contracts, and interlocal agreements. Contracts reported to the LBB under §§ 2054.008, 2166.2551, 2254.006, and 2254.0301, Government Code or Section 7.04 are exempted from this section. Establishes an October 1 deadline for reporting.

7.07. Disclosure of Federal Funds. NEW ITEM - Requires agencies receiving federal funds, which have been designated for a specific geographical area of the State, to report, to the extent the awarded funds exceed appropriations, what has been awarded, expended, and unexpended before the beginning of each regular session.

7.08. Report of Form Documents Available to Public. NEW ITEM - Adds section requiring agencies to report to the TBPC annually by October 1 the agency's efforts to make information and forms more easily accessible to the public, the number of form documents that may be filed with the agency, and the number of those forms immediately available to the public.

7.09. Reporting Fees, Fines, and Penalties. NEW ITEM - Adds section requiring agencies and institutions of higher education to report all fees, fines, and penalties, which have been assessed but not collected, to the LBB annually by November 1. The report must also include details of the agency's collection efforts.

7.11. Reporting of Federal Homeland Security Funding. NEW ITEM - Adds section requiring agencies and institutions of higher education to report to the LBB in their Operating Budget the estimated amount of federal homeland security funding received and used by the agency, as well as amounts passed through to other entities. The LBB is required to report this information to the Legislature at the end of each fiscal year.

8.02. Federal Funds/Block Grants. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization. Removes the restriction on expending federal funds received in excess of \$5,000,000 for programs not included in the GAA without LBB and Governor approval.

8.03. Reimbursements and Payments. Adds a limitation to appropriations of reimbursements for authorized services. If the payments are received as a result of a recovery audit under Chapter 2101 (Accounting Procedures), Government Code, only 50 percent is credited to the agency with the other 50 percent deposited as unappropriated revenue in the state treasury.

8.04. Surplus Property. Removes livestock (surplus property) sales receipts from funds appropriated to the agency for expenditure. Clarifies that salvage includes recycled products. Restricts the use of the funds received from the sale of surplus property to expenditures from the appropriation item of the sold property. Previously, the limitation was that the funds had to be credited to the appropriation item of the sold property.

8.09. Appropriation of Bond Proceeds. Expands the bond proceeds which are appropriated to the state agency by including bonds pursuant to other law, rather than just those pursuant to Government Code Chapters 1232 (Texas Public Finance Authority) and 1401 (Criminal Justice and MHMR facilities).

8.10. CMIA Interest Payments. No change from previous biennium.

8.11. Appropriation of Receipts: Credit, Charge or Debit Card Service Fee. Adds provision to appropriate any cost recovery fees approved by Texas Online, excluding subscription fees.

9.01. Purchases of Information Resources Technology. Includes a representative from DIR in the Quality Assurance Team (QAT), which is notified of contract amendments resulting in a 10% or greater change. Therefore, DIR is no longer on the notification list.

9.02. Quality Assurance Review of Major Information Resource Projects. Includes a representative from DIR in the QAT. Adds LBB approval in the BOP to the requirements before expenditures on major information resources projects may be made. Previously, only QAT approval was required. Changes requirement for the SAO to review the information provided by agencies to be at the request of the QAT. Authorizes the QAT to take actions as necessary as specified in Government Code §2054.1181. Statute includes provisions for creating corrective action plans to modify projects and discontinuing projects.

9.03 Biennial Operating Plan and Information Resources Strategic Plan Approval. No change from previous biennium.

9.04 Information Technology Replacement. Changes language from West Texas Disaster Recovery and Operations Center to State Data Center.

9.06 Higher Education Institution Data Centers. NEW ITEM- Adds section requiring institutions of higher education to inventory their data center services, have the results examined by the internal audit department, and submit the results to DIR. DIR uses the information to prepare a report regarding possible data service center consolidation to be submitted to the LBB and Governor by 9/1/06.

10.01 Purchasing of Pharmaceuticals. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization.

10.03 State Agency Communication with Employees Regarding State Kids Insurance Program (SKIP). No change from previous biennium.

10.04 Completion of MOU regarding Transition Services for Students with Disabilities. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization.

10.05 Interagency Contract Funding for Regional Specialist Projects. Updates agency names to reflect agency reorganization.

10.07 Informational Listing - Health Care. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization. Updates appropriation amounts for fiscal years.

10.08 Informational Listing - Tobacco Settlement. Updates agency names, strategies and amounts.

10.09 IAC Funding for Prescription Drug Study. NEW ITEM- Adds section requiring ERS to enter into an interagency contract with 20 agencies to fund a cost benefit analysis of a prescription drug importation program. Establishes

requirements for the study and report to be submitted to the LBB and Governor by March 1, 2006.

10.10 Use of Unused Unopened Nursing Home Prescription Drugs. NEW ITEM- Adds section which provides that the Department of State Health Services must require nursing homes to send unopened packages of prescription drugs that would otherwise be destroyed for use in the Correctional Managed Care program.

11.01 Limitation on Use of Funds for Personal Residences. Moves section from 6.19. Clarifies that the \$25,000 limit is applicable to one single residence.

11.02 Statewide Capital Planning. Moves section from 6.35. No change from previous biennium.

11.03 Limitation on Expenditures for Leased Space. Moves section from 11.05. No change from previous biennium.

11.04 Efficient Use of State Owned and Lease Space. Moves section from 11.06. No change from previous biennium.

11.05 State Owned Housing. Moves section from 11.09. Adds a provision for an agency to withhold rent payments from the employee's salary following rules established by the Comptroller.

11.06 State Agency Emergency Leases. Moves section from 11.17. No change from previous biennium.

11.07 Prepayment of Annual Lease Costs. NEW ITEM - Adds section authorizing TBPC to enter into an agreement for an agency to prepay annual lease costs for an early payment discount. TBPC must report to the LBB within 30 days of executing the agreement the amount of savings realized. The affected agency's appropriation may be reduced by an amount identified by TBPC as approved by the LBB.

11.08 Equipment Maintenance Cost Reductions. NEW ITEM - Adds section authorizing TBPC to establish consolidated volume contracts for maintenance services or to assist agencies in renegotiating maintenance contracts in order to reduce costs. Requires TBPC to report annually any resulting savings by October 1.

12.01 Aircraft. Moves section from 5.08. Adds a clarification that State Aircraft Pooling Board includes a state agency performing Pooling Board functions.

12.02 Publication or Sale of Printed, Recorded or Electronically Produced Matter or Records. Moves section from 6.16. No change from previous biennium.

12.03 Limitations on Expenditures Alternative Fuel Vehicles. Moves section from 6.27. No change from previous biennium.

12.04 Lost Property. Moves section from 11.03. Allows Comptroller to withhold 50 percent of the value of the lost property when the loss falls outside the American Society for Testing and Materials standards from GR-Dedicated Funds and Other Funds. Previously only allowed from General Revenue. Amends section to apply to all agencies regardless of the source of funds used for property acquisition.

13.07 Incentive and Productivity. Moves section from 11.14. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization. Modifies employee reward not to exceed amounts for money saving suggestions to \$5,000 or 10 percent of the annual savings. Previously the limit was 10 percent of the annual savings. The minimum percent of savings to be retained by the agency is increased from 80 percent to 90 percent.

13.08 Contingency Appropriation Reductions. Moves section from 11.15. Changes section to provide that should appropriations in Articles I-X exceed the estimated revenue, all appropriations will automatically be reduced on a pro-rata basis. Requires the Comptroller to report the amount of reductions to the Governor and LBB. Allows exemptions from the reduction for estimated appropriations. Also exempts appropriations for employee benefits (Section 6.10).

13.09 Appropriations from State Tax Revenue. Moves section from 11.16. Updates limit of appropriation of state tax revenue not dedicated by the Constitution.

13.10 Appropriation Transfers: Billings for Statewide Allocation Costs. Moves section from 11.18. Removes exemption for State Aircraft Pooling Board from appropriation transfers for statewide allocated costs. Updates amount to an estimated \$30 million.

13.12 TexasOnline Authority: Occupational Licenses. Moves section from 11.20. Adds requirement that agencies completing actions to increase fees to cover TexasOnline subscription charges must then provide information to the Comptroller, who will upon approval make available the appropriation.

13.15 Incentive Program to Waive Participation in Group Benefit Plan.
NEW ITEM - Contingent upon passage of legislation allowing employees/retirees to receive incentives to waive participation in the group benefit plan. Requires ERS to inform individuals of their eligibility for such incentives. The individual will receive \$60 per month for the waiver or optional coverage not to exceed \$60. Reduces ERS appropriations from GR, GR Dedicated, and Other Funds by a total of \$4,189,164 in each fiscal year of the biennium.

13.16 Contingency Rider for HB 3540. Requires Comptroller to identify the number of return-to-work retirees receiving BRP on September 1, 2005 and receiving longevity on September 1, 2005 and September 1, 2006 and then to reduce appropriations for BRP and longevity.

13.18 Appropriation of Any Vetoed Funds. Appropriates any General Revenue or General Revenue Dedicated funds vetoes by the Governor and makes the funds available for allocation through budget execution.

Part 14 Various Contingency Appropriations.

Deleted Sections

- **State Data Center.** Deletes section. Section required DIR to manage the State Data Center at Angelo State University. All agencies were required to either obtain a waiver or use the center for their data operations.

- **Other Provisions Contingent on SB 1952.** Deletes section, which required appropriation reductions for leased office space.

- **Reduction of Management Costs.** Deletes section, which required appropriation reductions regarding staff to management ratios.
- **Retirement Incentives.** Deletes section, which required an appropriation reduction in the event of a lump-sum retirement incentive payment.
- **Alternative Fuels Finance Payments.** Deletes section

Moved Sections – No change

12.05 Transfer of Master Lease Purchase Program Payments. Moves section from 11.07. No change from previous biennium.

12.06 Vehicle Fleet Management. Moves section from 11.12. No change from previous biennium.

12.07 Interoperability Communications-Federal Funding. Moves section from 11.25. No change from previous biennium.

12.08 Interoperability Communications-All Appropriated Funding. Moves section from 11.26. No change from previous biennium.

13.01 Employee Meal Authorization. Moves section from 11.01. Updates agency names to reflect agency reorganization.

13.02 Bank Fees and Charges. Moves section from 11.02. No change from previous biennium.

13.03 In Kind Gas Program. Moves section from 11.04. No change from previous biennium.

13.04 Cleaning Allowances. Moves section from 11.10. No change from previous biennium.

13.05 Coordination of Tourism and Travel. Moves section from 11.11. Updates agency names to reflect reorganization.

13.06 Appropriation: TANF. Moves section from 11.13. No change from previous biennium.

13.11 Contingency Rider. Moves section from 11.19. No change from previous biennium.

13.13 Disaster Related Transfer Authority. Moves section from 11.22. No change from previous biennium.

13.14 Informational Items. Moves section from 11.24. No change from previous biennium.

This cumulative listing of provisions and riders may not include every change that occurred this session. If a question arises on a particular section, please contact the Office of Governmental Relations.

Appropriations-Related Legislation

SB 1370 by Madla/Truitt – Relating to the disposition of certain tax revenue for the protection and development of grape and wine production. SB 1370 specifically appropriates up to \$50,000 per year in tax revenue from wine sales to Texas Cooperative Extension and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station each for the purposes of viticulture research and programs.

House Bill 1765 by Morrison/Shapiro - Relating to the creation of program and funding for emerging technology industries. HB 1765 establishes the Texas Emerging Technology Fund to cultivate economic and technological opportunities that will allow Texas to remain competitive in both national and global markets. The Emerging Technology Fund is to be a General Revenue-Dedicated fund to be used for research and development activities in emerging technology industries. The Emerging Technology Fund will include three major areas of investment: increasing research collaboration between public and private sector entities to develop new Regional Centers of Innovation and Commercialization where the seeds of an idea can take root in a university lab and eventually grow into a new product marketed by a new firm; matching research grants provided by both federal and private sponsors to help innovators acquire the capital they need to bring their idea to life; attracting more top-notch research teams from other universities around the nation that will help put Texas universities on the cutting edge of technology research and development. The Fund will receive up to \$200M in funds this biennium.

House Bill 2129 by Bonnen/Armbrister - Relating to energy-saving measures that reduce the emission of air contaminants. Among other things, the bill directs the Energy Systems Lab of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station to develop at least three alternative methods for achieving a 15 percent greater potential energy savings in residential, commercial, and industrial construction than the amount now required. The bill was amended to direct a contract of \$216,000 each year be given to the Energy Systems Lab by a non-profit Houston group for the development and annual calculation of creditable statewide emissions reductions obtained through wind and other renewable energy resources for the State Implementation Plan.

House Bill 3001 by Morrison / Duncan - Relating to the amount of the annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education and to the allocation of those funds to those agencies and institutions. The bill updates the allocation of Higher Education Funds (HEF) among institutions based on most current available data for fiscal years 2006 and 2007. Additionally, beginning in Fiscal Year 2008, the bill authorizes an additional \$87.5 million per year in HEF funding and provides the allocation by institution.

See table below for comparisons of existing annual allocations to the 2006-07 allocation and the allocation for 2008 and beyond.

**Higher Education Fund
Comparison of Existing Allocation to HB3001**

	Current Annual HEF Allocation	Annual Allocation for 2006-07	Annual Allocation for 2008 and beyond*	Change: 06-07 from current	Change: 2008 from current
UT Pan American	6,081,112	8,588,232	12,882,348	2,507,120	6,801,236
UT Brownsville	1,050,580	2,791,194	4,186,790	1,740,614	3,136,210
A&M - CC	3,687,722	5,519,329	8,278,993	1,831,607	4,591,271
A&M - K	3,555,651	3,368,155	5,052,232	(187,496)	1,496,581
A&M Internat'l	1,778,155	2,086,807	3,130,211	308,652	1,352,056
West Texas A&M	3,671,345	3,184,593	4,776,890	(486,752)	1,105,545
A&M - Commerce	4,229,747	3,563,785	5,345,678	(665,962)	1,115,931
A&M - Texarkana	1,027,070	1,097,568	1,646,352	70,498	619,282
UH	25,986,116	23,517,427	35,276,140	(2,468,689)	9,290,024
UH-Clear Lake	3,853,447	4,000,892	6,001,337	147,445	2,147,890
UH-Downtown	5,453,977	6,418,767	9,628,151	964,790	4,174,174
UH-Victoria	1,659,449	1,521,922	2,282,883	(137,527)	623,434
Midwestern State	3,007,669	2,289,565	3,434,348	(718,104)	426,679
UNT	18,021,033	17,424,822	26,137,233	(596,211)	8,116,200
Stephen F. Austin	6,633,109	4,683,847	7,025,771	(1,949,262)	392,662
Texas Southern	7,191,493	7,437,642	11,156,463	246,149	3,964,970
Texas Tech	20,961,881	17,886,318	26,829,477	(3,075,563)	5,867,596
Texas Woman's	6,974,897	5,616,139	8,424,209	(1,358,758)	1,449,312
Angelo State	3,887,211	2,390,535	3,585,802	(1,496,676)	(301,409)
Lamar University	5,737,451	7,473,672	11,210,508	1,736,221	5,473,057
Sam Houston State	5,864,608	6,610,870	9,916,306	746,262	4,051,698
Southwest Texas	14,479,112	13,199,517	19,799,276	(1,279,595)	5,320,164
Sul Ross	1,635,271	1,362,515	2,043,772	(272,756)	408,501
Sul Ross RGC	266,322	253,220	379,831	(13,102)	113,509
LUIT				-	
Lamar - Orange	743,967	743,365	1,115,048	(602)	371,081
Lamar - Port Arthur	2,336,605	793,412	1,190,119	(1,543,193)	(1,146,486)
TSTC	3,850,000	3,850,000	5,775,000	-	1,925,000
UNT HSC	3,640,000	5,426,261	8,139,391	1,786,261	4,499,391
TTU HSC	7,735,000	11,899,627	17,849,441	4,164,627	10,114,441
Statewide Total, HEF	175,000,000	175,000,000	262,500,000	(0)	87,500,000

Bill Facts

Legislation Filed & Passed

The following table provides a summary comparison of legislative bill activity in the 78th and 79th Regular Sessions.

79 th Legislative Session				78 th Legislative Session		
Type	Filed	Passed	%	Filed	Passed	%
HBs	3592	876	24.4%	3636	825	22.7%
HJR	102	5	4.9%	100	15	15%
SBs	1892	512	27.1%	1956	557	28.5%
SJR	43	4	9.3%	62	6	10%
TOTAL	5629	1397	24.8%	5754	1403	24.4%

Bill Analysis Task Force

A legislative session requires the highest and best efforts of enormous numbers of the A&M System institutions' faculty, administration, and staff. In addition, because the Texas Legislature meets regularly only 140 days every other year, a session necessarily operates on its own highly compressed clock and takes no prisoners when it demands responses from institutions. One of the principal instruments we have created to respond to the demands of a session is the Bill Analysis Task Force (BATF). The BATF provides a timely synopsis of all legislation that affects the A&M System member universities and agencies. These analyses of key bills are provided to the Chancellor, his Executive Officers, System CEOs and the Governmental Relations Team, so that they will be better prepared to furnish information to and communicate the A&M System's legislative program to the legislature and governor during the fast-paced session. Of note, all the BATF members serve voluntarily and take on these extra duties while continuing to carry out their regular duties, and without extra compensation.

This session the Office of Governmental Relations tracked and kept watch over some **1,300 plus bills**, about **25% of all the bills that were filed**. The Task Force members provided in-depth analyses of more than **800 of these tracked bills, or about 60% of all tracked bills**.

The subject breakout of analyzed bills reflects that bills affecting the A&M System and its member institutions are classified into the following groupings: **legal affairs-119 bills, agriculture related-21, finance/general operations-59, purchasing/HUB-19, real estate-15, treasury/risk management-67,**

engineering, technology, and transportation-related bills-147, health affairs-61, human resources/EEO-196, facilities and construction-31, academic affairs-48, and student affairs-19.

Without the support and assistance of all the individuals who serve the Bill Analysis Task Force, the Texas A&M University System would not have been able to provide legislators and their staff the information they required during the session.

The names and affiliation of members of the Bill Analysis Task Force may be found in the Appendix.

Texas A&M University System, Institution-Specific Legislation

The following summary includes legislation that directly affects a member institution of The Texas A&M System or the entire System.

Systemwide or System Office Bills

House Bill 373 by Swinford/M. Jackson - Relating to the food and fibers research grant program. The bill abolishes the Texas Food and Fibers Commission as a stand-alone agency and provides that the food and fibers research program is a program in the Texas Department of Agriculture for support of applied research in fibers and oilseeds. Abolishes the existing Food and Fibers Research Council that was composed of the chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, and the presidents of Texas Tech University, UT – Austin, and Texas Woman’s University, and establishes an industry advisory council appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

HB 495 by Miller/Fraser - Relating to the student enrollment required for the operation of Texas A&M University--Central Texas as an independent general academic teaching institution. HB 495 amends Section 87.861(d), *Texas Education Code*, to provide that the enrollment requirement for the Tarleton State University System Center--Central Texas in Killeen to become a stand alone general academic teaching institution is lowered from 2,500 to 1,000 full-time students.

SB 296 by Madla/Corte - Relating to the operation of Texas A&M University--San Antonio, including the student enrollment required for operation as an independent general academic teaching institution and supplemental funding of the university. SB 296 amends Section 87.841(d), *Texas Education Code*, to provide that the enrollment requirement for the Texas A&M-Kingsville System Center to become a stand alone general academic teaching institution is lowered from 2,500 to 1,000 full-time students, provided that the legislature

authorizes the issuance of tuition revenue bonds to finance education and related facilities.

The bill also stipulates that if the 1000 FTSE threshold is met during the 2006-2007 biennium, the new university would not be eligible for the small school supplement of \$750,000.

SB 702 by Deuell/Flynn - Relating to authorizing certain uses for student center complex fees charged to students enrolled in component institutions of The Texas A&M University System. SB 702 allows the use of the Student Center Complex Fee for the construction of a student center at a member institution of The Texas A&M University System. Amends Section 54.521, *Texas Education Code*, to authorize the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System to levy a regular student fee on each student enrolled in an educational institution within The Texas A&M University System for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, renovating, adding to, replacing, and financing one or more student center facilities for the institution. The bill also deletes existing provisions relating to the production of revenue for acquiring or constructing certain facilities.

Texas A&M University

SB 1883 by Ogden/Brown - Relating to the lands managed and controlled by the board of regents of The Texas A&M University System. Under current law, The Texas A&M University System does not have the authority to enter into an agreement to lease land or facilities for construction on the original main campus of Texas A&M University. Consequently, the university cannot accept a donation for the construction of an academic facility. SB 1883 grants the Texas A&M University System authority to enter into an agreement with a donor for the purpose of the donor's constructing an academic facility for use by the university. The Agreement must contain provisions including transfer of title to the facility to the board of regents upon completion of construction. Further legislative permission would be necessary before a facility could be built for non-educational related purposes.

Prairie View A&M University

HB 1409 by Coleman/Ellis - Relating to the authority to change the name of component institutions of The Texas A&M University System. Legislation amends Section 86.23(b), *Texas Education Code*, to exempt Prairie View A&M University from the provision which otherwise grants The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents authority to change the name of any institution, agency, or service under the control and management of the board.

Tarleton State University

HB 1102 by Miller/Fraser – Relating to certain student fees at Tarleton State University. HB 1102 permits Tarleton State University to increase both the Student Center Complex Fee and the Recreational Sports Fee up to 10 percent without a student referendum, provided that the fees may still not exceed the maximum amounts set by statute.

Additionally, H.B. 1102 authorizes Tarleton State University to assess an Intercollegiate Athletic Fee not to exceed \$10 per semester credit hour upon receiving student approval through an election. Increases in the fee up to five percent would have to be approved by majority vote of the legislative body of the student government, and any increase above five percent would have to be approved by a student body vote.

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

SB 471 by Hinojosa/Luna - Relating to the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network. The bill clarifies existing statutes relating to the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network as a cooperative project that includes Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Lamar University, The Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas General Land Office.

Texas Engineering Experiment Station

House Bill 2481 by Bonnen/Harris - Relating to air contaminant emissions reductions, including the continuation and provisions of the Texas emissions reduction plan and the use of money currently dedicated to the Texas emissions reduction plan fund. This bill extends the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) until 2010, thereby providing for additional years of funding for the Energy Systems Laboratory of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. The bill also directs the Lab to calculate the annual emissions savings from energy efficiency programs and from renewable energy programs, in addition to the current requirement regarding building code programs, for use in the State Implementation Plan.

House Bill 2129 by Bonnen/Armbrister -Relating to energy-saving measures that reduce the emission of air contaminants. Among other things, the bill directs the Energy Systems Lab of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station to

develop at least three alternative methods for achieving a 15 percent greater potential energy savings in residential, commercial, and industrial construction than the amount now required. The bill was amended to direct a contract of \$216,000 each year be given to the Energy Systems Lab by a non-profit Houston group for the development and annual calculation of creditable statewide emissions reductions obtained through wind and other renewable energy resources for the State Implementation Plan.

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

SB 66 by Nelson/Driver – Relating to the establishment of certain programs and initiatives designed to prevent the manufacture and use of methamphetamine. SB 66 establishes programs to prevent the use and manufacture of methamphetamine, including prevention and education programs. The Office of the State Chemist of the TAES is specifically required to distribute materials for educational purposes to retailers, distributors, farmers and others as appropriate.

SB 1370 by Madla/Truitt – Relating to the disposition of certain tax revenue for the protection and development of grape and wine production. SB 1370 specifically appropriates up to \$50,000 per year in tax revenue from wine sales to TCE and TAES, respectively, for the purposes of viticulture research and programs.

Texas Cooperative Extension

HB 492 by Woolley/Shapleigh – Relating to personal finance education as a requirement for graduation from public high school. HB 492 will require the State Board of Education (SBOE) to include elements relating to personal finance as part of the essential knowledge and skill of economics and require personal finance education as a condition for high school graduation. Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) is a state partner in the nationwide partnership with NEFE (National Endowment for Financial Education) and already provides a 10-hour curriculum enrichment program currently utilized by many Texas schools. Under the new legislation, TCE would continue to play a role in partnering with more schools and providing this curriculum to teachers.

HB 1747 by Keffer/Staples – Relating to the creation of and funding for the Texas Entrepreneurship Network. HB 1747 establishes a new program to develop and diversify the economy of the state by facilitating the growth and success of entrepreneurs operating under the administration of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). TCE is named as one of the members of the network.

SB 1370 by Madla/Truitt – Relating to the disposition of certain tax revenue for the protection and development of grape and wine production. SB 1370 specifically appropriates up to \$50,000 per year in tax revenue from wine sales to TCE and TAES, respectively, for the purposes of viticulture research and programs.

SB 1686 by Estes/Hardcastle – Relating to the interagency work group on rural issues. SB 1686 names the director of TCE to the work group which shall meet to discuss rural issues and provide information related to their agency for use in developing rural policy and compiling an annual report.

Texas Forest Service

HB 2171 by Cook, R./Armbrister – Relating to the volunteer fire department self-insurance fund. HB 2171 makes a small technical change in statute for the Texas Forest Service (TFS) authorizing the TFS to hold this Fund in a local depository, rather than in the General Revenue Fund. Since its inception in 1997, the Fund has been maintained in a local depository and has met all other statutory requirements of the original legislation.

SB 9 by Staples/Corte – Relating to homeland security; providing a penalty. Expands existing homeland security statute to include agricultural policy for the protection of the state from certain pests and diseases and adds the TFS as a statutory member of the Homeland Security Council.

Overview of Other Key Higher Ed. Legislation

Legal-Related Legislation

HB 905 by Delisi/Williams - Relating to the powers and duties of the state auditor in connection with state contracts. HB 905 requires entities subject to an audit by the State Auditor to provide requested information to the state auditor and access to any information the state auditor considers relevant to the investigation or audit. The bill also clarifies that certain not-for-profit corporations or state agencies can contract with a private auditor only if that authority is delegated to the corporation or agency by the state auditor.

HB 1940 by Ritter/Wentworth - Relating to alternative dispute resolution of certain contract claims against the state. HB 1940 amends statutory provisions relating to alternative dispute resolution for contract claims against the state. The bill allows contractors to recover additional damages and expenses incurred as a result of actions by the state, and clarifies that contractors used by the state may assert a counterclaim or a right of offset. In addition, HB 1940 shortens the timeframes for negotiations, mediation, and counterclaims, amends the amount the state must pay for valid claims, and allows contested case decisions to be appealed when there has been an abuse of discretion.

HB 2511 by Denny/Harris - Relating to financial disclosure by appointed state officers after leaving office. HB 2511 clarifies that appointed officers are not required to file financial statements after the effective date of a resignation or after an agency is abolished or its functions are transferred to another agency.

HB 2932 by Delisi/Zaffirini - Relating to requiring state agency purchasing personnel to disclose certain family relationships with business entities receiving certain state agency contracts. HB 2932 requires state employees to disclose family relationships involving vendors. Legislation defines "major stockholder" and "purchasing personnel"; requires each of the state agency's purchasing personnel working on a contract to disclose certain information in writing, before a state agency can award a major contract for the purchase of goods or services to a business entity; and requires the state auditor to develop a form for use in reporting a relationship.

HB 2988 by Nixon/Ellis – Relating to waiver of sovereign immunity. HB 2988 amends Sec. 311.034, *Texas Government Code*, to specify that statutory prerequisites to file suit against a governmental entity are jurisdictional. This is considered a positive for state agencies because it makes it easier to get a case dismissed for lack of jurisdiction if a plaintiff fails to provide proper notice.

SB 121 by Duncan/Gattis – Relating to a requestor’s right of access to investment information. SB 121 requires governmental bodies to disclose information relating to investments of public monies, including the name of any fund in which the monies of the governmental entity are invested, the year the fund was created, the dollar amount invested in the fund, and the return on investment. The bill also requires the disclosure of board members' possible conflicts of interest and the disclosure of the fee expenses assessed by the fund

SB 148 by Wentworth/Swinford - Relating to the exception from required public disclosure of a photograph of a peace officer. SB 148 provides that a photograph that depicts the image of a peace officer is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021 (requiring public information be made available to the public) under certain circumstances, unless the officer is a party in a civil service hearing, rather than a party in a fire or police civil service hearing. Deletes the provision that a photograph that depicts the image of a security officer (hired by a private institution of higher education) commissioned under Section 51.212, Education Code, is exempt from the requirements of Section 552.021 under certain circumstances.

SB 286 by Wentworth/Baxter – Relating to requiring public officials to receive training in the requirements of the open meetings and public information laws. SB 286 adds an educational requirement to the existing Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act for elected and appointed officials in Texas. It requires officials to take a course within a certain time of taking the oath or assuming official duties, and requires a course to be taken every two years. This bill requires the Attorney General to make at least one training course available on videotape or a comparable medium at no cost, and clarifies that an official who is a member of more than one governmental body satisfies the education requirement by taking one course of training. SB 286 provides that the of completion of the course is admissible as evidence, but does not constitute *prima facie* evidence of a knowing violation of the law. The bill ensures that an action taken by an official who has not completed the training is not void or voidable. Effective 1/01/06

SB 452 by Wentworth/Gattis - Relating to transferring the duties of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission under the public information law to the Attorney General. SB 452 transfers all of the duties of the Commission pursuant to Chapter 552, Government Code, to the Office of the Attorney General, in order to streamline the duties regarding public information into one agency.

SB 511 by Deuell/Rose - Relating to public testimony at regular meetings of the governing board of a general academic teaching institution. SB 511 requires the governing board of each general academic teaching institution or of a university system that includes one or more component general academic teaching institutions to adopt a policy that allows the public to present, for a reasonable amount of time and for any item on the agenda, both written and oral testimony at a regular meeting of the board. The bill requires the governing board to consider the public testimony presented to the board on an issue before making a decision on the

issue. The Act requires each affected governing board to adopt its policy relating to this Act by October 1, 2005.

SB 623 by Hinojosa/Pena - Relating to the authorized charges for providing a copy of public information requested under the public information law.

Previously, Texas law did not require a person requesting open records information to pay the required fee before the request is processed. A governmental entity is required to obtain an open records decision from the attorney general in order to protect confidential information, once the information has been requested, regardless of whether the required fee has been paid. SB 263 clarifies that a request for a copy of public information is considered to have been received by a governmental body on the date the governmental body receives the deposit or bond for payment if the governmental body's officer for public information or the officer's agent requires a deposit or bond. Legislation also stipulates that a requestor who fails to make a deposit or post a required bond before the 10th day after the date the deposit or bond is required is considered to have withdrawn the request for the copy of the public information.

SB 690 by Zaffirini/Swinford - Relating to the requirement to post meetings of a governmental body under the open meetings law in certain circumstances.

SB 690 codifies several attorney general opinions to allow a governmental body to recess to the following regular business day without having to post notification of the meeting if the action is done in good faith. An additional provision considers a catastrophic event that prevents the governmental body from convening an open meeting that was properly posted. In such an event, the governmental body may convene in a convenient location within 72 hours.

SB 727 by Wentworth/Gattis - Relating to the public information law. SB 727 amends provisions of the Public Information Act based on input from the Open Records Steering Committee. The bill strikes references to the "General Services Commission," replacing them with the "attorney general," and amends provisions relating to state agencies' reporting of their costs to provide copies of public information. SB 727 provides that a request for information is considered withdrawn if the requestor does not examine the information requested within a specified time and does not request additional time to make the examination. SB 727 requires a governmental body that asks for an attorney general opinion regarding a request for information to provide the requestor with a copy of the written comments provided to the attorney general. The bill also requires any person who submits written comments to the attorney general regarding a request for information to provide a copy of the written comments to the requestor and to the governmental body involved.

SB 1224 by Duncan/Rose - Relating to a landowner's liability for injuries incurred during certain recreational activities. SB 1224 expands coverage of limited liability for outdoor recreational activities to include all governmental units. It expands coverage of the statute for recreational activities to include bicycling, mountain biking, disc golf, and dog walking activities. Legislation provides that if a person enters premises owned, operated, or maintained by a governmental unit and engages in recreation on those premises, the governmental unit does not owe to the person a greater degree of care than is owed to a trespasser on the premises.

SB 1485 by Williams/Wong - Relating to providing that the social security number of a living person is excepted from required disclosure under the public information law and may be redacted without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general. SB 1485 reconciles two statutes with regard to social security numbers by exempting them from the Public Information Act. SB 1485 provides that the social security number of a living person is excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021, Government Code. SB 1485 also allows a governmental body to redact the social security number of a living person from any information the governmental body discloses without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general.

General Academic-Related Legislation

Admissions Related

SB 502 by West/Morrison - Relating to common undergraduate admission application forms for public institutions of higher education in this state.

Requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (CB), with the assistance of an advisory committee composed of representatives of general academic teaching institutions, junior college districts, public state colleges, and public technical institutes, and with the consultation of all other institutions of higher education, to adopt by rule common admission application forms.

Time to Degree

HB 1172 by Brown/Zaffirini - Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.

Makes changes to existing 45 SCH "excess hours" rule as well as other amendments, including:

- Requires reporting on graduation rate and time-to-degree;
- Authorizes institutions to charge higher tuition rates if a student's SCHs exceed 30 more than required in that student's degree plan;
- Excepts certain SCHs from the cap, including those needed to fulfill requirements for double majors and minors; study abroad courses, and certificate programs;
- "Grandfathers" enrollees who entered before 2006 and subject to 45 hour rule;
- Allows the CB to develop hardship rules for exceptions to the 30 hour limitation rule;
- Prohibits formula funding to an institution for SCHs of a student whose exceeds the 30 hour rule; exceptions include hours generated in double majors, double minors or study abroad courses; applies to students entering after Fall 2006; all others subject to the current 45 SCH rule; provides that savings resulting from lowering the 45 SCH rule down to 30 SCH are intended to go to Texas Grant;
- Amends existing work-study program law requiring employer match to federal college work-study funds;
- Creates a student mentorship program for work-study students;

- Limits initial Texas Grant awards on/after Fall 2005 to five years for students in a four year degree program; six years for a five year program; and provides that students must make "satisfactory progress" and subsequently satisfactorily complete at least 24 SCH in the most recent academic year and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA/4.00, or equivalent, in order to hold their Texas Grant;
- Maintains the six year rule if the Texas Grant is awarded before Fall 2005;
- Tightens rules for Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) recipients so that no "double dipping" is allowed in both the TEG and Texas Grant programs, and conforms the TEG to rules applicable to public institutions;
- Excludes certain transfer hours from counting against the limits otherwise applicable to B-On-Time participants;
- Prohibits institutions from requiring a student to complete a greater number of SCHs for a given degree than recommended by the "Southern Association of Colleges and Schools" (SACS), or the number that is required by an institution that "determines" a "compelling academic reason for requiring completion of additional" SCHs for a particular degree.

SB 30 by Zaffirini/F. Brown - Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for students contracting to graduate in a timely manner from public institutions of higher education. Requires the THECB to establish a pilot project providing for tuition and fee exemptions under which each institution participating in the project awards incentives to students who contract to graduate from the institution in a timely manner and fulfill all other terms of the contract.

SB 34 by Zaffirini/Morrison- Relating to the governing board of a state university or state university system and to the tuition rebate program for certain undergraduates at certain state institutions of higher education.

- Creates a non-voting position for a student for each board of a state university or university system. For a system, each student government association of each institution in the system selects five names, forwards the names to the chancellor and then the chancellor forwards at least two names to the governor who will then select one. Must be selected on/before February 1 of each year for a one-year term.
- Requires a student that participates in a four year tuition rebate program also to comply with the "B-On-Time" time to degree rules.

Tuition and Fees

HB 503 by Guillen/Fraser - Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and certain children of those personnel. Adds to the exempt category certain individuals, and their children, who are called to service because of a national emergency by reason of certain terrorist attacks that began on September 11, 2001.

HB 1170 by Miller/Shapleigh - Relating to the award of higher education course credit for the completion of certain military training and to readmission to a public institution of higher education of students who withdraw to perform active military service.

- Institutions shall consider a student's military training if that training satisfies the purpose of the course for which the student seeks credit as described in the institution's course catalog.
- An institution must readmit a student that withdraws due to performing active military service without reapplication or fee. An institution "may adopt rules requiring reasonable proof from a student of the fact and duration of the student's active military service."

SB 101 by Van de Putte/McClendon - Relating to efficiently administering and electronically monitoring certain veterans' and dependents' tuition exemptions at institutions of higher education. SB 101 requires institutions to electronically report to the THECB information relating to individuals who receive Hazlewood tuition exemptions. It also requires the board to develop a system to electronically monitor the use of the Hazlewood Act.

SB 579 by Van de Putte/Corte - Relating to the eligibility of children of certain military personnel to receive Texas B-On-time loans. This bill extends the Texas residency requirement for Texas B-On-Time loans to include military dependents who are entitled to pay tuition at the rate provided for residents of this state under Section 54.058. This bill also allows certain graduates of a Department of Defense high school to be eligible for the loans.

General Academic- Miscellaneous

HB 133 by Brown/Ogden - Relating to the award of academic credit to a student at an institution of higher education for the completion of certain military training. HB 133 requires that colleges and universities accept military training for academic degree credit, provided that the training satisfies the requirements for the college course and an official record of the successful completion of the relevant training is provided to the institution of higher education.

HB 1173 by Brown - Relating to the regulation of the use of postsecondary credits and degrees, persons offering or granting certain postsecondary credits and degrees, and the manner of offering or granting those credits and degrees; providing criminal penalties. HB 1173 establishes that knowingly offering, receiving, or using for personal gain a degree that is fraudulent or substandard is illegal and establishes criminal penalties. HB 1173 classifies a violation of this Act under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

HB 1630 by McReynolds/West - Relating to an excused absence from a public institution of higher education for a person called to active military service. SB 1630 provides that students attending institutions of higher education who are called to military duty will have their absences excused. It also authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt rules regarding the procedures for excusing the absences.

HB 1697 by McCall/West - Relating to the use of gifts to fund technology workforce development grants and to the evaluation of the technology workforce development grant program. HB 1697 clarifies the original intent of the Act by permitting the state to match qualifying grants that go directly to an institution. It also changes the reference to an advisory committee to an "evaluation committee." Using the term advisory committee has the effect of applying Government Code 2110, which prohibits the reimbursement of advisory committee member expenses unless specifically appropriated.

HB 1829 by Wong/Averitt - Relating to authorizing certain institutions of higher education to charge fees for processing or handling certain payments or payment transactions. Originally filed to allow private institutions this authority currently utilized by public institutions, HB 1829 was amended in the House to only allow for "actual" costs to be recovered at both private and public institutions. The bill was amended in the Senate to provide the authorizing language utilized by Parks and Wildlife to charge "reasonable and necessary" fees. The end result provides negligible change to the 'status quo' for public institutions.

HB 2109 by Berman/Shapiro - Relating to the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program. The requirements of this scholarship program prior to 2003 provided that a student who completed high school in not more than 36 consecutive months was eligible for a scholarship providing in state tuition credits. But in 2003, the 78th Legislature added a requirement establishing that students who graduate early must graduate with the recommended or advanced high school curriculum in order to receive a scholarship under this scholarship program. The Act passed by the 78th Legislature failed to address the issue of students then currently enrolled in the scholarship program, thereby leaving many students without the scholarship as promised. HB 2109 restores the eligibility of students who were admitted under the terms of the previous scholarship program.

HB 2274 by Cook, B./Carona - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Guaranteed Loan Corporation. Upon the recommendation of the Sunset Advisory Commission, HB 2274 continues the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation until September 1, 2017, and makes the changes recommended by the Commission.

HB 2701 by Crownover/Janek - Relating to higher education authorities. Currently Chapter 53 of the Education Code is a unified "umbrella" code and it makes it difficult to amend any section of the code for one authority without affecting the other two. HB 2701 amends the Education Code to break Chapter 53 into three subchapters and inserts clarifying terms regarding the name of a higher education authority.

SB 39 by Zaffirini/Goolsby - Relating to continuing education in forensic evidence collection for certain physicians and nurses. This bill is to remedy incidences of emergency room personal unintentionally compromising evidence in sexual assault case. A licensed physician who submits an application for renewal of a license to practice medicine and whose practice includes treating patients in an emergency room setting may complete two hours of continuing medical education relating to collection of forensic evidence. A license holder who is employed to work

in an emergency room setting and who is required under board rules to comply with this section shall complete at least two hours of continuing education relating to forensic evidence collection not later than: (1) September 1, 2008; or the second anniversary of the initial issuance of a license under this chapter to the license holder.

SB 111 by Shapleigh/Smith, T. - Relating to undergraduate course credit granted by public institutions of higher education to high school students and to the computation of the grade point average of high school students.

SB 111 requires higher education institutions in Texas to adopt and implement a policy regarding the awarding of course credit for entering freshman who successfully complete the Advanced Placement exams, CLEP tests, dual credit courses or the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The bill requests that the CB and the Texas Education Agency examine the correlation between corresponding high school and college courses for dual credit. Finally, SB 111 requires universities to inform admitted students how many credits they are eligible to receive from a particular course or exam based on university policies following a request by the student.

SB 132 by Nelson/Morrison - Relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates from professional nursing education programs and incentives to recruit and retain professional nursing program faculty.

- This bill sets statewide goals for increasing the number of initial Registered Nurse (RN) graduates, developing strategies for increasing graduation rates from nursing programs, and promoting innovation in nursing education through the regionalization of common administrative and instructional functions, interdisciplinary instruction, pooled or shared faculty, and new clinical instruction models to maximize use of existing resources and faculty.
- The bill provides tuition exemptions for undergraduate students who are residents of Texas to an institution of higher education if they are the child of a person who is either employed or contracted to be part of the faculty or staff of a professional nursing program at an institution of higher education in the state. The bill also provides the exemption for paying \$500 of the total amount of tuition for a resident of this state enrolled as a student at the institution who is a registered nurse and is serving under a written preceptor agreement with an undergraduate professional nursing program for the semester or other academic term for which the exemption is sought or a child of a registered nurse with a preceptor agreement. The bill provides for nursing faculty enhancement grants to professional nursing programs in the education, recruitment, and retention of sufficient numbers of faculty to enable programs to enroll sufficient numbers of students in order to meet the state's need for RNs. The bill provides eligible professional nursing program faculty members with low-interest home mortgage loans. The THECB could absorb the costs associated with preparing rules and admission forms and of distributing funds through the nursing faculty enhancement program to institutions.

SB 151 by Zaffirini/Morrison - Relating to students enrolled in certain high school and junior college programs for which students may receive both high school and higher education academic credit; creating the Texas Academy of International Studies.

- SB 151 creates a pilot program of dual credit in which up to five public junior colleges would waive tuition and fees for educationally disadvantaged high school students. It entitles these students to free textbooks for the dual credit courses. The bill would condition implementation of this provision upon sufficient general revenue appropriations in an amount corresponding with the waived tuition and fees. The bill takes effect immediately, but generally applies to the 2005-06 school year.
- The bill, as amended, would create the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&M International University. The academy would be a residential, coeducational institution for selected Texas high school students with an interest in international studies. For each student enrolled in the academy, the academy would be entitled to allotments from the foundation school fund under Chapter 42 of the Education code.

SB 302 by Ellis/Coleman - Relating to reports regarding participation in higher education. SB 302, authorizes the THECB to monitor universities' minority outreach efforts. SB 302 requires universities and colleges to provide information on the results of their efforts and strategies to increase minority enrollment.

SB 1146 by Shapiro/Morrison - Relating to an early college education program to provide at-risk and other students accelerated high school graduation and college credit.

- Requires the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) to establish and administer an early, rather than middle, college education program (Program), rather than pilot program, for students who are at risk of dropping out of high school or who wish to accelerate completion of the high school curriculum.
- Authorizes the Commissioner to adopt rules necessary to administer the Program. Authorizes the rules to provide for giving preference in receiving Program benefits to a student who is in the first generation of the student's family to attend college and to establish other distinctions or criteria based on student need. Requires the Commissioner to consult the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in administering the program. Authorizes the P-16 Council to make recommendations, including recommendations for rules, concerning administration of the Program.

SB 1227 by Shapiro/Morrison - Relating to payment of the costs of attending public and private postsecondary educational institutions. This is the omnibus financial aid and general academic issues bill. The following is a general summary of the key provisions of the bill. For additional and more specific information related to detailed changes to the law, please refer to the Report of the Conference Committee.

- Includes non-voting student regent language exactly like SB 34 above.
- Cleans up Texas Opportunity Plan Fund language.
- Makes technical adjustments to B-On-Time program.

- Offers process for students receiving financial aid to pay tuition and fees by installment.
- Provides new rules and procedures for delayed financial aid awards to students.
- Establishes reduced tuition pilot program for Texas A&M summer school students. Was not funded in SB 1 and therefore according to language in bill, not in effect.
- Cleans up public education aide tuition and fee exemptions; applicable in Fall 2005.
- Cleans up tuition and fee adjustments for Adjutant General tuition assistance program.
- Provides technical changes on student deposit fund at each institution.
- Clarifies rules relating to collegiate license plate program.
- Adds textbooks as eligible expenses for the emergency loan program; clarifies other rules for this program.
- Cleans up Work study program rules.
- Clarifies early high school graduate scholars program eligibility and cleanup.
- Provides clean up in Texas Grant program.
- Prohibits TEG recipients (for students at Independent/Private institutions) from also receiving a Texas Grant. "Grandfathers" current students. Also, requires them to have a 2.5/4.00 GPA for continued support.
- Changes name of Texas Grant II to Texas Education Opportunity Grant program for community college students. Authorizes coordinating board to adopt rules for hardship.
- Requires the coordinating board to conduct a biennial study to determine cost of attending an institution, and resources students use to pay for college.
- Requires Center for Financial Aid to develop a training program on financial aid for high school counselors.
- Creates at the coordinating board, to the extent funds are available, three state centers to administer the higher Education Enrollment Assistance Program.
- Tightens rules relating to TEG Program.
- Creates coordinating board specialty license plate for scholarship support.
- In the enacting clauses, requires the coordinating board to study and recommend the "feasibility of implementing an automatic admission program" for community college graduates that seek transfer to a university.
- Requires the THECB to study waivers and exemptions and evaluate the "cost-effectiveness" of these waivers along with other elements.

SB 1247 by West/Brown, F. - Relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program. SB 1247 changes the year students are selected into the JAMP from the students' freshman year to the sophomore year. It changes the allocation of certain remaining program openings and requires the JAMP Council to allocate the openings to the general academic teaching institutions. SB 1247 also updates pre-admission mentoring and assistance requirements for potential JAMP applicants.

SB 1528 by Shapiro/Morrison - Relating to the payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education and the determination of Texas residency for that purpose.

- Requires the coordinating board by rule to adopt definitions related to the residency status of students for purposes of tuition and fee exemptions and waivers as necessary to ensure consistency in the application of this chapter and other related state laws and policies.
- SB 1528 establishes common definitions and replaces the current classifications for who was considered a resident for tuition purposes with the following three categories:
 - those who established a permanent residence in Texas within one year of the census date of the academic term in which they were enrolled, and maintained that residence for the year preceding that date;
 - dependents whose parents met the above qualification;
 - and those who graduated from a Texas high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in Texas, maintained a continuous Texas residence for three years leading up to graduation or receiving the diploma, and resided in Texas for the year preceding their enrollment.
- SB 1528 establishes the necessary information and documents to be submitted to an institution of higher education in order to establish resident status. Students, once classified, will be classified as having continuing resident status in each subsequent academic term in which they enrolled, and by another institution in which the student subsequently enrolls unless:
 - the student enrolls after "laying out" two or more regular semesters;
 - information about the student's residency changes; or
 - it was discovered that the institution erroneously misclassified the student.
- The Economic Development and Diversification waiver program and the NATO agreement program would be reestablished to allow certain students to pay tuition at the rate established for residents of the state.
- The bill repeals a provision enabling aliens living in the United States with petitions for permanent resident status pending with the federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to qualify for resident tuition and fees until the time the Bureau approves their petition. Students who were enrolled for any part of the 2005-2006 academic year and who were classified as a resident would be considered a resident as of the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year. The bill applies prospectively; effective September 1, 2005.

SB 1844 by Harris/Morrison - Relating to scholarships for the fifth year of accounting programs at public and private institutions of higher education.

SB 1844 eliminates the scholarship limit and requires the THECB, along with an advisory committee, to determine the maximum scholarship amount given to a student.

Facilities-Related Legislation

HB 1317 by Driver/Armbrister - Relating to the licensing and regulation of certain electricians. The 78th Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, enacted HB 1487, creating a statewide licensing program for electricians. HB 1317 amends the Texas Electrical Safety Act to correct unintended consequences and improve the implementation process of HB 1487.

HB 1573 by Geren/Harris -Relating to the definition of the practice of architecture and to certificates of merit for design professionals. HB 1573 provides a more accurate description of today's architecture practice, including services such as code consulting, facilities programming and analysis, and teaching. HB 1573 also eliminates ambiguities in Chapter 150, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, regarding certificates of merit for design professionals.

HB 1817 by Driver/Brimer - Relating to the regulation of the practice of engineering. HB 1817 requires a Texas engineering seal only for projects to be constructed or utilized in Texas, allows the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to charge a late license renewal fee, and gives the board the ability to withhold complaint information that was filed against a license holder with the intent to harass or intimidate, but that did not demonstrate harm to the public.

HB 2179 by B. Cook/Wentworth - Relating to the practice of professional surveying. HB 2179 amends the Land Surveying Practices Act to clarify that the practice of "professional surveying" includes the acquisition of survey data and the preparation of technical reports when performed in connection with other regulated Act. HB 2179 permits the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying to regulate activities as necessary in order to protect the public.

HB 2428 by Puente/Armbrister - Relating to water and energy saving performance standards for commercial pre-rinse spray valves. HB 2428 bill sets water efficiency standards for commercial pre-rinse spray valves by requiring that commercial spray valves sold in Texas use no more than 1.6 gallons per minute – the same standard used by other states leading the way in water-and energy-conservation efforts.

HB 2525 by Callegari/Lindsey - Relating to contracts by governmental entities for construction projects and related professional services and to public works performance and payment bonds. HB 2525 is an effort to consolidate four existing procurement codes (Chapter 44 and 51, Education Code; Chapter 271, Local Government Code; and Chapter 209, Government Code). The majority of the bill is current law; issues that were of concern for higher education were addressed in negotiations with the authors.

HB 2746 by Deshotel/Janek - Relating to the examination requirements for mold assessors and remediators. The Texas Department of State Health Services employs guidelines for how mold assessors and remediators are licensed in the State of Texas. The current examination requires that mold assessors and remediators attain a minimal score of 80 percent. All other examinations administered by the department require a minimum passing score of 70 percent in

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order for applicants to obtain a license. HB 2746 equalizes the standards used by the department so that all examination requirements are set at 70 percent.

SB 982 by Van de Putte/Puente - Relating to certain practices to improve energy conservation in state buildings. SB 982 changes the processes and design standards involved in the approval of construction plans for certain state buildings, such as certification and project analysis. However, for institutions of higher education, the current statutes that applied to higher education will continue as is; the sections of the bill that apply to higher education are just re-codifying existing law and practices.

General Operations-Related Legislation

HB 7 by Solomons/Staples – Relating to the continuation and operation of the workers' compensation system of this state and to the abolition of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, the establishment of the office of injured employee counsel, and the transfer of the powers and duties of the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission to the division of workers' compensation of the Texas Department of Insurance and the office of injured employee counsel, and to the provision of workers' compensation benefits to injured employees and the regulation of workers' compensation insurers; providing administrative and criminal penalties. HB 7 was a major rewrite of workers compensation law. The following are just highlights of the changes that were incorporated in HB 7:

Effective September 1, 2005, The Texas workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) is abolished and its functions transferred to the Division of workers' Compensation (Division) within the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI). The Division will be administered by a single Commissioner of Workers' Compensation, appointed by the Governor for a two-year term. HB 7 gives the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation all executive authority over the functions of the Division, including rulemaking authority.

HB 7 abolishes the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) effective September 1, 2005.

Also effective September 1, 2005, State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) may not accept a medical dispute that remains unresolved for a hearing. A medical dispute that is not pending for a hearing by SOAH on or before August 31, 2005, is not subject to a SOAH hearing but may be appealed to court for judicial review.

HB 7 creates a new state agency, the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC), whose primary mission is to represent the interests of injured employees in the workers' compensation system.

HB 7 keeps the research function at TDI under the direction of the Commissioner of Insurance and renames it the "Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group."

Workers' compensation insurance carriers, certified self-insurers, groups of self-insurers and governmental entities that self-insure may elect to contract with or establish health care networks certified by TDI in accordance with Chapter 1305, Insurance Code. The Commissioner of Insurance shall adopt rules regarding the

certification of workers' compensation health care networks by December 1, 2005. TDI will accept applications from networks seeking certification beginning January 1, 2006. An insurance carrier may begin to offer medical benefits through a network upon certification of the network by the Commissioner of Insurance.

HB 7 aligns the sick and annual leave provisions for A&M System and UT System employees with similar provisions for other state employees by clarifying that an employee in each of these programs may use their accrued sick or annual leave in lieu of receiving Temporary Income Benefits (TIBs). If an employee chooses to use sick leave, that employee must first exhaust this leave before receiving TIBs. Once an employee's sick leave has been exhausted, that employee may then choose to use one or more weeks of annual leave in lieu of receiving TIBs.

The A&M System Office of Risk Management will be closely following the creation/implementation of the new rules that will be forthcoming. Additional details regarding the implementation of HB 7 are available from the Office of Risk Management.

HB 22 by F. Brown/Shapiro – Relating to an electronic database of major contracts and related documents. HB 22 amends Subchapter E, Chapter 2175, Government Code, to allow the donation of property to nonprofit organizations as an alternative to destruction in instances where an agency cannot otherwise sell or dispose of the property, or has determined that the property does not have a resale value. HB 22 also amends the definition of "assistance organization" to include a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing; allows the comptroller to remove property from the accounting records upon donation of that property; and allows a university system or an institution of higher education to donate any surplus or salvage property to an assistance organization.

HB 423 by Delisi/Eltife – Relating to the online availability of certain state publications. HB 423 requires state agencies that distribute free publications to make those publications accessible on the agency's website. HB 423 also requires agencies to include, with mailed publications, a notification that a publication is available online and to inform the subscriber that they may access the publication via the agency's website, if preferred. An agency is then required, if a subscriber chooses to access a publication on the Internet, rather than receive a hard copy in the mail, to remove the subscriber from the agency's mailing list and notify the subscriber via e-mail when an issue becomes available online.

HB 2048 by Uresti/Ellis – Relating to certain services and transactions involving state agencies. Omnibus clarification bill relating to Texas Online. Most of the legislation does not impact higher education; however, Section 4 of the bill will. Section 4 adds language that requires each state agency to advertise the options for completing transactions with that agency online. Higher education currently is not required to use Texas Online; institutions may elect to participate in services offered by Texas Online. Further impact of this section will be not available at the time of this writing. The Department of Information Resources (DIR) will promulgate rules related to this section through the Information Technology Council for Higher Education.

HB 2473 by Delisi – Relating to certain state publications maintained by the State Library and Archives Commission. As technology used for data storage and public access of materials has changed, the need to modernize current law regarding state publications has become increasingly important. HB 2473 updates obsolete language and codifies current procedures regarding access to and

preservation of state documents. Major revisions in statute require a state agency to designate one or more staff persons as agency publications liaisons, rather than contact persons; also requires the state agency, if an electronic state publication is not printed or available from the state agency's website, to furnish the Texas State Library copies in a manner prescribed by Commission rules. Prohibits the Commission from requiring more than 75 copies of the publication.

HB 2701 by Crownover/Janek – Relating to higher education authorities.

HB 2701 amends the Education Code to break Chapter 53 into three subchapters and inserts clarifying terms regarding the name of a Higher Education Authority. New language makes these “higher education facility authorities for public schools.” Deletes provisions regarding Higher Education Authorities’ issuing bonds to fund student loans. Amends section to allow them to finance charter schools and removes authority regarding “accredited primary or secondary schools.” Creates new Ch. 53A regarding higher education authorities for private schools. This legislation will not likely impact the A&M System since we do not participate directly in these Authorities, and have no established relationships with any of them at this time.

HB 2702 by Krusee/Staples - Relating to the construction, acquisition, financing, maintenance, management, operation, ownership, and control of transportation facilities and the progress, improvement, policing, and safety of transportation in this state; providing a penalty.

Omnibus transportation bill of the session; of particular interest to the A&M System is non-statutory language at the end of the conference committee report (Sec. 8.02) that abolishes the State Aircraft Pooling Board and transfers all powers, duties, obligations, rights, contracts, bonds, appropriations, records, and real or personal property of the State to the Texas Department of Transportation. A rule, policy, procedure, or decision of the State Aircraft Pooling Board continues in effect as a rule, policy, procedure, or decision of the Texas Department of Transportation until superseded by an act of the Texas Department of Transportation. A&M System statutory language dealing with aircraft found in the Pooling Board statute (Chapter 2205.033, Govt. Code) was not amended.

HB 2753 by Pitts/Ogden - Relating to the powers, duties, and functions of the Legislative Budget Board.

HB 2753 contains language that repeals certain reporting requirements currently established by state law regarding reports that must be made to the Legislative Budget Board. Reports related to claims against state agencies (Section 109.0015, Civil Practice and Remedies Code), membership dues (Section 656.105 Government Code), training costs (Section 668.002, Government Code) and nonresident bidders (Section 2152.064, Government Code) no longer have to be completed (institutions of higher education were previously exempted from the non-resident bidder report).

HB 1516 by Isett/Duncan - Relating to the Department of Information Resources' management of state electronic services.

HB 1516 incorporates significant changes in how state agencies manage information technology, with the Department of Information Resources' (DIR) role in state government being greatly expanded in regard to IT projects. However, for institutions of higher education, the bill has limited impact upon operations; the bill will impact the following:

Higher education will be impacted by the **Texas Project Delivery Framework**. This was developed to apply to all IT-based contracts over \$1 million. It will be used to manage all phases, budgets and schedules, and will align to agency goals. The framework includes "five stage gates" which are: business justification, a

state impact analysis; project planning; solicitation and contracting; implementation; and assessment of project success. Higher education will have to report the information to DIR for these major projects.

Data Centers: A major part of HB 1516 deals with statewide technology centers. Language was agreed to provides that DIR may not establish or expand a statewide technology center that includes participation by an institution of higher education unless the Information Technology Council of Higher Education agrees to the establishment or expansion of the center.

HB 2932 by Delisi/Zaffirini - Relating to requiring state agency purchasing personnel to disclose certain family relationships with business entities receiving certain state agency contracts. HB 2932 requires state employees to disclose family relationships involving vendors. The legislation defines "major stockholder" and "purchasing personnel"; requires each of the state agency's purchasing personnel working on a contract to disclose certain information in writing, before a state agency can award a major contract for the purchase of goods or services to a business entity; and requires the State Auditor to develop a form for use in reporting a relationship.

HB 3112 by Corte/Wentworth - Relating to the security of computer networks in state government. HB 3112 provides for a system of shared computer security throughout the state agencies that are consolidated; this will provide for a shared security architecture that can be used by all agencies to provide expert cyber security services. The Department of Information Resources (DIR) is required to provide network security services to state agencies, and may provide these services to other entities by agreement. As DIR consolidates the computer networks, they shall provide the security as part of the consolidation. HB 3112 creates a Network Security Center (Center) into which the state can eventually consolidate all state network security. This centralized center would employ computer security experts that will monitor all participating agency networks 24-7. HB 3112 sets out specific services that are to be provided by the center. HB 3112 also requires the department to set up a payment for services billing system to each State agency, or other entity using the services.

HB 3112 addresses a concern raised by institutions of higher education. Language was inserted into the bill that states the Department of Information **may** provide network security services to an institution of higher education, and **may** include an institution of higher education in a center, only if and to the extent approved by the Information Technology Council for Higher Education. This will allow for a thorough review of the created network by higher education technology experts.

HB 3227 by Swinford/Lucio - Relating to the management of state agency vehicle fleets. HB 3125, passed during the 76th Legislature, directed the Office of Vehicle Fleet Management, under the guidance of the State Council on Competitive Government, to adopt a statewide fleet management plan to improve the administration and operation of the state's vehicle fleet. However, many of the plan components that address the size and use of the state's fleet, agency reporting requirements, and approved fleet management procedures are burdensome to institutions of higher education due to the nature of campus-based vehicles.

HB 3227 alleviates some of the burdens of these requirements, while still allowing the appropriate information required by law to be reported and available for evaluation. Section 1 of the bill amends Section 2171.101(a), *Government Code*, to require a state agency to be required to submit the reports required under this

section on a quarterly, rather than monthly, basis, not earlier than the 45th day or later than the 60th day after the date on which the quarter ends. Section 2 of the bill provides that, for institutions of higher education, the plan applies only to vehicles purchased by an institution of higher education with appropriated funds. HB 3227 also provides that any minimum use criteria developed in the plan do not apply to an institution of higher education. HB 3227 authorizes the office of vehicle fleet management, on the request of a fleet manager appointed by an institution of higher education, to grant a waiver from any limit on the number of vehicles subject to the plan that the institution may own.

SB 121 by Duncan/Gattis – Relating to a requestor’s right of access to investment information. SB 121 requires governmental bodies to disclose information relating to investments of public monies, including the name of any fund which the governmental entity is invested in, the year the fund was created, the dollar amount invested in the fund, and the return on the investment. The bill also requires the disclosure of board members' possible conflicts of interest and the disclosure of the fee expenses assessed by the fund.

SB 213 by Shapleigh/Martinez-Fischer - Relating to requiring more Spanish language content for online information provided by state agencies. SB 213 requires each state agency to make a reasonable effort to develop and implement a system that ensures that Spanish-speaking persons of limited English proficiency can access state agency information.

SB 255 by Carona/Uresti – Relating to the removal of data from data processing equipment disposed of or transferred by state agencies. Previously, state agencies in Texas did not possess standardized rules pertaining to the sanitation process prior to the sale, transfer, or disposal of state computers, computer peripherals, software, or other information technology devices. SB 255 directs the Department of Information Resources to prescribe standardized rules and regulations regarding this type of sanitization.

SB 495 by Williams/Turner - Relating to the fee paid to the attorney general for examining the record of proceedings authorizing the issuance of a public security or related credit agreement. SB 495 increases the fees charged by the Office of the Attorney General for its legal review of public securities and credit agreements by changing the method by which these fees are calculated. Amends the current fee structure of Government Code Section 1202.002 by deleting the current fee schedule and replacing it with an examination fee of 1/10th of 1 percent of the principal amount of the security. A fee is charged for each series of public security, or in the case of a credit agreement submitted separately from a public security, the principal amount of the public security to which the credit agreement relates, with a maximum fee of \$9,500 and a minimum fee of \$750.

SB 1032 by Ellis/Swinford – Relating to the elimination of certain alternative fuels programs. The Texas Clean Fleet Program (TCFP), which stipulates emission standards for transit fleet vehicles, is codified in state statute; however the state statute has been superseded by federal standards. The federal standards require cleaner fleet vehicles than specified in current state statute. SB 1032 repeals TCFP from state statute.

SB 1226 by Shapiro/Morrison – Relating to a study of the reporting requirements imposed on public institutions of higher education. Currently

there are over 400 reports institutions of higher education are required to prepare and submit to various state authorities. By consolidating the scope of reporting, university systems and their component institutions will be able to utilize the millions of dollars spent on these reports in a more efficient and effective manner.

SB 1226 provides that the Coordinating Board and the Legislative Budget Board shall jointly study each reporting requirement imposed on an institution of higher education by state law, including by board or other state agency rule, to determine if any of those requirements are duplicative, inefficient, or unnecessary. As part of the biennial report submitted by the Board to the 80th Legislature, the Coordinating Board and the LBB jointly shall report the results of the study to the legislature. The report must include any recommendations of the Coordinating Board and the LBB for legislation or administrative action, including changes to state agency rules, to consolidate or simplify reports, eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements, or make other changes to promote efficiency or reduce administrative burdens in reporting. A recommendation must include an explanation of the basis for the recommendation. Not later than December 1, 2006, the Coordinating Board and the LBB shall submit a copy of the report to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SB 1533 by Barrientos/Uresti – Relating to state employee parking in state-owned garages. SB 1533 provides that a person displaying a valid State of Texas employee identification card may not be charged to use any state parking lot or garage after hours or on weekends. SB 1533 states that leases entered into by an institution of higher education are not affected by this bill.

SB 1569 by Williams/T. Smith – Relating to audits of state agency expenditures to recover overpayments and lost discounts. SB 1569 requires the Comptroller to enter into contracts with private consultants to conduct recovery audits designed to detect and return overpayments to vendors. The bill requires recovery audits of agencies with expenditures in excess of \$100 million during a biennium, but allows the Comptroller to exempt agencies with a low proportion of expenditures made to vendors. SB 1569 requires state agencies to pay the consultants from the amounts recovered as a result of their work and requires that copies of these reports go to the legislature, state auditor's office, Legislative Budget Board (LBB), and Governor. This bill also requires the Comptroller to provide a report summarizing the audit reports to the legislature.

Human Resource/Equal Opportunity- Related Legislation

SB 51 by Nelson/Smithee - Relating to eligibility for coverage of, and payment of premiums for, certain individuals covered under certain group health benefit plans. Currently, most providers allow retroactive terminations when employment terminations are not processed through the system in a timely fashion. This bill would hold the group contract holder liable for an enrollee's premiums and claims for the entire time between the actual termination date and the end of the month in which the contract holder notifies the HMO or other group plan that the enrollee is no longer part of the group.

SB 132 by Nelson/Morrison - Relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates from professional nursing education programs.

This bill adds the following to the list of employment situations that are permitted for reemployed retirees without costing them their TRS annuities. Section 8: ...as a faculty member, during the period beginning with the 2005 fall semester and ending on the last day of the 2015 spring semester, in an undergraduate professional nursing program or graduate professional nursing program, as defined by Section 54.221, Education

Code, provided that the retiree has been separated from service with any public schools for at least 12 months.

SB 1149 by Harris/Eiland - Relating to the regulation of electronic transmission of health benefit information between a health care insurer and a physician or health care provider.

This bill creates a set of information that health insurers (HMO or PPO) are required to make available to providers, at no charge, either electronically or telephonically, at the time of the enrollee's visit. Currently, a notable piece of information that is typically not being provided during coverage certification inquiries is the amount of deductible the individual has currently met.

SB 1176 by Armbrister/Eiland - Relating to systems and programs administered by the ERS.

This ERS bill includes two issues relating to ORP participants. ORP participants are no longer eligible to reinstate previously withdrawn ERS service credit. Active ORP participants who elected ORP prior to December 31, 1998, and who have at least three years of legislative service credit in ERS prior to June 18, 1993, may make a one-time irrevocable election to return to ERS, but the ORP service credit will not be eligible under ERS.

SB 1345 by Van de Putte/Berman - Relating to the amount of emergency leave granted by state agencies to state employees on unpaid military leave.

This changes the amount of military pay that is used to determine eligibility for and the amount of the pay differential (emergency leave) for those whose military pay is less than their state pay. Under this bill, military pay for these purposes does not include combat or hardship pay or any pay the employee receives for being separated from his/her family, all of which have previously been included. This will likely increase the number of employees receiving differential pay as well as the amount of differential pay that each eligible employee receives.

Although the change is effective June 17, 2005, the State Auditors Office has until December 1, 2005, to develop guidelines.

SB 1691 by Duncan/Eiland - Relating to certain retired school employees and the powers and duties of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

This bill makes significant changes to the early retirement, purchase of service credit and enrollment provisions of TRS.

1. **Grandfather provision** – All current TRS participants who, before September 1, 2005, are age 50, meet the Rule of 70 (age and years of service equal at least 70) or have 25 years of service will be grandfathered under the current rules for items 2, 3 and 6 below. This provision covers approximately 1/3 of all current TRS members.

2. **Change from three-year average salary to five-year average salary** – For all members, except those grandfathered above, the average salary

used to determine the standard retirement annuity will be based on the average of their five highest annual salaries.

3. Early Retirement Subsidy – For individuals enrolling in TRS on or after September 1, 2006, and current members who are not grandfathered, the pension subsidy currently provided to individuals who retire with 20 or more years of service, but have not reached the Rule of 80, is eliminated. For a participant who is age 55 with 20 years of service, this will increase the pension reduction factor from 10% to 53%.

4. Retirement Eligibility – For individuals enrolling in TRS on or after September 1, 2007, their annuities will be reduced by 5% per year for each year of age they retire prior to age 60 even if they meet the Rule of 80 or have 30 years of service.

5. 90-Day Waiting Period Eliminated – The 90-day waiting period for new participants in TRS will be eliminated effective September 1, 2005. Member and employer contributions to the retirement system will begin immediately upon employment. This will also apply to participation in the Optional Retirement Program.

6. Partial Lump Sum Option – This provision requires a member to meet a Rule of 90 (age and years of service equal at least 90) in order to receive a partial lump sum distribution of their pension benefit at the time of retirement.

7. Return to Work – Institutions will be required to pay TRS contributions equal to 12.4% of compensation for each TRS retiree who returns to employment. In addition, if the working retiree is a participant in the TRSCare health plan, institutions will be required to pay the difference between the retiree's premium to TRSCare and the actual cost of the coverage as determined by TRS. This provision does not apply to retired employees who were reported to TRS as working for the employer in January 2005.

8. Out-of-State Service Purchase – After January 1, 2006, members who had service at an educational institution in another state prior to joining TRS will pay the actuarial cost of each year of service rather than a fixed 12% per year if they wish to purchase service credit for that time. All individuals who are members of TRS by December 31, 2005, and have out-of state service prior to January 1, 2006, are grandfathered from this provision.

9. Air Time Purchase Eliminated – After January 1, 2006, members will no longer be able to purchase up to three years of service credit at their discretion after completing seven years of service. Members have until December 31, 2005, to purchase this service or enter into an installment agreement for purchase of air time.

SB 1863 by Ogden/Pitts - Relating to certain fiscal matters affecting governmental entities; providing a penalty. This bill prohibits retirees who retired on or after June 1, 2005, and later return to work from receiving longevity pay and benefit replacement pay and allows only post-retirement service to count toward vacation accrual rates. Current longevity pay provisions are grandfathered for those who retired before June 1, 2005, and return to work before September 1, 2005. Those who retired before June 1, 2005, and return to work on or after September 1, 2005, are not eligible for longevity pay.

The bill also increases longevity pay to \$20 per month for every two years of service, up to 42 years, and hazardous duty pay to \$10 per month for every year of service, up to a maximum monthly payment of \$300.

This bill also changes the length of a break in service that will cause a person to lose eligibility for benefit replacement pay (BRP) from 12 consecutive months to

30 consecutive days. Those who leave state employment before September 1, 2005, will retain their BRP if they return to state employment within 12 consecutive months of their dates of termination or September 30, 2005, whichever is earlier.

HB 481 by Hochberg/Zaffirini - Relating to the eligibility for unemployment benefits of certain persons with disabilities. This bill adds unemployment insurance benefit eligibility criteria for permanently disabled individuals who are receiving Social Security disability insurance benefits, are unable to work full-time, have worked part-time during their base period and are seeking part-time work.

HB 912 by Isett/Ellis - Relating to the maximum cost of certain awards presented to state agency employees for professional achievement or outstanding service. This bill increases the amount of appropriated money from \$50 to \$100 that may be used to purchase service, safety or similar awards to reward employees for professional achievement or outstanding service.

HB 2371 by King/Madla - Relating to the use of acupuncture as health care providers under certain health benefit plans. An insurer offering a Preferred Provider benefit plan or an HMO that includes acupuncture as a covered service may not refuse to provide reimbursement for the performance of a covered acupuncture service solely because the service is provided by an acupuncturist. Currently, plans including acupuncture as a covered service may require that the acupuncture be performed by an M.D.

HB 2604 by Guillen/Van de Putte - Relating to state-funded job training or employment-assistance programs, services and preferences available to veterans. This bill requires that veterans be given preference for selection for job training or employment assistance programs or services funded wholly or partly with state money. Veterans must meet the eligibility requirements for the program or service. Eligible veterans are those who served at least 90 days during a national emergency or were discharged due to a service-related disability, were honorably discharged and are competent. The bill also transfers veteran employment programs from the Texas Workforce Commission to the Texas Veterans Commission.

HB 2716 by Swinford/Eltife - Relating to equal employment opportunity reports. This is a basic "housekeeping" bill regarding the Texas Workforce Commission's reporting of state agency EEO data. Previous references to the "Texas Commission on Human Rights" were changed to the "Civil Rights Division of the Texas Workforce Commission." In addition, EEO data are to be reported by November 1 of each year, rather than January 1.

HB 2819 by Rose/Corte - Relating to accessible electronic and information technology for persons with disabilities. HB 2819 would bring Texas in line with federal Section 508 standards for accessibility to websites and telecommunications. Any federal agency purchasing electronic and information technology requires their vendors to ensure compliance with these standards. Several states have adopted the federal standards by reference. H.B. 2819 creates consistency by having the same accessibility standards as federal agencies, other states, and even within different Texas state agencies. The bill exempts compliance if an undue burden results.

HB 3169 by Crownover/Duncan - Relating to purchase of equivalent membership service credit in the TRS. This bill repeals a section added in

September 2001 which allows a TRS member to purchase up to three years of TRS equivalent membership service credit if the member has at least seven years of actual TRS membership service.

Health-Related Legislation

HB 2180 / SB 995 by Anderson/Averitt - Relating to donees of anatomical gifts. Adds forensic science departments of general academic institutions to the list of approved anatomical gift donees.

HB 2420 by Chavez/Lucio - Relating to the allocation of federal funds directed to be used to support graduate medical education (GME) in connection with the state Medicaid program. Requires the Health and Human Services Commission's allocation of Medicaid GME funding to recognize growth in residency slots since 1997 in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and other underserved areas.

SB 132 by Nelson/Morrison - Relating to goals and strategies concerning the number of graduates from professional nursing education programs and incentives to recruit and retain professional nursing program faculty. Requires Health Professions Council to work with Coordinating Board and establish for each academic year a target number of nursing graduates needed to meet the state's nursing needs, and to set goals for increasing the numbers, and levels of funding needed to achieve the goals. Report due to Legislature January 1, 2007. Provides undergraduate tuition exemptions for children under age 25 of graduate degreed nurses who teach at the institution of higher education and provides \$500 in tuition exemption for children of professional nursing preceptors. Expands uses for professional nursing shortage reduction grants to include faculty enhancements and coordination of programs between two or more institutions. Allows retired nurses to retain their retirement benefits if they come back to teach in nursing schools, and establishes a professional nursing program faculty member home loan program.

SB 423 by Carona/Delisi - Relating to the issuance of a limited license to practice medicine to certain applicants. Authorizes the Board of Medical Examiners to adopt rules for awarding a limited license to certain eminent physicians who will become faculty at the state's medical schools (same as provisions in SB 419, Board of Medical Examiners Sunset bill).

SB 424 by Carona/Branch - Relating to the deadline for passing the examination for a license to practice medicine in this state. Extends time for passage of required licensure exams to 2 years after completion of graduate medical training for MD/PhDs. Also extends time frame for passage of licensure exams to 10 years if the applicant is a member of the American Board of Specialties or Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, or has been practicing under a faculty temporary license for at least 12 months and is recommended to the Board by the chief administrative officer and president of the institution in which the application practiced under the faculty temporary license.

SB 815 by Lucio/Solis - Relating to the long-range plan for the South Texas Health Care System and the provision of tuberculosis and other health care services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Expands possible locations for new outpatient facilities to include all of Hidalgo and Cameron counties, rather than only McAllen and Brownsville; removes the requirement that the facility be built on current site of South Texas Hospital; and gives the Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services first option to lease existing South Texas Hospital facility if Dept. of State Health Services decides not to use it.

Section 1 of SB 1227 by Shapiro-West/Morrison - Relating to public and private postsecondary educational institutions, including enrollment in those educational institutions, payment of the costs of attending those educational institutions, and financial aid and other measures to assist students to pay those costs. Section 1 exempts non-general revenue funded state-owned hospital and clinic fees from the definition of "educational and general" funds, eliminating consideration of these fees in determining proportionality of state general revenue and other higher education institution funding in paying employee benefits.

SB 1247 by West/ F. Brown - Relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program. Changes JAMP admission year from freshman to sophomore, authorizes JAMP council to allocate positions among the general academic institutions rather than require allocations to be based on size of general academic institution, requires Council to identify freshman students who may be eligible for the program, and entitles those students to mentoring and tutoring financed from program funds.

SCR 27 by West/Branch. Memorializing Congress to eliminate current caps in funded Medicare resident training slots and related limits on costs per resident used to determine Medicare graduate medical education reimbursement payments.

Health- Related Councils, Task Forces and Workgroups

HB 916 by Woolley/Nelson - Relating to a study of the health care delivery system in certain medically underserved communities and creating the Texas Health Care Policy Council. Establishes Texas Health Care Policy Council within the Governor's office, to include head or designees of HHSC, DSHS, DADS, TWC, THECB, TDI, ERS, TRS, each health licensing board, and any other agency or higher education institution identified by the governor that purchases or provides health care services. The Council is to study issues identified by Governor and report by Dec. 31 of each even-numbered year. The Council is to ensure collaboration among state agencies on health care purchasing and use of technology, and is to establish a clearinghouse to provide information to communities on innovative local health care delivery systems, grants, and development of quality measures. HB 966 establishes the Texas Health Workforce Planning Partnership as a standing subcommittee, comprising HHSC, DSHS, TWC, THECB, Health Professions Council, ORCHA, and any other state agency or higher education system that impacts health care workforce planning, to plan for the state's healthcare workforce needs and identify ways to increase funding for health care.

HB 1068 by Driver/Hinojosa - Relating to the collection and analysis of evidence and testimony based on forensic analysis, crime laboratory

accreditation, DNA testing, and the creation and maintenance of DNA records; providing a penalty. Establishes the Texas Forensic Science Commission (4 Governor appointees, 2 of whom are forensic science experts and 2 other specified attorney representatives; 3 Lt. Gov appointees, one each of whom is a UT and A&M faculty member specializing in clinical laboratory medicine, selected from a list of 10 names submitted by the respective chancellor of the UTS and A&M System, and 1 pharmaceutical laboratory research faculty member from Texas Southern; 2 appointed by the Attorney General, one from the UNT HSC Missing Persons DNA database and one from Sam Houston State) The Commission is to monitor and investigate complaints about crime labs. The bill also amends regulatory standards and processes for crime labs and laws regarding collection and use of DNA samples.

HB 2344 by Luna/West - Relating to the Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. Revises the Department of State Health Services Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke to specify that 11 person membership is to be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, rather than appointed by the Board of Health. Among the required members are: a cardiologist, a neurologist specializing in stroke, a primary care physician, a RN, a dietitian, and two members with expertise in public health policy and research. The Governor is to attempt to appoint female and minority representatives.

HB 2475 by Delisi/Nelson - Relating to a cervical cancer initiative. Requires Department of State Health Services to coordinate with Texas Cancer Council and develop a strategic plan to eliminate mortality from cervical cancer by 2015; authorizes the establishment of workgroups which may include physicians and nurses specializing in cervical cancer, cancer epidemiologists, and representatives of medical schools and schools of public health.

HB 3426 by Chavez/Shapleigh - Relating to the establishment of a binational alcohol and substance abuse task force. Establishes the Binational Alcohol and Substance Abuse task force to consider cross border substance abuse issues. Membership is to include legislators and others, including 3 border physicians and 3 border public members from substance abuse and intervention programs. The Task Force is to report to governor and legislature by Nov. 1 of each even-numbered year; the Task Force is abolished Jan. 1, 2009.

SB 9 by Staples/Corte - Relating to homeland security; providing a penalty. Establishes First Responder Advisory Council to advise the Governor. The Council is to include one representative each of firefighters, law enforcement, private first responders, emergency medical services, and other entities determined by Governor. Makes several other changes regarding agricultural security and inter-operability.

SB 44 by Nelson/Delisi - Relating to the Indigent Health Care Advisory Committee. Requires the Health and Human Services Commissioner to appoint an 11 member advisory committee to evaluate and make recommendations for changes to indigent health care, including consideration of a pilot program to regionalize county indigent and hospital district services.

SB 45 by Nelson/Delisi - Relating to the establishment of an advisory committee on health care information technology. Requires the State Dept. of Health Services Statewide Health Coordinating Council to form an advisory committee on health care information technology to develop a long-range plan for health care information technology. The Committee is to include representatives of

the academic community, pharmacies, physicians, health plans, nurses, and hospitals.

SB 261 by Williams/B. Keffer - Relating to the creation of a program to educate the public on the value of health coverage and to increase public awareness of health coverage options. Requires the Department of Insurance (DIR) to create a public awareness campaign regarding health insurance coverage. Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to appoint a task force to make recommendations regarding the program, which is to include a representative of physicians, advanced practice nurses, and medical units of institutions of higher education, among others.

SB 330 by Deuell/McReynolds - Relating to the creation of a stroke committee and the development of a statewide stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria. Requires the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee to establish a stroke committee to help it develop a statewide stroke emergency transport plan and stroke facility criteria. The Committee must include: a physician eligible for vascular neurology accreditation by ACGME, a licensed interventional neuroradiologist, a neurosurgeon with stroke experience, a member of the Texas Council on Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, a physician recommended by a statewide organization of emergency physicians, a neuroscience registered nurse with stroke expertise, and a volunteer member of a stroke nonprofit agency.

SB 691 by Madla/Wong - Relating to the creation and functions of an arthritis control and prevention program. Requires Department of State Health Services to establish an arthritis prevention and control program and to establish an arthritis advisory committee. Members are to be appointed by the Commissioner of Health and must include people with arthritis, public health educators, medical experts on arthritis, arthritis health care providers, and arthritis organization representatives.

SB 872 by Nelson/Delisi - Relating to a study regarding the impact of niche hospitals on other general hospitals, to certain reports and disclosure requirements regarding niche hospitals, and to the establishment of an advisory panel to conduct a study on the reporting of health care associated infection rates and process measures. Requires the Health Commissioner to establish a 14-member health care associated infection advisory panel at the Dept. of State Health Services' regulatory licensing unit to study and recommend definitions and methodologies for collecting and reporting data on infection rates and/or process measures. The Health Commissioner is to file a report with the Legislature by Nov. 1, 2006 for use in legislation and recommend that hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers comply by Sept. 1, 2007. The membership will include: 2 hospital based Board certified infection control practitioners (at least one of whom is rural); 2 Board certified nurse infection control practitioners; 3 Board certified or Board eligible physicians who are active members of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology and have expertise in infection control, and at least 2 of whom have active medical staff privileges; 1 hospital and 1 ambulatory surgical center CEO; 3 DSHS employees; and 2 consumers. SB 872 also establishes disclosure, referral, and financial requirements regarding niche hospitals.

SB 1188 / HB 1771 by Nelson/Delisi - Relating to the medical assistance program and other health and human services. Both bills authorize the

Commissioner of Health to establish an advisory committee to help design and implement the required Medicaid integrated care management model. SB 1188 makes several additional changes to CHIP and Medicaid, including requiring a new office of community collaboration, requiring steps to maximize federal funds, improvement of and increased public availability of Medicaid data analysis, streamlining administration and improving service delivery, addressing several Medicaid long-term care issues, requiring managed care organizations to reimburse for advanced nurse practitioner services and federally qualified health center services provided after hours, requiring managed care organizations to improve their claim and payment systems, requiring development of a comprehensive Medicaid awareness and education campaign for recipients and providers, establishing an office of medical technology, authorizing a pilot program to reimburse physicians for on-line medical consultations, requiring development of a health care literacy program to reduce emergency room utilization, requiring development of a proposal for payment of higher rates to primary care case managers that take patients with chronic health conditions, requiring evaluation of cost-effectiveness of establishing pilot for a telephone hot line, and requiring analysis of impact of Medicare prescription drug program on Medicaid.

Health Professionals: Sunset bills

HB 972 by Solomons/Nelson - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners; providing a criminal penalty.

Continues Board of Chiropractors until 2017; makes several regulatory changes, including requiring the Board to adopt rules for chiropractic scope of practice using input from persons that would be most affected by the proposed rule. May use negotiated rulemaking, advisory committees, informal conferences, and other input methods.

HB 1015 by Truitt/Jackson - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. Continues the Board of Psychologists until 2017; makes several changes in regulatory processes. No scope of practice changes.

HB 1025 by Solomons/Shapleigh - Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Optometry Board and to contact lens prescriptions and the dispensing of contact lenses. Continues the Optometry Board until 2017; makes several changes in regulatory processes, and establishes requirements for contact lens prescription verification.

HB 1155 by Truitt/Shapleigh. Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians - Continues the Board of Examiners of Dietitians until 2017 and makes other changes in regulatory procedures.

HB 1283 by Truitt/Carona. Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors; providing an administrative penalty - Continues the Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors until 2017 and makes other changes in regulatory procedures.

HB 1413 by Truitt/Whitmire - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Continues the Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists until 2017 and makes other changes in regulatory procedures.

HB 1535 by Truitt/Shapleigh - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Midwifery Board. Continues the Midwifery Board until 2107 and makes other changes in regulatory procedures.

SB 402 by Nelson/Hamric. Relating to the administration and functions of the Texas State Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners; providing an administrative penalty - Continues the Board until 2017 and makes other regulatory and procedural changes.

SB 410 by Whitmire/Truitt. Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy and to certain duties of pharmacists and pharmacies; providing administrative penalties - Continues the Board until 2017 and makes other regulatory and procedural changes.

SB 419 by Van de Putte/Delisi. Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners, Texas State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners, and Texas State Board of Acupuncture Examiners and the regulation of health care professions regulated by those state agencies; providing administrative penalties - Continues the Board until 2017, changes its name to Texas Medical Board, establishes procedures for expert physician review of complaints, authorizes establishment of procedures for issuing limited licenses for certain eminent physicians who will become faculty and for the practice of administrative medicine, authorizes establishment of temporary licenses for active military duty physicians who are faculty at medical schools, makes certain third trimester abortions and abortions on minors without parental consent prohibited practices, and makes several regulatory and procedural changes to the Medical, Physicians Assistants, and Acupuncture Board and to the regulation of surgical assistants.

Health Professionals: Other Legislation

HB 654 by Goolsby/Deuell - Relating to professional liability insurance for volunteer healthcare providers. Allows insurers to sell liability insurance policies to volunteer health care providers for the purpose of providing protections not offered by the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, such as costs of defense.

HB 655 by Goolsby/Deuell - Relating to certain volunteer health care providers. Requires the Joint Underwriting Association to offer liability insurance to volunteer health care providers: exempts retired physicians whose only practice is with disaster relief organizations from registration permit fee.

HB 1366 by Allen/Janek - Relating to the regulation of nursing. Adds provisions for criminal investigation the authority of the Board of Nurse Examiners and establishes standards for mandatory license suspension or revocation upon certain criminal convictions.

HB 1577 by Nixon/Madla - Relating to the provision of health care services by a physician assistant during a disaster. Authorizes physician assistants to

perform health care services without delegation in the event of a disaster, if no physician is available.

HB 1718 by Zedler/Nelson - Relating to the regulation of certain nursing practices, including circulating duties in an operating room. Establishes criteria for nurse first assistants, who must be trained in perioperative nursing, and requires all circulating operating room duties to be performed or supervised by qualified registered nurses.

HB 1924 by Chavez/Shapleigh - Relating to the certification of certain health organizations by the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners. Authorizes El Paso County Hospital District to directly contract with or employ physicians until 9/1/2007 (authority given to any public hospital district that is a federally qualified health center in a border county of at least 650,000 population).

HB 2158 by Delisi/Nelson - Relating to an exemption from annual registration fees for a retired physician who provides volunteer medical services in a disaster. Exempts retired physicians whose only service is volunteering with a disaster relief agency from registration fee.

HB 2371 by King/Madla - Relating to the use of acupuncturists as health care providers under certain health benefit plans. Prohibits insurance and managed care companies that cover acupuncture from denying payment solely because the service was provided by an acupuncturist.

HB 2678 by Smithee/Seliger - Relating to underwriting of and ratemaking for professional liability insurance for physicians and health care providers. Prohibits liability insurers from using information regarding dismissed lawsuits or participation in Medicaid or CHIP in determining liability insurance rates.

HB 2680 by Branch/Nelson - Relating to services provided by health care practitioners to charities and liability insurance for those practitioners. Allows licensing boards to adopt reduced fees and continuing education requirements for retired health care professionals that only provide charity care, requires charitable organizations to offer liability insurance, and allows Joint Underwriting Association to cover volunteer healthcare providers.

HB 2696 by Anchia/West - Relating to the licensing and regulation of massage therapy and massage establishments and certain services related to massage; providing penalties. Changes required registration for massage therapists to required licensure, and establishes some physical contact prohibitions.

SB 492 by Van de Putte/Delisi - Relating to inspection of and drug compounding by a pharmacy and to distribution of compounded and prepackaged drugs to pharmacies under common ownership. Establishes procedures for distribution and use of compounded and prepackaged drugs.

SB 610 by Nelson/Laubenberg - Relating to the regulation of the practice of dentistry. Makes several procedural changes regarding regulation of dentistry, including adding certain felonies and misdemeanors to the grounds for license suspension, and requiring completion of a course in addition to the currently required exam for dental assistants to obtain an x-ray certification.

SB 1000 by Madla/McReynolds - Relating to regulation of the practice of nursing. Defines vocational nursing and makes several regulatory changes relating to supervision, fees, and disciplinary procedures in regulation of licensed vocational nursing.

Engineering-Related Legislation

Transportation

HB 925 by Chavez/Lucio - Relating to creating an interagency work group on border issues. The bill creates an interagency work group on border issues to improve coordination of government programs and services offered in the border area, including transportation and commerce issues.

HB 1546 by McClendon/Staples - Relating to the administration and the use of Texas rail relocation and improvement fund. The bill creates the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund, administered by the Texas Transportation Commission, to provide a method of financing the relocation and improvement of privately and publicly owned passenger and freight rail facilities.

HB 2702 by Krusee/Staples - Relating to the construction, acquisition, financing of transportation. The bill would make a number of changes to the Transportation Code related to the construction and financing of the Trans-Texas Corridor and associated issues, such as conversion of non-toll roads into toll roads, condemnation, railroads, compensation for the acquisition of property, and others.

SB 129 by Barrientos/Dukes - Relating to certain exemptions to the requirement that the operator of a motor vehicle operated on a turnpike project pay the proper toll or the full amount of the toll. The bill permits regional mobility authorities and TxDOT to waive or reduce tolls on turnpikes under their control for any vehicle or class or vehicles, such as public school buses and public transit vehicles.

SB 183 by Lucio/Chavez - Relating to the appointment, operation, and recommendations of the Border Trade Advisory Committee. The bill provides the Texas Transportation Commission with greater legislative direction in terms of the composition of Border Trade Advisory Committee and requires a biennial report to the legislature.

SB 569 by Zaffirini/Guillen - Relating to meetings between representatives of the Department of Transportation and Mexican states on transportation and truck inspection issues. The bill requires the Texas Department of Transportation to initiate meetings at least quarterly with the department's counterparts in Mexican border states to consider transportation and infrastructure issues. The bill also requires the department, in conjunction with the border commerce coordinator, to submit plans to the legislature recommending ways to expedite trade by mitigating delays in border crossing inspections.

SB 1257 by Lindsay/Callegari - Relating to the operation of a motor vehicle by a person who holds a driver's license or a commercial driver's license.

This bill was amended to include House Bill 1094 which bans the use of cell phones by teen drivers in the provisional license stage of the Graduated Driver Licensing program.

Energy

HB 2201 by Hughes/Estes - Relating to implementing a clean coal project.

This bill addresses the need to create a more predictable and streamlined permitting process for the key components of the FutureGen Project to better position the State of Texas in the competition for the Project. The FutureGen Project is a U.S. Department of Energy integrated carbon sequestration and hydrogen research proposal that provides for \$800 million in federal funding with another \$200 million to be funded by private industry and other nations. H.B. 2201 also creates financial incentives to compete with the financial incentive packages being proposed by several other states competing for the Project.

SB 408 by Nelson/Phil King - Relating to the continuation and functions of the Public Utility Commission.

This Sunset Bill continues the PUC for six years, strengthens the oversight of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), and expands the use of the System Benefit Fund to assist needy patients with serious health problems who are threatened with disconnection for nonpayment, among other provisions.

SB 712 by Carona/Robby Cook - Relating to the legislature's goal for energy efficiency in this state and related energy efficiency programs.

The bill adds reduction of peak demand to the state's energy efficiency goals and directs the Public Utility Commission to adopt program options for a utility to meet the new goals including energy-smart schools, appliance retirement and recycling, air conditioning system tune-ups, and the use of landscaping for energy efficiency. The bill also allows utilities to use up to 10 percent of their energy efficiency program funds for research and development to improve technology applications and program design.

Homeland Security

SB 9 by Staples/Corte - Relating to homeland security.

The bill expands upon the current homeland security program by providing for improvements in areas not currently covered for homeland security purposes, including efforts to protect public health, agricultural crops and livestock, drinking water, and critical infrastructure. The bill improves anti-terrorism planning, coordination, and communication between state and local agencies, which will prove important in deterring a threat or responding to an emergency.

SB 310 by Deuell/Bohac - Relating to certain diseases or illnesses suffered by certain emergency first responders.

The bill establishes a presumption, in the case of certain paid and volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical technicians employed by political subdivisions, that the occurrence of certain medical conditions among these employees resulted from exposure to harmful agents in the course of performing their duties. The medical conditions covered by the bill would include heart attack, stroke, tuberculosis, respiratory illness, cancer, or injury resulting from an immunization against smallpox or another disease.

SB 11 by Staples/Delisi - Relating to security in public schools. Requires each school district, among other requirements, to adopt and implement a multi-hazard emergency operations plan that provides for: district employee training in responding to an emergency, mandatory school drills to prepare district students and employees for responding to an emergency; measures to ensure coordination with local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, and fire departments in the event of an emergency; at least one mandatory security audit every three years; and required reporting of results from the security audit.

Other

HB 1697 by McCall/West - Relating to the use of gifts to fund technology workforce development grants and to the evaluation of the technology workforce development grant program. The bill clarifies the original intent of the law by permitting the state to match qualifying grants that go directly to an institution.

HB 1817 by Driver/Brimer - Relating to the regulation of the practice of engineering. The bill requires a Texas engineering seal only for projects to be constructed or utilized in Texas, allows the Texas Board of Professional Engineers to charge a late license renewal fee, and gives the board the ability to withhold complaint information that was filed against a license holder with the intent to harass or intimidate but that did not demonstrate harm to the public.

HB 1938 by Ritter/Brimer - Relating to the award of a grant and reporting requirements under the Texas Enterprise Fund. This bill addresses concerns regarding the need for higher accountability standards for grant recipients with respect to job creation and investment goals and the absence of a report on grant allocations. H.B. 1938 requires the governor to enter into a written agreement with potential grant recipients with specific terms and conditions of the award and ensure full financial accountability to the state for funds and repayment of the funds and penalties for noncompliance. The bill also requires the governor's office to report to the legislature before each session on the use of fund grants with specific reporting requirements.

HB 2421 by Chavez/Zaffirini - Relating to the use of an employer assessment to fund the Texas Enterprise Fund and the skills development program and authorizing the Texas Workforce Commission to develop new job incentive programs. The bill creates two new funds and transfers funds to the Skills Development Fund. Effective January 1, 2006, the Fund will be financed by a Skills Development Assessment on wages paid by employers who are participating in the state's unemployment insurance program.

Other Bills of Interest that Passed

HB 70 by McClendon/Wentworth - Relating to the expedited payment of the lump-sum death benefit for members of the Employees Retirement System.

HB 74 by Naishtat/Fraser - Relating to exempting school districts from certain mold assessor and remediation licensing requirements.

HB 120 by Dawson/Zaffirini - Relating to the creation of a donor education, awareness, and registry program, the establishment of an organ donor and tissue council, and anatomical gift donation.

HB 183 by Brown, Fred/Zaffirini - Relating to the use of safety belts and child passenger safety seat systems.

HB 210 by Solomons/Shapleigh - Relating to the regulation of certain telemarketing calls.

HB 251 by Eissler/Williams - Relating to the release of certain information regarding a workers' compensation claims.

HB 256 by Hopson/Estes - Relating to investments in certificate of deposit by certain governmental entities.

HB 258 by Pena/Hinojosa - Relating to authorizing a sports recreation and wellness facility fee at the University of Texas-Pan American.

HB 417 by Delisi/Eltife - Relating to a supplemental health coverage program under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act for certain persons.

HB 479 by Keel/Barrientos - Relating to the concurrent jurisdiction of campus peace officers commissioned by the University of Texas at Austin and law enforcement agencies of the state and political subdivisions of the state.

HB 598 by Blake/Staples - Relating to a recreational sports fee at Stephen F. Austin State University.

HB 604 by Hopson/Staples - Relating to participation as an annuitant under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act.

HB 616 by Callegari/Lindsay - Relating to a landowner's liability for injuries incurred during certain recreational activities.

HB 646 by Otto/Seliger - Relating to the provision of certain reports and records requested by the attorney general.

HB 647 by Krusee/Ogden - Relating to the issuance of county obligations for public improvements and to the review and approval of refunding bonds by the attorney general.

HB 762 by Nixon/Ellis - Relating to the solicitation by state officers and employees for contributions to charitable organizations.

HB 769 by Smith/Janek - Relating to the deadline for evaluating and ranking competitive sealed proposals for certain construction services submitted to a navigation district or port authority.

HB 773 by West, Buddy/Armbrister - Relating to certain purchases by the Railroad Commission.

HB 868 by Ritter/Williams - Relating to the establishment of a Center for Excellence in Deaf Studies and Deaf Education at Lamar University.

HB 880 by Delisi, Zaffirini - Relating to attorney general review of certain contracts for health care purposes.

HB 908 by Turner/Estes - Relating to the use of the reverse auction procedure by the Building and Procurement Commission.

HB 912 by Isett/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to the maximum cost of certain awards presented to state agency employees for professional achievement or outstanding service.

HB 925 by Chavez/Lucio - Relating to border issues and to the creation of border issue organizations.

HB 952 by Delisi/Barrientos - Relating to a pilot program to provide health services to state employees in state office complexes.

HB 957 by Pickett/Staples - Relating to the valuation of state-owned real property.

HB 976 by Madden/Wentworth - Relating to allowing the Building and Procurement Commission to deliberate in a closed meeting regarding business and financial considerations of a contract being negotiated.

HB 993 by Gonzales/Hinojosa - Relating to the installment payment of tuition and fees charged by a public junior college, public technical institute, or public state college for a summer term.

HB 1063 by Oliveira/Lucio - Relating to a fee to support the wellness, recreational, and fitness complex at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

HB 1116 by Solomons/Nelson - Relating to the governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.

HB 1130 by Cook, Byron/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to the adoption of a privacy policy by a person who requires the disclosure of an individual's social security number.

HB 1173 by Brown, Fred/Ogden - Relating to the regulation of the use of postsecondary credits and degrees, persons offering or granting certain postsecondary credits and degrees, and the manner of offering or granting those credits and degrees.

HB 1215 by Morrison/Armbrister - Relating to the degree programs offered by the University of Houston-Victoria.

HB 1253 by Kuempel/Armbrister - Relating to projects that may be undertaken by certain development corporations for career or learning centers.

HB 1285 by Swinford/Wentworth - Relating to the exception from required disclosure under the public information law of certain audit working papers.

HB 1331 by Chavez/Zaffirini - Relating to the authority of a junior college district to contract for the provision of certain services and resources under the Interagency Cooperation Act.

HB 1573 by Geren/Harris - Relating to the definition of the practice of architecture and to certificates of merit for design professionals.

HB 1737 by Flores/Zaffirini - Relating to the establishment of a dual usage educational complex by a junior college district and other political subdivisions or institutions of higher education.

HB 1791 by Naishtat/Barrientos - Relating to application of the hazing statutes to private institutions of higher education.

HB 1901 by Smith, Wayne/Williams - Relating to the maximum reservation for certain individual projects of a portion of the state ceiling for private activity bonds.

HB 2048 by Uresti/ellis, Rodney - Relating to certain online services and transactions involving state agencies and to the abolishment of the TexasOnline Authority and the transfer to the Department of Information Resources.

HB 2108 by Berman/Eltife - Relating to a student union fee at the University of Texas at Tyler.

HB 2109 by Berman/Shapiro - Relating to the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program.

HB 2129 by Bonnen/Armbrister - Relating to energy-saving measures that reduce the emission of air contaminants.

HB 2180 by Anderson/Averitt - Relating to donees of anatomical gifts.

HB 2196 by Madden/Whitmire - Relating to the transfer of surplus data processing equipment to the Department of Criminal Justice.

HB 2257 by Gallego/Madla - Relating to the speed limits on certain highways in rural counties.

HB 2272 by Farabee/Estes - Relating to the establishment of a recreational and health facilities fee at Midwestern State University.

HB 2333 by Morrison/West, Royce - Relating to the qualifications of and training and continuing education for certain officials and personnel of career schools or colleges.

HB 2377by Swinford/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to the use of private firms by the Building and Procurement Commission in leasing space for state agencies.

HB 2379 by Swinford/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to the allocation of certain state office space.

HB 2441 by Leibowitz/Van de Putte - Relating to the recreational facilities fee at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

HB 2466 by Swinford/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to recycling market development.

HB 2470 by Delisi/Nelson - Relating to the operation of and the funding mechanisms for emergency medical services and trauma facility care in this state.

HB 2473 by Delisi/Ellis, Rodney - Relating to certain state publications maintained by the State Library and Archives Commission.

HB 2481 by Bonnen/Harris - Relating to air contaminant emissions reductions, including the continuation and provisions of the Texas emissions reduction plan and the use of money currently dedicated to the Texas emissions reduction plan fund.

HB 2511 by Denny/Harris - Relating to the filing of a personal financial statement by a former state officer whose successor has not qualified for office.

HB 2593 by Baxter/Janek - Relating to the TexasOnline project, the TexasOnline Authority, and related powers and fees.

HB 2604 by Guillen/Van de Putte - Relating to state-funded job training or employment assistance programs, services, and preferences available to veterans.

HB 2661 by Krusee/Ogden - Relating to the use of competitive sealed proposals for certain construction projects.

HB 2806 by Morrison/West, Royce - Relating to the regulation of career schools and colleges.

HB 2958 by Hamric/Lindsay - Relating to the creation of freight rail districts.

HB 3047 by Veasey/Eltife - Relating to communication district or emergency communication district participation in state travel services contracts.

HB 3113 by Corte/Seliger - Relating to performance incentive awards for certain employees of state agencies who provide services to veterans.

HB 3147 by Turner - Relating to authorizing the Building and Procurement Commission to enter into more favorable lease with option to purchase agreements with regards to certain space currently occupied under lease with options to purchase.

HJR 54 by McClendon/Staples - Relating to creating the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund.

SB 15 by Janek/Nixon - Relating to civil claims involving exposure to asbestos and silica.

SB 39 by Zaffirini/Goolsby - Relating to continuing education in forensic evidence collection for certain physicians and nurses.

SB 50 by Nelson/Taylor - Relating to contracts between health care providers and certain health benefit plan issuers.

SB 51 by Nelson/Smithee - Relating to administration of certain health benefit plans.

SB 114 by Van de Putte/McClendon - Relating to the removal of a member of a junior college district board of trustees for failure to attend board meetings.

SB 148 by Wentworth/Swinford - Relating to the exception from required public disclosure of a photograph of a peace officer.

SB 155 by Shapiro/Eiland - Relating to the quality assurance accreditation process for certain entities that offer health benefit plans and the provisional credentialing process for health benefit plans.

SB 254 by Shapiro/Hill - Relating to the removal of certain restrictions imposed on the programs, enrollment, and admission policies of the University of Texas at Dallas.

SB 276 by Staples/Berman - Relating to authorizing the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at Tyler to offer courses and degree programs in allied health and related fields.

SB 433 by Wentworth/Casteel - Relating to the authorization of airport authorities and the issuance of bonds and exercise of eminent domain by the authorities.

SB 450 by Wentworth/Baxter - Relating to the confidentiality of certain personal information regarding the employees of a prosecutor's office or of an office with jurisdiction over child protective services.

SB 483 by Staples/Branch - Relating to allowing designated public school libraries to participate in group purchasing agreements with the TexaShare Library Consortium.

SB 522 by Armbrister/Eiland - Relating to the Emergency Services Retirement System.

SB 532 by Shapiro/Morrison - Relating to tuition and other charges and fees imposed by the governing board of a junior college district.

SB 554 by Duncan/Gattis - Relating to the liability of an ERISA-regulated employee benefit plan under certain state law.

SB 581 by Van de Putte/Corte - Relating to the powers and duties of the Veterans' Land Board.

SB 593 by Carona/Anchia - Relating to the governor's study of emerging technology and economic development.

SB 623 by Hinojosa/Pena - Relating to the authorized charges for providing a copy of public information requested under the public information law.

SB 651 by Harris/Geren - Relating to the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth Missing Persons DNA Database.

SB 690 by Zaffirini/Swinford - Relating to the requirement to post meetings of a governmental body under the open meetings law in certain circumstances. business day.

SB 815 by Lucio/Solis - Relating to the long-range plan for the South Texas Health Care System and the provision of tuberculosis and other health care services in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

SB 827 by Zaffirini/Guillen - Relating to systems for identifying colonias and for tracking the progress of state-funded projects that benefit colonias and the submission of a related report to the legislature.

SB 995 by Averitt/Anderson - Relating to donees of anatomical gifts.

SB 1002 by Madla/Delisi - Relating to creating a TexasOnline project concerning grant assistance provided by state agencies.

SB 1032 by Ellis, Rodney/Swinford - Relating to the elimination of certain alternatives fuels programs.

SB 1037 by Lucio/Oliveira - Relating to the tuition rates for Olympic athletes residing and training in Texas.

SB 1044 by Janek/Eiland - Relating to efforts to mitigate coastal erosion and improve public access to public beaches.

SB 1103 by Eltife/Hughes - Relating to the powers and duties of the General Land Office and the disposition of certain unsurveyed public school land.

SB 1133 by Hinojosa/Gonzales - Relating to posting notice online of the meetings of certain governmental bodies.

SB 1139 by Eltife/Frost - Relating to monitoring by the Building and Procurement Commission and the Legislative Budget Board of the transfer of surplus or salvage property by state agencies.

SB 1192 by Estes/Hilderbran - Relating to stamps for migratory and upland game bird hunting.

SB 1273 by Jackson, Mike/Geren - Relating to the establishment of the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program.

SB 1452 by Lucio/Oliveira - Relating to the Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science at The University of Texas at Brownsville.

SB 1605 by Ogden/Luna - Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts in the state treasury, the dedication and rededication of revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money from use for general governmental purposes.

SB 1668 by Estes/Baxter - Relating to the affiliates of public utilities and regulation of electric utilities with regard to payments to affiliates and unbundling requirements.

Bills of Interest Not Passing

HB 1 by Pitts - Relating to the General Appropriations Bill.

Last Action: 1-27-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2 by Grusendorf, Shapiro - Relating to public education and public school finance matters

Last Action: 5-21-05 S Meeting set for 11:00 A.M., E2.036

HB 3 by Keffer, Ogden - Relating to property tax relief and protection of taxpayers, taxes and fees, and other matters relating to the financing of public schools.

Last Action: 5-26-05 S Meeting set for 2:00 p.m., E1.030

HB 5 by Krusee - Relating to the rate of the state gasoline and diesel fuel taxes.

Last Action: 4-14-05 H Recommitted to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 6 by Hupp - Relating to protective services.

Last Action: 4- 5-05 H Committee action pending House Human Services

HB 8 by Nixon - Relating to civil claims involving exposure to asbestos and silica.

Last Action: 3-16-05 H Committee action pending House Civil Practices

HB 19 by Brown - Relating to tuition and fee rebates for timely completion of degree programs offered by general academic teaching institutions.

Last Action: 3-29-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 20 by Brown - Relating to a pilot program to provide for reduced undergraduate tuition during a summer term or session at Texas A&M University.

Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 37 by Eissler - Relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to a general academic teaching institution that is a component institution of a university system.

Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 40 by Eissler - Relating to tuition assistance granted to certain members of state military forces attending public or private institutions of higher education.

Last Action: 1-27-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 45 by Grusendorf - Relating to notaries public.

Last Action: 1-27-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 54 by Branch - Relating to requiring a record vote by each house of the legislature on final passage of a bill and to public notice of the record vote.

Last Action: 3- 7-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 64 by McClendon - Relating to the automatic admission to public institutions of higher education of certain undergraduate transfer students.

Last Action: 5-16-05 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

HB 90 by Rodriguez - Relating to state taxes and financing schools through those taxes.

Last Action: 1-31-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 109 by Wong - Relating to the actuarial analysis and other information required for statutory changes to certain public retirement systems.

Last Action: 3-31-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 113 by Wong - Relating to reporting of personal financial information by officers of certain school districts, junior college districts, and certain municipal retirement systems.

Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Committee action pending House Elections

HB 123 by Naishtat - Relating to a feasibility study regarding required forensic medical examination instruction for students enrolled in certain medical or nursing degree programs.

Last Action: 3- 7-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 130 by Smith - Relating to undergraduate course credit granted by certain public institutions of higher education for completion of the international baccalaureate diploma program.

Last Action: 4- 4-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 138 by Hopson - Relating to the amount of hazardous duty pay for certain state employees.

Last Action: 1-31-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 143 by Farrar - Relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Business and Industry

HB 153 by Brown - Relating to certain requirements for construction contracts with governmental entities.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 154 by Brown - Relating to requiring institutions of higher education to report potential savings through contracting with local governments.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 180 by Escobar - Relating to appropriations to the Texas A&M University System and to Texas A&M University--Kingsville in connection with the Irma Rangel School of Pharmacy.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 212 by Guillen - Relating to health care practitioner information provided to a health care facility.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 223 by Gattis - Relating to a requestor's right of access to investment information.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 235 by Van Arsdale - Relating to the computation of certain benefits under the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 241 by Goolsby - Relating to professional liability insurance for certain retired physicians acting as volunteer health care providers.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

HB 242 by Goolsby - Relating to medical liability insurance for certain retired physicians acting as volunteer health care providers.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

HB 257 by Pena - Relating to exempting textbooks for university and college courses from the sales tax.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 279 by Pickett - Relating to compensatory time off for certain state employees.
Last Action: 2- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Law Enforcement

HB 292 by McClendon - Relating to the creation of a donor education, awareness, and registry program and the establishment of an organ donor and tissue council.
Last Action: 1- 5-05 H Filed

HB 295 by McClendon, Van de Putte - Relating to the removal of a member of a junior college district board of trustees for failure to attend board meetings.
Last Action: 5-20-05 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

HB 298 by McClendon - Relating to forensic evidence training for students enrolled in certain medical or nursing degree programs.
Last Action: 2- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 299 by McClendon - Relating to the right of an employee to time off from work to participate in certain activities of the employee's child.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 303 by McClendon - Relating to electronically monitoring certain veterans' and dependents tuition exemption.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 101

Hb 305 by McReynolds - Relating to the prohibition against members of a governmental body meeting in numbers less than a quorum.
Last Action: 3- 7-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 310 by McReynolds - Relating to faculty compensation policies at institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 314 by Dukes - Relating to the performance of a private commercial contractor that provides a service of a state agency.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 320 by Hupp - Relating to the student enrollment required for the operation of Texas A&M University--Central Texas as an independent general teaching institution.
Last Action: 2- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 321 by Hupp - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University--Central Texas.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 325 by Goolsby - Relating to duties of a landowner with respect to certain equine activities on the owner's land.
Last Action: 3-24-05 H Committee action pending House Civil Practices

HB 327 by Goolsby - Relating to the identification information required of applicants for a driver's license or for certain public benefits, public services, or governmental employment.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Law Enforcement

HB 328 by Dukes - Relating to promoting the importance of higher education in public schools.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

HB 329 by Raymond - Relating to civil actions against persons who file complaints with governmental agencies.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Not heard in committee House Civil Practices

HB 334 by Burnam - Relating to the minimum working wage.
Last Action: 2- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic Development

HB 337 by Smithee - Relating to a landowner's liability for injuries incurred during certain recreational activities.
Last Action: 3-24-05 H Sent to subcommittee House Civil Practices

HB 346 by Escobar – Relating to the amounts to be appropriated for the state contribution to the teacher retirement program for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 376 by Coleman – Relating to a prohibition of discrimination by public educational institutions.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 387 by Geren – Relating to prohibiting the Commission on Environmental Quality from amending, interpreting, impairing, or modifying a written contract for the wholesale provision of water.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Natural Resources

HB 390 by Smith – Relating to an exemption from the sales and use tax for food sold during certain athletic events.
Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Not heard in committee House Ways and Means

HB 397 by Bonnen – Relating to providing for a student who qualifies for automatic admission to an institution of higher education to maintain that status for transferring between institutions in certain circumstances.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 406 by Villarreal – Relating to teacher certification in early childhood education.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 411 by McLendon – Relating to the transmission of certain health information to a site outside the United States.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 426 by Dutton – Relating to the right of an employee to time off from work to participate in certain school activities of the employee's child.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 430 by Dutton – Relating to the right of an employee to time off from work to meet with certain persons affecting the education of the employee's child.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 457 by Dutton – Relating to access to certain law enforcement and prosecutorial records under the public information law.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 464 by Dutton – Relating to governmental liability.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Not heard in committee House Civil Practices

HB 485 by Chavez – Relating to restrictions on the use of state funds to provide jobs for foreign workers.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Border and International Affairs

HB 487 by Chavez – Relating to the regulation of time, place, and manner of speech at a public institution of higher education.
Last Action: 4-29-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

HB 490 by Deshotel – Relating to the enforcement of certain provisions in construction contracts.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Not heard in committee House Civil Practices

HB 530 by Howard – Relating to prohibiting discrimination in awarding state scholarships or other financial aid for higher education based on a person's high school attendance or achievement.
Last Action: 5- 1-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Higher Education

HB 547 by Bailey – Relating to minimum personal leave for faculty members at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2- 7-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 566 by Brown – Relating to eligibility for group benefits coverage for certain government employees and retirees.
Last Action: 2- 7-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 568 by Campbell – Relating to a project authorized to be undertaken by certain development corporations.
Last Action: 4-22-05 H Withdrawn from the House Calendar

HB 577 by Truitt – Relating to the use of the term "meteorologist".
Last Action: 3- 2-05 H Sent to subcommittee Licensing and Administrative Procedures

HB 589 by Brown – Relating to prohibiting state agencies from collecting or storing racial information.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Reform

HB 591 by Brown – Relating to the privatization of waste removal service operations at certain public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 605 by Berman – Relating to authorizing the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler to offer courses and degree programs in allied health and related fields.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 606 by Berman – Relating to authorizing the University of Texas at Tyler to offer doctoral degree programs in nursing and human resources development.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 609 by Giddings – Relating to tuition rebate incentives for person who complete certain degree and certificate programs without excessive credit hours.
Last Action: 5-17-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

HB 613 by Castro – Relating to a survey to monitor the postsecondary education plans of seniors at public at public high schools.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 626 by Oliveira – Relating to the imposition, administration, enforcement, and collection of a state property tax for general elementary and secondary public school purposes.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 634 by Baxter - Relating to requiring public officials to receive training in the requirements of the open meetings and public information laws.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 286

HB 656 by Goolsby - Relating to the eligibility of a high school graduate for automatic admission to an institution of higher education.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 661 by Bohac - Relating to allowing designated public school libraries to participate in group purchasing agreements with the TexasShare Library Consortium.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Government Organization

HB 684 by Giddings - Relating to the establishment of a school of pharmacy at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Fort Worth.
Last Action: 2-21-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 712 by Eissler - Relating to coverage for certain mental disorders in children under a health coverage plan established by the Teacher Retirement System under the School Employees Uniform Group Health Coverage Act.
Last Action: 5- 7-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Insurance

HB 730 by Nixon - Relating to training for members of the governing boards of public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 750 by Wooley - Relating to admission to certain public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 789 by King, Fraser - Relating to telecommunications.
Last Action: 5-27-05 S Senate appointed conference committee
Fraser, Nelson, Averitt, Estes and Van de Putte

HB 797 by Krusee - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas State University--San Marcos for the Round Rock Higher Education Center in Williamson County.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 800 by Uresti - Relating to protective services.
Last Action: 2-23-05 H Committee action pending House Human Services

HB 815 by Burnam - Relating to a prohibition on the investment of state funds in private business entities doing business in Sudan.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 816 by Burnam - Relating to the minimum wage.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 817 by Davis - Relating to restrictions on the use of state funds to benefit private entities that outsource jobs to foreign counties.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 827 by Branch - Relating to the designation of research centers to evaluate state or federally funded education programs and the sharing of student data.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

HB 863 by Kolkhorst - Relating to procedures adopted by a state entity to ensure an employment preference for veterans.
Last Action: 5-12-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 864 by King - Relating to the regulation of the cloning of human beings.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 876 by Burnam - Relating to the use in food of genetically engineered non-food materials.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Committee action pending House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 896 by Farabee - Relating to the require rights and liabilities of an employer with respect to the carrying of a concealed handgun.
Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Law Enforcement

HB 903 by Castro - Relating to notice to certain public school high school seniors and their parents or guardians of automatic college admission.
Last Action: 2-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 906 by Strama - Relating to the making, authorization, and acceptance of political contributions in certain state buildings.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Elections

HB 931 by Geren - Relating to stamps for migratory and upland game bird hunting.
Last Action: 2-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Cultural & Recreational Resources

HB 933 by Taylor, Eltife - Relating to certain insurance for officers of state agencies.
Last Action: 5-20-05 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

HB 946 by Miller - Relating to the removal, relocation, or alteration of certain monuments or memorials on state property.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Committee on Administration

HB 948 by Miller - Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Tarleton State University.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 953 by Chavez - Relating to the regulation of and contracts with certain telephone call centers.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Business and Industry

HB 954 by Chavez - Relating to the collection and reporting of employment information regarding beneficiaries of certain health care services.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Meeting set for 8:00 A.M., E1.026, House Human Services

HB 974 by Madden - Relating to resolution of disputes arising under certain construction contracts.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Civil Practices

HB 978 by Eiland - Relating to the quality assurance accreditation process for certain entities that health benefit plans.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Insurance

HB 981 by Van Arsdale - Relating to the ability of state-supported college or university football teams to participate in post-regular-season competition.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 992 by Martinez - Relating to nursing degree requirements for a licensed paramedic.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 1010 by Corte - Relating to the eligibility of children of certain military personnel to receive Texas B-On-time loans.
Last Action: 3- 3-05 H Committee action pending Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

HB 1019 by Coleman - Relating to the rates of tuition charged to students of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1020 by Hamilton - Relating to the regulation of certain fire protection sprinkler system journeymen and apprentices.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 1026 by Nixon - Relating to the resolution of certain contract claims against the state.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 1027 by Alonzo - Relating to a program to assist certain persons to become certified to teach in bilingual education programs and to teach in public schools with a shortage of certified bilingual education teachers.
Last Action: 2-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 1031 by Taylor - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1039 by Keel - Relating to an exemption from tuition and fees at institutions of higher education for peace officers and police cadets enrolled in certain law enforcement programs.
Last Action: 2-21-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1046 by Branch - Relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1057 by Corte - Relating to Texas Building and Procurement Commission requirements for certain purchases by the Veteran's Land Board.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 581

HB 1060 by Naishtat - Relating to exempting certain persons in transitional living programs from the payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1067 by Hegar - Relating to banning air guns, conducted energy weapons, facsimile firearms, and stun guns from certain premises.
Last Action: 2-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 1069 by Solis - Relating to liability of a governmental unit for a claim arising from roadway lighting conditions.
Last Action: 2-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Civil Practices

HB 1101 by Miller - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the Tarleton State University Dairy Center.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1113 by Goolsby - Relating to the eligibility of a high school graduate for automatic admission to an institution of higher education.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Committee action pending House Public Education

HB 1125 by Uresti - Relating to the duration of judgment liens in favor of the state.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 1146 by Chisum, Averitt - Relating to contingent payment clauses in certain construction contracts.
Last Action: 5-23-05 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

HB 1171 by Brown - Relating to protecting and employees at an institution of higher education from threatened acts of violence.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1184 by Herrero - Relating to a policy regulating the use of textbooks in certain courses offered by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 1206 by Thompson - Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination in applications for employment and employment interviews.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 1214 by Morrison - Relating to tuition for a student registered in a public junior college.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

HB 1217 by Eiland - Relating to enforcement of certain insurance provisions in construction contracts.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Insurance

HB 1223 by Puente - Relating to performance standards for toilets sold in this state.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Natural Resources

HB 1226 by Puente - Relating to water conservation.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 1228 by Delisi - Relating to persons who are authorized to conduct a marriage ceremony.
Last Action: 4-20-05 H Committee action pending House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues

HB 1250 by Luna - Relating to the Texas Coastal Ocean Observation Network.
Last Action: 3- 3-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 1265 by Howard - Relating to restrictions on the issuance of public securities.
Last Action: 2-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 1278 by Hope - Relating to academic advisors at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1281 by Isett - Relating to the creation of spot-incentive awards for certain state employees.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 1284 by Swinford - Relating to the exception from required public disclosure of a photograph of a peace officer.
Last Action: 4-20-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 148

HB 1291 by Hilderbran - Relating to authorizing the issuance of not more than \$10 million in revenue bonds for the purchase and retirement of certain commercial fishing, shrimping, and crabbing licenses.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Committee action pending House State Cultural & Recreational Resources

HB 1295 by Rose - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas State University--San Marcos for the construction of a fine arts and communications center.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1296 by Rose - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas State University--San Marcos for the construction of an undergraduate academic center.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1297 by Rose - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas State University--San Marcos for infrastructure repairs and improvements.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1311 by Puente - Relating to requiring a course in multicultural or gender studies in baccalaureate degree programs at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1313 by Chisum - Relating to establishment of a defined contribution health care benefits program for certain active state employees that is operated through the establishment of health reimbursement arrangements.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Insurance

HB 1327 by Isett - Relating to the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of state appropriations and the constitutional creation of three special funds to replace the economic stabilization fund.
Last Action: 2-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 1333 by McReynolds - Relating to the provision of state death benefits to certain employees of the Forest Service.
Last Action: 4-28-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Appropriations

HB 1336 by Isett - Relating to the regulation of pharmacy benefit managers.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Public Health

HB 1348 by Eiland - Relating to political contributions and expenditures.
Last Action: 4-28-05 H Laid out for discussion

HB 1359 by Naishtat - Relating to the establishment of a program for the disposition of electronic equipment in a manner that protects the water and other natural resources of the state.
Last Action: 2-22-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Regulation

HB 1385 by Hartnett - Relating to a governmental unit's liability for attorney's fees and costs in a declaratory judgment proceeding.
Last Action: 3-30-05 H Committee action pending House Civil Practices

HB 1397 by Kuempel - Relating to the exclusion of sand and gravel as a mineral for leasing on state land.
Last Action: 2-24-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Land and Resource Management

HB 1400 by Dutton - Relating to discovery procedures for a claim against a governmental entity under the Texas Tort Claims Act.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Not heard in committee House Civil Practices

HB 1407 by McReynolds - Relating to an exemption from tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education for children of certain employees of the Forest Services with fire-fighting, rescue, or other special duties who are killed or disabled in the line of
Last Action: 4-25-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1412 by Haggerty, Shapleigh - Relating to the recreational facility fee at the University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 5-23-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Education

HB 1419 by Blake - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Stephen F. Austin State University.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1420 by Phillips - Relating to the release of certain information by the Teacher Retirement System to associations of retired school employees.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 1427 by McClendon - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Southern University for campus facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1430 by McCall - Relating to the installation, copying, or use of computer software for unauthorized purposes.
Last Action: 4-29-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Criminal Justice

HB 1431 by Frost - Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for A&M University-Texarkana.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1443 by Dutton - Relating to exempting certain general academic teaching institutions from the requirement that certain high school graduates be granted automatic admission
Last Action: 2-24-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 1445 by Madden - Relating to the creation and operation of a state virtual school network to provide education through electronic means to public school students.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 1450 by Farabee - Relating to the creation of the TexasNextStep program.
Last Action: 2-24-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1451 by Farabee - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for utility infrastructure and campus renovations at Midwestern State University.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1459 by Leibowitz - Relating to requiring energy-saving devices for vending machines in buildings owned or leased by this state.
Last Action: 4- 6-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Government Reform

HB 1463 by Flores - Relating to the payment of monthly benefits to certain retirees of the Teacher Retirement System who return to work.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 1482 by Van Arsdale - Relating to reports regarding the use of race, color, ethnicity, or national origin by public institutions of higher education in admissions.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1491 by Flynn - Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Commerce.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1500 by J. Moreno - Relating to the creation of an offense involving certain sales of tickets to events.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 1504 by Smithee - Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for West Texas A&M University.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1512 by Merritt - Relating to a requirement that the Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin conduct a study of the East Texas Oil Field.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Energy Resources

HB 1515 by Villarreal - Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 1521 by Goolsby - Relating to the creation of the TexasNextStep grant program.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1523 by Guillen - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas-Pan American South Texas College Multi-Institution Teaching Center.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1524 by Crownover - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1525 by Crownover - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Woman's University.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1526 by Rodriguez - Relating to the prohibition of employment discrimination by state agencies on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 1527 by Rodriguez - Relating to a breach security of a data system that includes another person's identifying information.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 1536 by Wong - Relating to prohibiting derogatory names or designations for public property.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 1537 by Wong - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas M.N. Anderson Cancer Center facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1541 by Flynn - Relating to authorizing certain uses for student center complex fees charged to students enrolled in component institutions of the Texas A&M University System.
Last Action: 2-28-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 1579 by Kolkhorst, Duncan - Relating to eligibility for benefits of and reports concerning certain retired members of the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 5-25-05 S Failed to suspend rules to consider

HB 1594 by McClendon - Relating to the composition of the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System.
Last Action: 4-20-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 1607 by McCall - Relating to a request for public information that is sent to a governmental body by electronic mail.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 1618 by Ritter - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Lamar University.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1621 by Alonzo – Relating to a study and report concerning predicted faculty retirement at general academic teaching institutions.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 1624 by Goolsby – Relating to the establishment of a law school in the City of Dallas by the University of North Texas System.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1626 by McReynolds, West – Relating to the third-party civil liability for certain persons entering into building or construction contracts.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 H Rereferred to Committee on House Civil Practices

HB 1633 by Grusendorf – Relating to continuation and functions of the State Board for Educator Certification.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Public Education

HB 1638 by Rodriguez – Relating to creation and operating of a pilot program under which benefits for a compensable injury sustained by an employee are provided through a qualified accident and health insurance policy and endorsements to that policy.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 1654 by McCall – Relating to the cost of certain coverage provided by certain group benefits programs and uniform insurance benefits programs and to eligibility to participate in certain group benefits programs.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

HB 1667 by Hopson – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1682 by McCall – Relating to a breach in the security of a computerized data system that included another person's identifying information.
Last Action: 5-12-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Business and Commerce

HB 1684 by Casteel – Relating to excepting certain real property appraisal information from required disclosure under the public information law.
Last Action: 4-26-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 1693 by Naishtat – Relating to an energy-efficient building program. 3-16-05 H Committee action pending House Regulated Industries

HB 1694 by Hegar – Relating to authorizing the state auditor to appoint investigators as peace officers Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Law Enforcement

HB 1712 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1713 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1725 by Casteel – Relating to the authority of another institution of higher education to conduct vocational or technical courses in the service area of a junior college district.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 1732 by Solis - Relating to the long-range plan for the South Texas Health Care System and the provision of tuberculosis and other health care services in the Rio Grande Valley.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 1736 by Brown - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the College of Medicine of the A&M University System Health Science Center.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1742 by Seaman - Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1748 by Giddings – Relating to African American studies programs and course work at certain public junior colleges.
Last Action: 5-17-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

HB 1750 by Pena – Relating to the right of certain employees who are crime victims to time off from work.
Last Action: 4- 5-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 1755 by Herrero – Relating to the transferability of service credit and proportionate participation in public retirement systems.
Last Action: 3-11-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 1777 by King – Relating to the regulation of the electric power market.
Last Action: 5-17-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Business and Commerce

HB 1784 by Coleman – Relating to health benefit plan coverage for an enrollee with certain mental disorders.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Insurance

HB 1795 by Crownover – Relating to the creation of health savings accounts for certain state employees and their dependents.
Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

HB 1797 by Geren – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth for campus expansion and construction of a public health education building.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1806 by Campbell – Relating to prohibiting a person from requiring an individual to provide a social security number to obtain goods or services or enter into a business transaction.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 H Committee action pending House Business and Industry

HB 1825 by West – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1827 by Wong – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 1837 by Berman – Relating to tuition assistance for members of state military forces.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

HB 1843 by Dukes – Relating to grievance and complaint resolution procedures for certain state employees.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Corrections

HB 1848 by McReynolds – Relating to classification of certain employees of the Forest Service as fire protection personnel.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 1850 by Veasey – Relating to the exemption of certain projects from rules relating to asbestos abatement.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 1914 by Olivo – Relating to longevity pay for certain campus peace officers employed by a state institution of higher education or public technical institute.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Law Enforcement

HB 1929 by Wooley – Relating to the use of certain human cells and tissue.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 1941 by Nixon – Relating to group health benefit plan coverage for an enrollee with certain mental disorders.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Subcommittee meeting set for On Adj., E2.026, House Insurance

HB 1952 by Goodman – Relating to providing that an individual's social security number is generally considered to be confidential under the public information law.
Last Action: 5-13-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 1960 by McReynolds – Relating to retirement benefits for law enforcement officers employed and commissioned by certain institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 1966 by Turner – Relating to the establishment of an interagency task force to address the impact of globalization on this state.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Border and International Affairs

HB 1968 by Rose – Relating to student representation on the board of regents of each state university or state university system.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 1975 by Gallego – Relating to eligibility for participation in the group benefits program established under the Employees Group Benefits Act.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

HB 1979 by Turner – Relating to the fee paid to the attorney general for examining the record of proceedings authorizing the issuance of a public security or related credit agreement.
Last Action: 4- 5-05 H Not heard in committee House Business and Industry

HB 2001 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2002 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2003 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2004 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the College of Medicine of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2007 by Flores – Relating to a tuition and fee exemption for students earning semester credit hours through concurrent enrollment in high school and college-level courses.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 2020 by West – Relating to the transfer of the state energy conservation office to the Railroad Commission.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Energy Resources

HB 2034 by Dutton – Relating to an exemption from or refund of tuition and fees for certain lower-division students enrolled in a general academic teaching institution.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2038 by Allen – Relating to the establishment and operation of state regulated video lottery terminals at licensed Texas racetracks to enhance the Texas Racehorse and Greyhound racing.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 2041 by Campbell – Relating to a Pilot Project to provide additional capacity for higher education undergraduate education.
Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

HB 2043 by Miller – Relating to the creation of a state pharmacy assistance program for certain beneficiaries of state and local funded programs.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 2056 by Coleman – Relating to the provision of voter registration applications to graduating high school students and incoming college students.
Last Action: 4-27-05 H Committee action pending House Elections

HB 2070 by Rose – Relating to liability of a governmental unit for certain recreational activities.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 1224

HB 2078 by McClendon – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Southern University for campus facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2081 by Paxton – Relating to prohibiting the use of state money for research involving the destruction of human embryos.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 2084 by Chisum – Relating to the ownership of groundwater and governmental actions affecting the rights of owners of groundwater.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House Natural Resources

HB 2091 by Oliveira – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Brownsville.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2105 by Branch – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2115 by McClendon – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Prairie View A&M University.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2116 by McClendon – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for the Texas A&M University--San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2118 by McClendon – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for the Baylor College of Dentistry of the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2119 by McClendon – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Prairie View A&M University.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2122 by Naishtat – Relating to certain unlawful employment practices.
Last Action: 4-29-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Economic Development

HB 2141 by Pickett – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2144 by Berman – Relating to veteran's employment preferences.
Last Action: 5-17-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 2145 by Hupp, Deuell – Relating to prohibiting changes in certain prescription drug orders without the approval of the prescribing health care practitioners.
Last Action: 5-29-05 H Set on the House Items Eligible Calendar

HB 2146 by Hupp – Relating to the operation of mail order prescription plans for certain public employees and retirees.
Last Action: 3-30-05 H Committee action pending House Public Health

HB 2147 by Hupp – Relating to required patient counseling regarding mail order prescription plans for certain public employees and retirees
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Public Health

HB 2148 by Hupp – Relating to audit practices of pharmacy benefit plans.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Committee action pending House Public Health

HB 2156 by Smithee – Relating to the operation and regulation of certain consolidated insurance programs.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Committee action pending House Insurance

HB 2160 by West – Relating to the Energy Education Council.
Last Action: 4-20-05 H Committee action pending House Energy Resources

HB 2162 by Branch, Shapiro – Relating to hospital and clinic fees collected by certain public medical schools.
Last Action: 5-25-05 S Withdrawn from the Local Calendar

HB 2167 by Goolsby – Relating to organ donation.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 2169 by Rodriguez – Relating to ethics requirements for state agency purchasing personnel.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2184 by Olivera – Relating to the Academy of Mathematics and Science at the University of Texas at Brownsville.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2185 by Olivera – relating to tuition rates for Olympic athletes residing and training in Texas.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2189 by Deshotel – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Lamar Institute of Technology.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2190 by Deshotel – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Lamar State College-Port Arthur.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2191 by Wong – Relating to providing that the social security number of a living person is excepted from required disclosure under the public information law.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

HB 2192 by Hamilton – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Lamar State College-Orange.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2203 by Hughes – Relating to the powers and duties of the General Land Office and the disposition of certain unsurveyed public school land.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 1103

HB 2204 by Harper, Brown – Relating to the sale of public educational facilities to real estate investment trusts.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 2212 by Quintanilla, Shapleigh – Relating to the student union fees charged at the University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 5-23-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Education

HB 2224 by Isett – Relating to consumer access to health care information and consumer protection for services provided by or through hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.
Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Subcommittee meeting set for On Adj., E2.028, House Insurance

HB 2233 by Keffer, Duncan – Relating to fiscal matters.
Last Action: 5-29-05 H Point of order sustained under Rule 8, Sec.3, in that the conference committee report violates the one-subject rule.

HB 2246 by Hegar – Relating to the amount of damages offered to a real property owner by an entity exercising the power of eminent domain.
Last Action: 3-31-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 2247 by Isett – Relating to state contracts management, including the training of personnel, the negotiation of contracts, and the standardization of practices.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 2248 by Isett – Relating to salary increases, equity adjustments, and merit payments for certain state employees.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2252 by Rose – Relating to state purchases from foreign corporations.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2264 by Baxter – Relating to the charges for certain public information maintained by a governmental body.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 2269 by Wooley – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds by the University of Texas System for an adult stem cell research center at the Texas Medical Center.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2270 by Riddle – Relating to the notification of person affected by a construction project.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 2276 by Pitts – Relating to directing payment, after approval, or certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2288 by King – Relating to the award of graduate, postgraduate, or professional degree program course credit by public institutions of higher education to certain school district employees.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2291 by Coleman – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Southern University for campus facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2308 by Goodman – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Arlington and its engineering facilities.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2314 by Miller – Relating to increases in the recreational sports fee at component institutions of Texas A&M University System.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 2315 by Miller – Relating to increases in the student center complex fee at component institutions of the Texas A&M University System.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 2329 by Morrison, Ogden – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for institutions in the University of Houston System.
Last Action: 5-29-05 H Set on the House Items Eligible Calendar

HB 2330 by Morrison – Relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to general academic teaching institutions.
Last Action: 5-24-05 S Meeting set for 9:30 A.M., Shapiro's Desk, Senate Education

HB 2332 by Morrison – Relating to the tuition rebate program for certain undergraduates at certain public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 2367 by Gallego – Relating to a strategy to ensure that public institutions of higher education employ faculty and staff who reflect the population of Texas.
Last Action: 4-25-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2372 by King – Relating to a college entrance examination preparation pilot program.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 2375 by McClendon – Relating to the issuance of bonds or other obligations by certain junior college districts.
Last Action: 4-25-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2383 by Pickett – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2395 by Solis – Relating to distribution of money from the Texas Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 2411 by Bonnen – Relating to emissions reductions obtained through certain energy efficiency initiatives.
Last Action: 3-22-05 H Committee action pending House Environmental Regulation

HB 2415 by Chisum – Relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce appropriations to those agencies.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2416 by Chisum – Relating to statutory authority to reduce appropriations made by the legislature to certain governmental entities.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2417 by Chisum – Relating to statutory authority for the legislature to make or reduce appropriations to certain governmental entities.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2442 by Leibowitz – Relating to power management software for state agencies.
Last Action: 5- 6-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Government Reform

HB 2467 by Swinford – Relating to the elimination of certain alternative fuels programs.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Energy Resources

HB 2469 by Thompson – Relating to research using human cells and tissues.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 2479 by Delisi – Relating to health and human services.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 2488 by Brown – Relating to the sale of instructional materials and other merchandise to students of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2500 by Uresti – Relating to the authority of certain state agencies to purchase prescription drugs and other medication jointly with other states.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Health

HB 2501 by Uresti – Relating to permitting certain military personnel entitled to receive tuition and fee exemptions to transfer the exemption to a child.
Last Action: 5- 7-05 H Reported from committee as substituted Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

HB 2512 by Kolkhorst – Relating to the statutory authority to reduce appropriations made by the legislature to certain governmental educational entities.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2519 by Coleman – Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination in applicants for employment and employment interviews.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Business and Industry

HB 2522 by Coleman – Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2523 by Coleman – Relating to retirement benefits for law enforcement officers employed and commissioned by institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Law Enforcement

HB 2525 by Callegari, Lindsay – Relating to contracts by governmental entities for construction projects and related professional services.
Last Action: 6-17-05 G Vetoed by the Governor

HB 2529 by Chavez – Relating to a higher education border work group created to address and recommend policies regarding border communities and international trade.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Border and International Affairs

HB 2543 by Hamric – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Dental Branch at Houston at the University of Health Science Center at Houston.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2547 by Goolsby – Relating to the required public notice of the name of each finalist for the position of chief executive officer of an institution of higher education.
Last Action: 3-15-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2554 by Kuempel – Relating to the exclusion of certain materials from a reservation of minerals to the state.
Last Action: 3-31-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 2557 by Kuempel – Relating to the privacy of public employees under the Public Information Act.
Last Action: 5- 7-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 2566 by Eiland – Relating to the Emergency Services Retirement System.
Last Action: 3-23-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2567 by Eiland – Relating to requiring public retirement systems periodically to submit an asset and liability study to the Pension Review Board.
Last Action: 4-20-05 H Meeting cancelled for 04/21/05, House Pensions and Investments

HB 2568 by Eiland – Relating to certain retired school employees and the powers and duties of the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 5-11-05 H Recommitted to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 2582 by Gallego – Relating to the authorizing and issuance of revenue bonds for Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2583 by Turner – Relating to financial transaction awareness plans to be adopted by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2598 by Guillen – Relating to regulation the use and disclosure of social security numbers by state agencies and institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2608 by Guillen – Relating to the amount of a service retirement annuity for certain members of the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 4-27-05 H Meeting cancelled for 04/28/05, House Pensions and Investments

HB 2609 by Guillen – Relating to the installment payment of tuition and fees charged by a public junior college for a summer term.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2617 by Eiland – Relating to systems and programs administered
Last Action: 4-28-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2631 by Hill – Relating to the removal or certain restrictions imposed on the programs, enrollment, and admission policies of the University of Texas at Dallas.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2649 by Ritter – Relating to the award of a grant and reporting requirement under the Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic Development

HB 2656 by Krusee – Relating to the state aviation facilities.
Last Action: 5-25-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

HB 2673 by Turner – Relating to the creation of an alternative procurement procedure for architectural, engineering, or land surveying services by certain governmental entities.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 2674 by Hupp – Relating to prescription drug insurance benefits provided through or by the Employees Retirement System.
Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Subcommittee meeting set for On Adj., E2.028, House Insurance

HB 2687 by Gallego – Relating to the rates of tuition charged to students of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2688 by Gallego – Relating to a limitation on increases in the total amount of tuition and compulsory fees charged by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2690 by Gallego – Relating to the applicability of across-the-board salary increases to employees of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2691 by Gallego – Relating to benefits for certain members of the Texas National Guard.
Last Action: 3-31-05 H Committee action pending Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

HB 2697 by Phillips – Relating to the preservation of Texas historical resources and historical government records.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 2698 by Swinford – Relating to the use of state data centers by state agencies and institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call

HB 2699 by Swinford – Relating to the Department of Information Resources.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 2708 by Naishtat – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Austin.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 2709 by Hamric – Relating to the issuance of special license plates to benefit the Higher Education Coordinating Board.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 2713 by Bailey – Relating to the provision of a preference in certain state construction contracts for contractors that provide health benefit employees.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 2717 by Swinford – Relating to the governor's study of emerging technology and economic development.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 2736 by Guillen – Relating to the minimum wage.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic Development

HB 2740 by Guillen – Relating to a pay raise for state employees.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2741 by Guillen – Relating to restrictions on the state's contracting and purchasing authority with respect to persons who promote foreign employment.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Reform

HB 2752 by Keffer – Relating to the reapportionment of congressional districts.
Last Action: 4-13-05 H Sent to subcommittee House Redistricting

HB 2757 by McReynolds – Relating to enhanced retirement benefits for certain members of the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2768 by Talton – Relating to the transfer of the Chiropractic College to the University of Houston System.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2773 by Isett – Relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce appropriation to those agencies.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2775 by Isett – Relating to the elimination of certain reports to or prepared by the Legislative Budget Board.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2780 by Rodriguez – Relating to tuition and fee benefits for graduate students employed as teaching assistants, assistant instructors, or research assistants at public institutions of higher education and for certain family members of those students.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2781 by Rodriguez – Relating to an exception for certain employees from the application of the employment-at-will doctrine.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 2782 by Rodriguez – Relating to requirements regarding termination of employment.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic Development

HB 2794 by Corte – Relating to Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Regulated Industries

HB 2801 by Smith – Relating to audits of state agency expenditures to recover overpayments and lost discounts.
Last Action: 5-13-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Finance

HB 2803 by Morrison – Relating to the sale of facilities of public institutions of higher education to real estate investment trusts.
Last Action: 5- 5-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

HB 2804 by Morrison – Relating to a study of the reporting requirements imposed on public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2805 by Morrison – Relating to an early college education program to provide at-risk and other students accelerated high school graduation and college credit.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 2807 by Morrison – Relating to vouchers for tuition and required fees at certain institutions of higher education for students who sound "Taps" at a veteran's funeral.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

HB 2830 by Vo –Relating to regulating the use and disclosure of social security numbers by school districts and institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2833 by Cook, Staples – Relating to regulatory takings of private real property.
Last Action: 5-26-05 S Withdrawn

HB 2855 by Uresti – Relating to the Building and Procurement Commission's contracts with travel agencies.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 2857 by Uresti – Relating to increasing certain new construction energy efficiency standards and reducing the consumption of natural gas.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Regulation

HB 2860 by Uresti – Relating to the creation and implementation of performance measures for the purpose of evaluation state agencies.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Government Reform

HB 2869 by Frabee – Relating to the Redistricting Commission.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Redistricting

HB 2884 by Luna – Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts in the state treasury.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 2925 by Elkins – Relating to the purchase and use of cross-platform software by state agencies.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2933 by Delisi – Relating to standards of conduct for and conflicts of interest of state officers and employees.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 2938 by Hilderbran – Relating to the designation and duties of the state historian.
Last Action: 5- 5-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Cultural & Recreational Resources

HB 2940 by Hilderbran, Estes – Relating to stamps for migratory and upland game bird hunting.
Last Action: 5-27-05 H Set on the House Items Eligible Calendar

HB 2945 by Eiland – Relating to participation in the optional retirement program by certain employees of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 2946 by Eiland – Relating to efforts by coastal counties to mitigate coastal erosion and improve public access to public beaches.
Last Action: 4- 7-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 2948 by Swinford – Relating to human cloning and the protection of certain research.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2970 by Eissler – Relating to certain health coverage under the Employees Group Benefits Act.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 2973 by Hegar – Relating to eligibility for benefit replacement pay.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 2974 by Hegar – Relating to membership in the Employees Retirement System.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2975 by Hegar – Relating to the waiting period for eligibility for membership in the Teacher Retirement System.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2976 by Hegar – Relating to the benefits and compensation of retired state employees who return to state employment.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 2978 by Goolsby – Relating to the procedures required for a governmental entity to perform construction-related work on facilities under the construction manager-agent method.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Urban Affairs

HB 2989 by Nixon – Relating to the applicability of limitations provisions for governmental entities.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Failed to pass to third reading (Vote: N: 94/Y: 40)

HB 2990 by Nixon – Relating to the immunity of certain governmental entities from suits arising under certain contracts.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Civil Practices

HB 3000 by Morrison – Relating to the TEXAS grant and Texas B-On-time loan financial assistance programs for students in higher education.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3005 by Zedler – Relating to providing incentives to recruit and retain professional nursing program facility.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 3008 by Pickett – Relating to the amount of longevity and hazardous pay for certain state employees.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 3011 by Branch – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Dallas.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3014 by Allen – Relating to the use of local junior colleges to provide training to state agency employees.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3017 by Orr – Relating to the procedure for initiating and the award of certain costs in eminent domain proceedings.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs

HB 3021 by Flynn – Relating to the comptroller's electronic funds transfer system and the use of electronic paycards.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Meeting cancelled for 05/09/05, House Government Reform

HB 3031 by Strama – Relating to the eligibility of certain institutions of higher education faculty members to participate in a group benefits program.
Last Action: 4-21-05 H Committee action pending House Pensions and Investments

HB 3032 by Strama – Relating to reduced tuition for certain public junior college district students.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

HB 3034 by Solis – Relating to a program to reduce the shortage of professional and vocational nurses through financial assistance from the Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 4-26-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 3054 by Moreno – Relating to parking of a motor vehicle operated by or for the transportation of a person with a disability.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 3068 by Villarreal – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3069 by Villarreal – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3075 by Brown – Relating to the components of the core curriculum for public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3076 by Naishtat – Relating to the establishment of the stem cell research program.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 3078 by Naishtat – Relating to requiring a record vote by each house or committee of the legislature on bills.
Last Action: 3-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 3100 by McReynolds – Relating to the regulation of the practice of nursing. Relating to the regulation of the practice of nursing.
Last Action: 5-11-05 H Laid on the table - subject to call - see SB 1000

HB 3105 by Corte – Relating to the residency requirements for tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents.
Last Action: 4-29-05 H Reported from committee as substituted Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

HB 3106 by Thompson – Relating to the creation of the Institute on Race, Crime and Justice at the University of North Texas at Dallas.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3119 by Giddings – Relating to the grade point average of and imposition of a fee on a student who repeats a course at a public institution of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3121 by Giddings – Relating to the continuation and operation of the workers' compensation system. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 3125 by Eiland – Relating to a retired employee's eligibility for participation in the optional retirement system. Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

HB 3126 by Eiland – Relating to the regulation of investment advisors in the optional retirement program. Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Voted favorably from committee as substituted House Pensions and Investments

HB 3133 by Martinez, Fischer – Relating to the enrollment of certain first-generation higher education students in the prepaid higher education tuition programs. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3137 by Taylor – Relating to permitting a member of the Teacher Retirement System to establish equivalent membership service for time spent serving in the Peace Corps. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions and Investments

HB 3142 by Hughes – Relating to standards for the collection, retention and dissemination of government video and audio surveillance information. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 3143 by Hughes – Relating to the reverse auction process at the Building and Procurement Commission. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 3153 by Escobar – Relating to the creation of a wind power research institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3170 by Green – Relating to legislative review and gubernatorial suspension certain rules of state agencies. Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 3179 by King – Relating to the promotion of fair competition and intermodal parity among communications services providers. Last Action: 5-12-05 H Set on the House Calendar

HB 3192 by Bailey – Relating to eligibility for an early college start program offered by a public junior college district. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3218 by Coleman – Relating to reports regarding participation in higher education. Last Action: 4-25-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HB 3219 by Merritt – Relating to a requirement that the Bureau of Economic Geology conduct a study on the East Texas Oil Field. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Energy Resources

HB 3223 by Brown – Relating to admission to the Joint Admission Medical Program. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3245 by Homer – Relating to allowing a governmental body to discuss matters regarding computer security in closed meetings. Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 3247 by Ritter – Relating to a program to promote research with economic potential. Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Economic Development

HB 3257 by Van Arsdale – Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination against an employee regarding a workers' compensation claims. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 3274 by Isett – Relating to the award of state contracts for commercially available services. Last Action: 3-21-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Reform

HB 3278 by Isett – Relating to the management, security, and protection of personal information and governmental records. Last Action: 5-10-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 3285 by Swinford – Relating to the abolition of the State Aircraft Pooling Board. Last Action: 5-12-05 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Transportation & Homeland Security

HB 3314 by Brown – Relating to prohibiting Internet access to obscene materials on public property. 5- 5-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

HB 3321 by Deshotel – Relating to student and faculty representation on the board of regents of each state university or state university system. Last Action: 3-22-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3329 by Martinez, Fischer – Relating to renaming the State Auditor Office. Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HB 3334 by Corte – Relating to an exemption from regulation for certain nonprofit agricultural research projects. Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 3362 by Geren – Relating to performance and efficiency review of certain governmental entities and program. Last Action: 4-18-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 3364 by Coleman – Relating to the creation of a Civilian Oversight Commission. Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Reform

HB 3370 by Solis – Relating to higher education tuition exemptions. Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3393 by Keffer – Relating to contracts and evaluations of and continuing education for public school educators.
Last Action: 3-29-05 H Committee action pending House Public Education

HB 3413 by Alonzo – Relating to Mexican American studies programs and course work at certain public junior colleges.
Last Action: 4-25-05 H Not heard in committee House Higher Education

HB 3417 by Hughes – Relating to financial records and audits of certain charitable nonprofit corporations.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Business and Industry

HB 3427 by Guillen – Relating to importing prescription drugs for use in state-funded programs that provide health care services or benefits.
Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 3433 by Thompson – Relating to the minimum wage.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 3444 by Herrero – Relating to overtime compensation earned by certain state employees.
Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 3445 by Herrero – Relating to a franchise tax credit for wages paid to graduates of certain institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 3447 by Herrero – Relating to a fixed tuition rate provided by general academic teaching institutions to certain undergraduate students.
Last Action: 3-23-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HB 3456 by Deshotel – Relating to creating an office of civil rights at certain state agencies.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HB 3459 by Baxter – Relating to the repurchase of real property acquired by a governmental entity through eminent domain.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Committee action pending House Land and Resource Management

HB 3467 by Puente – Relating to certain practices to improve energy conservation in state buildings.
Last Action: 4-28-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Government Reform

HB 3470 by Coleman – Relating to the regulation of state subsidies granted for economic development purposes.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Committee action pending House Economic Development

HB 3540 by Pitts, Ogden – Relating to the certain fiscal matters affecting governmental entities.
Last Action: 5-29-05 H Conference authorized to go outside bounds - see HR 2289

HB 3575 by Corte – Relating to an exemption from regulation for certain nonprofit agricultural research projects.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 H Meeting set for 2:00 P.M. or Adj., E1.026, House Natural Resources

HB 3589 by Brown, Ogden – Relating to the creation of the Research Valley Innovation District.
Last Action: 5-21-05 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

HCR 16 by Merritt – Directing the legislative staff to maintain the Legislature's Internet website to develop a link for prompt information on votes.
Last Action: 1- 6-05 H Filed

HCR 17 by Branch – Directing the legislative staff to develop a link on the main page of the Texas Legislatures Internet website to record votes.
Last Action: 1- 7-05 H Filed

HCR 18 by Hilderbran – Relating to directing the Texas Legislature Website to provide a link to the votes on passage of legislation.
Last Action: 1- 7-05 H Filed

HCR 46 by Van Arsdale – Expressing support for the abolition of the Bowl Championship Series.
Last Action: 2-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HCR 73 by Hochberg – Granting RealAmerica Partners permission to sue the University of Houston System and the State.
Last Action: 4-27-05 H Committee action pending House Civil Practices

HJR 6 by Chisum, Staples – Relating to providing that marriage in this state consists only of the union of one man and one woman.
Last Action: 11- 8-05 G Election date

HJR 7 by Oliveira – Relating to imposing a state property tax for public education, establishing a residence homestead exemption from the state property tax, and increasing the amount of the school district residence homestead property tax exemption.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 11 by Branch – Relating to the determination of a quorum of the senate or house of representatives.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HJR 12 by Branch – Relating to the determination of a quorum of the senate or house of representatives.
Last Action: 3-21-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

HJR 13 by Branch – Relating to requiring each house of the legislature to take a record vote on final passage of a bill and to public the record vote on the Internet.
Last Action: 3- 7-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HJR 17 by Pena – Relating to requiring a house or committee of the legislature to take a record vote on certain legislative measures and actions.
Last Action: 2- 8-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HJR 27 by Naishtat – Relating to requiring the house or committee of the legislature to take a record vote on certain legislative measures and actions.
Last Action: 3- 7-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HJR 47 by Guillen – Relating to authorizing a state property tax for public education.
Last Action: 2-17-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 48 by Isett – Relating to restriction on the rate of growth of state appropriations and establishing three special funds to replace the economic stabilization fund.
Last Action: 2-22-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HJR 50 by Pitts – Relating to authorizing a state property tax for public education.
Last Action: 4-14-05 H Recommitted to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 55 by Alonzo – Relating to requiring a house or committee of the legislature to take a record vote on certain legislative measures and actions.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HJR 60 by Rose – Relating to authorizing a student member of the board of regents of a state institution of higher education or state university to serve a term that differs from the terms served by the other members of the board.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

HJR 71 by Thompson – Relating to establishing the Texas Institute for Regenerative Medicine.
Last Action: 4-11-05 H Committee action pending House State Affairs

HJR 83 by Strama – Relating to establishing the Texas Redistricting Commission.
Last Action: 4-13-05 H Sent to subcommittee House Redistricting

HJR 96 by Naishtat – Relating to authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to provide grants and loans for stem cell research.
Last Action: 3-14-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

HJR 100 by Dunnam – Relating to providing for open meeting of each House of the Legislature and its committees and subcommittees.
Last Action: 3-16-05 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

SB 5 by Staples, Solomons – Relating to the continuation and operation of the worker's compensation system and the Department of Workers' Compensation.
Last Action: 5-23-05 H Meeting set for 4:00 P.M., Betty King Room

SB 12 by Zaffirini – Relating to state contract management, including the training of personnel, the negotiation of contracts, and the standardization of practices.
Last Action: 5-19-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House State Affairs

SB 24 by Zaffirini – Relating to the creation of a donor education, awareness, and registry program and the establishment of an organ donor and tissue council.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Rereferred to Committee on House Public Health

SB 31 by Zaffirini – Relating to requiring students receiving certain financial aid at institutions of higher education to meet timely graduation and academic progress requirements.
Last Action: 5-20-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

SB 32 by Zaffirini – Relating to certain special tuition rates at institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-16-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

SB 33 by Zaffirini, Smithee – Relating to graduate stipends awarded as part of the Texas B-On-time loan program.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 35 by Zaffirini – Relating to a study regarding credit hour requirements for undergraduate certificate and degree programs at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Sent to subcommittee Senate Education

SB 41 by Zaffirini – Relating to the right of an employee to time off from work to participate in certain activities of the employee's child.
Last Action: 4-12-05 S Committee action pending Senate Business and Commerce

SB 61 by West – Relating to the teaching of foreign languages in public schools.
Last Action: 3-15-05 S Committee action pending Senate Education

SB 63 by Staples – Relating to a pay raise for state employees.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 67 by Shapleigh – Relating to a program to promote the training and retention of health care professionals in this state.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 68 by Shapleigh – Relating to increasing the number of students in medical education in Texas.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 70 by Shapleigh – Relating to the provision of a preference in governmental purchasing decisions for vendors that provide health benefits to employees.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar

SB 74 by Shapleigh – Relating to a prohibition on employment discrimination in compensation.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 79 by Shapleigh – Relating to tuition exemptions granted by public institutions of higher education to children of certain classroom teachers.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 80 by Shapleigh – Relating to the percentage of certain tuition set aside to fund financial assistance for resident undergraduate and graduate students at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 81 by Shapleigh – Relating to a joint partnership between the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 5-19-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

SB 82 by Shapleigh – Relating to additional funding to school districts for teacher salaries.
Last Action: 1-31-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 95 by Shapleigh – Relating to the establishment of an asthma research center at the Texas Tech University campus in El Paso.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 105 by Shapleigh – Relating to a report on the use of money from the Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 4-18-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 127 by Lindsay – Relating to disease control programs to reduce the risk of certain communicable diseases.
Last Action: 5-23-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 128 by Shapleigh – Relating to the use of certain human cells and tissue.
Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate Health and Human Services

SB 130 by Nelson – Relating to the provision of health and human services.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Health and Human Services

SB 136 by Nelson – Relating to the establishment of a school of pharmacy at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center at Fort Worth.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 147 by Wentworth – Relating to the exception from required disclosure under the public information law of certain audit working papers.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 156 by Fraser – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University--Central Texas.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 157 by Fraser – Relating to the student enrollment required for the operation of Texas A&M University--Central Texas as an independent general academic teaching institution.
Last Action: 4-21-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 158 by Fraser – Relating to the authority of another institution of higher education to conduct vocational or technical courses in the service area of a junior college district.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 161 by Jackson – Relating to the food and fibers research grant program.
Last Action: 3-31-05 S Withdrawn from the Local Calendar

SB 173 by Harris – Relating to banning handguns and certain other weapons from parking areas associated with schools or educational institutions.
Last Action: 2- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 201 by Gallegos – Relating to a prohibition of discrimination by public educational institutions.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 219 by Carona – Relating to notaries public.
Last Action: 3- 9-05 S Committee action pending Senate Jurisprudence

SB 222 by Zaffirini – Relating to exempting books purchased by university and college students from the sales tax for a limited period.
Last Action: 5-23-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 238 by Janek – Relating to training for members of the governing boards of public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 246 by Gallegos – Relating to the creation of an offense involving certain sales of tickets to events. Last Action: 4-21-05 S Committee action pending Senate Business and Commerce

SB 266 by Williams – Relating to the release of certain information regarding a workers' compensation claim.
Last Action: 3-31-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

SB 275 by Staples – Relating to authorizing the University of Texas at Tyler to offer doctoral degree programs in nursing and human resource development.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 277 by Lucio – Relating to use of money in the Texas Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 4-18-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 278 by Lucio – Relating to the provision of financial assistance to counties for roadway projects serving border colonias.
Last Action: 2- 3-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate International Relations and Trade

SB 283 by Staples – Relating to a recreational sports fee at Stephen F. Austin State University.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

SB 287 by Janek – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for National Biocontainment facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 2- 7-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 288 by Shapleigh – Relating to the transfer of certain surplus or salvage property to the United Mexican States.
Last Action: 3-17-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Government Organization

SB 295 by Madla – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University--San Antonio.
Last Action: 2- 7-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 303 by Deuell – Relating to notice of factors used in admissions and scholarship decisions at certain public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3- 7-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 311 by Deuell – Relating to the regulation of academic language teachers and therapists.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 315 by Lucio - Relating to minimum personal leave for faculty members at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4- 5-05 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 319 by Shapleigh – Relating to requiring state investment funds to post certain information on the Internet.
Last Action: 2- 7-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 320 by Wentworth – Relating to admission to certain public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 322 by Staples, Krusee – Relating to proceeds from the sale of certain state surplus and salvage personal property.
Last Action: 5-24-05 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 332 by Fraser – Relating to furthering competition in the telecommunication industry.
Last Action: 3-16-05 S Meeting cancelled for 03/17/05, Senate Business and Commerce

SB 333 by West – Relating to the eligibility of a high school graduate for automatic admission to an institution of higher education.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 352 by Madla – Relating to the management of state-owned land, including the lease of the right to produce groundwater from certain state-owned land.
Last Action: 4-29-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Land and Resource Management

SB 354 by Fraser – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Tarleton State University.
Last Action: 4-13-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Jurisprudence

SB 379 by Wentworth – Relating to authorizing the issuance of not more than \$10 million in revenue bonds for the purchase and retirement of certain commercial fishing, shrimping, and crabbing licenses.
Last Action: 2-15-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture

SB 391 by Armbrister – Relating to the degree programs offered by the University of Houston-Victoria. Last Action: 2-15-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 392 by Van de Putte – Relating to the residency requirements for tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents.
Last Action: 3- 7-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 400 by Nelson – Relating to the continuation of the Worker's Compensation Commission.
Last Action: 2-15-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 412 by Nelson – Relating to the governmental entities subject to the sunset review process.
Last Action: 2-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 418 by Shapleigh – Relating to the continuation and functions of the State Board of Educator Certification.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 420 by Carona – Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 S Committee action pending Senate Government Organization

SB 433 by Wentworth, Casteel – Relating to the authorization of airport authorities and the issuance of bonds and exercise of eminent domain by the authorities.
Last Action: 6-17-05 G Vetoes by the Governor

SB 445 by Carona – Relating to indemnification provisions in construction contracts.
Last Action: 2-15-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 448 by Zaffirini – Relating to the Texas Academy of International Studies at Texas A&M International University.
Last Action: 5-20-05 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

SB 458 by Fraser – Relating to governmental contingent fee contracts for legal services entered into by a local governmental entity.
Last Action: 2-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 459 by Staples - Relating to the valuation of state-owned real property.
Last Action: 4- 5-05 S Committee action pending Senate Natural Resources

SB 462 by Eltife – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Texarkana.
Last Action: 2-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 464 by Ellis, Uresti – Relating to the duration of judgment liens in favor of the state.
Last Action: 5-24-05 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 470 by Averitt – Relating to the portion of designated tuition set aside to fund financial assistance for resident undergraduate and graduate students at public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 2-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 479 by Barrientos – Relating to protecting students and employees at an institution of higher education from threatened acts of violence.
Last Action: 2-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 503 by West – Relating to making the award of an arbitration an open record.
Last Action: 4-20-05 S Committee action pending Senate Jurisprudence

SB 507 by Wentworth – Relating to alternative dispute resolution of certain contract claims against the state.
Last Action: 2-28-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 508 by Wentworth – Relating to the confidentiality of certain communications involving an ombudsman's office established by an employer.
Last Action: 2-28-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 527 by Hinojosa – Relating to authorizing a sports recreation and wellness facility fee at the University of Texas-Pan American.
Last Action: 4-12-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 528 by Hinojosa – Relating to the installment payment of tuition fees charged by a public junior college for a summer term.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Education

SB 530 by West – Relating to a fixed tuition rate provided by general academic teaching institutions to certain students for satisfactory academic progress and performance.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 531 by West – Relating to the tuition charged for certain courses repeated by students attending public junior colleges.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 543 by Shapleigh – Relating to the authority of a member, agency, or committee of the legislature to receive on request one copy of public information from a governmental body without charge.
Last Action: 2-28-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 545 by Madla – Relating to the creation of the Type 2 Diabetes Screening Program Advisory Council and the establishment of a Type 2 diabetes screening program for school children.
Last Action: 2-28-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 549 by Ellis – Relating to the disclosure of information relating to the investment of the permanent university fund and other funds under the management and control of the board of regents of the University of Texas System.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 562 by Janek – Relating to the creation of health savings accounts for certain state employees and retirees and their dependents.
Last Action: 2-28-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 564 by Barrientos – Relating to the establishment of a program for the disposition of electronic equipment in a manner that protects the water and other natural resources.
Last Action: 4-12-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Natural Resources

SB 572 by Barrientos – Relating to the development and implementation of personnel policies and procedures for certain state agencies.
Last Action: 5-13-05 H Meeting set for On first Adj., Desk #9, House State Affairs

SB 576 by Amrbister – Relating to certain purchases by the Railroad Commission.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 582 by Van de Putte – Relating to tuition and fee exemptions for certain military personnel and their dependents.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 601 by Van de Putte – Relating to importing prescription drugs for use in state-funded programs that provide health care services or benefits.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Health

SB 608 by Nelson – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 613 by Whitmire – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 633 by Barrientos – Relating to a pilot program to provide health services to state employees in state office complexes.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 634 by Barrientos – Relating to the compensation of administrators in public institutions of higher education and university systems.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 635 by Barrientos – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Austin.
Last Action: 3- 1-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 638 by Barrientos – Relating to the award of a grant and reporting requirements under the Enterprise Fund.
Last Action: 4-18-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 645 by Barrientos – Relating to the authority of certain counties to regulate the use of outdoor lighting.
Last Action: 5-18-05 H Committee action pending House County Affairs

SB 646 by Barrientos – Relating to the concurrent jurisdiction of campus peace officers commissioned by the University of Texas at Austin and law enforcement agencies of the state and political subdivisions of the state.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 648 by Lucio – Relating to the transfer of adult education and literacy programs from the Education Agency to the Workforce Commission.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 674 by West – Relating to limiting the use of customers' social security numbers by persons.
Last Action: 5-21-05 H Reported favorably from committee as amended House Business and Industry

SB 676 by West – Relating to identifying which public institutions of higher education in this state are comprehensive research universities of the first class.
Last Action: 4-29-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 700 by Hinojosa – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 701 by Deuell – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Commerce.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 703 by West – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas, the University of North Texas System Center at Dallas, and the University Center at Dallas.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 704 by West – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 705 by West – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the Texas A&M University System Health Science Center Baylor College of Dentistry.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 714 by Barrientos – Relating to prohibiting discrimination against certain employees who sustain an injury in the course and scope of their employment.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 715 by Barrientos – Relating to the prohibition of certain required arbitration agreements and employee waivers.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 719 by Deuell – Relating to the operation of mail order prescription plans for certain public employees and retirees.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 720 by Deuell – Relating to required patient counseling regarding mail order prescription plans for certain public employees and retirees.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 721 by Lucio - Relating to establishing a health science center and medical school in the Rio Grande Valley.
Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 722 by Lucio – Relating to the creation of the TexasNextStep grant.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 730 by West – Relating to the establishment of a law school in the city of Dallas by the University of North Texas System.
Last Action: 5-20-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

SB 731 by Williams – Relating to initial training and continuing education requirements for a constable. Last Action: 3- 2-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 749 by Van de Putte – Relating to the regulation of certain pharmacy benefit managers.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 754 by Ellis – Relating to the adoption of a privacy policy by a person who requires the disclosure of an individual's social security number.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 770 by West – Relating to limiting use of money in the Enterprise Fund to recipients that provide health benefit plans.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 774 by Van de Putte – Relating to permitting certain military personnel entitled to receive tuition and fee exemptions to transfer the exemption to a child.
Last Action: 5-22-05 H Referred to House Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations

SB 775 by Van de Putte – Relating to tuition assistance for members of state military forces.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Veteran Affairs/Military Installations

SB 783 by Seliger – Relating to a landowner's liability for injuries incurred during certain recreational activities.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 793 by Estes – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for utility infrastructure and campus renovations at Midwestern State University.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 794 by Estes – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of North Texas.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 795 by Estes – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Woman's University.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 801 by Lucio – Relating to a fee to support the wellness, recreational, and fitness complex at the University of Texas at Brownsville.
Last Action: 4-14-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Education

SB 817 by West – Relating to financial transaction awareness plans to be adopted by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 823 by Shapleigh – Relating to restrictions on the use of foreign workers in the performance of certain government service contracts that relate to health and human services.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Committee action pending Senate Government Organization

SB 825 by Shapleigh, Solomons – Relating to the TexasOnline Authority's use of TexasOnline revenue. Last Action: 5-28-05 H House appointed conference committee
CONFEREES: Solomons-chair, Fred Brown, Uresti, Otto and Pickett

SB 831 by Shapiro - Relating to the creation of programs and funding for emerging technology industries.
Last Action: 5-21-05 H Reported from committee as substituted House Economic Development

SB 855 by Van de Putte – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 856 by Van de Putte – Relating to the authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and the South Texas Research Tower.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 857 by Van de Putte – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 858 by Van de Putte – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 868 by Carona – Relating to the operation and regulation of certain consolidated insurance programs. Last Action: 4-28-05 S Not heard in committee Senate State Affairs

SB 870 by Shapleigh – Relating to student representation on the board of regents of each state university system.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 888 by Williams – Relating to the powers, duties, privileges and immunities of a peace officer.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 900 by Eltife – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Tyler.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 913 by Shapleigh – Relating to a Texas teacher leadership initiative.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 931 by Hinojosa – Relating to the authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the the University of Texas-Pan American for construction and renovation to accommodate institutional growth.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 934 by Wentworth – Relating to student registration on the board of regents of each state university or state university system.
Last Action: 5-25-05 S Passed on local calendar (Vote: Y: 31/N: 0)

SB 936 by West – Relating to practices of school districts that concern the admission process to institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 8-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 940 by Lucio – Relating to the establishment of the Reynaldo G. Garza School of Law at the University of Texas at Brownsville.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 941 by Staples – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Stephen F. Austin State University.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 942 by Staples – Relating to the authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 943 by Armbrister – Relating to the regulation of the cloning of human beings.
Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate Health and Human Services

SB 953 by Seliger – Relating to an energy-efficient building program.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 958 by Duncan – Relating to the installation, copying, or use of computer software for unauthorized purposes.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

SB 960 by Shapiro – Relating to hospital and clinic fees collected by certain public medical schools.
Last Action: 4-21-05 S Committee action pending Senate Finance

SB 964 by Lucio, Chavez – Relating to the authorization, administration, and funding of the program to provide financial assistance for the construction of water supply and sewer services for economically distressed areas.
Last Action: 5-24-05 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 965 by Lucio – Relating to the authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds by the University of Texas System.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 966 by Lucio – Relating to programs to recruit, train, and license nurses and other health care professionals.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 981 by Whitmire – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Southern University for campus facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 994 by Lucio – Relating to liability of a governmental unit for a claim arising from roadway lighting conditions.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1012 by Harris – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Arlington and its engineering facilities.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1023 by Jackson – Relating to the number of meetings of the Coastal Coordinating Council.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture

SB 1041 by Janek – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds by the University of Texas System for an adult stem cell research center at the Texas Medical Center.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1043 by Janek – Relating to curriculum requirements for courses in which students receive concurrent high school and college credit.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 1046 by Seliger – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for West Texas A&M University.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1047 by Seliger – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1048 by Eltife – Relating to a student union fee at the University of Texas at Tyler.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1058 by Lucio – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M University-Kingsville.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1059 by Lucio – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at Brownsville, the University of Texas-Pan American and Texas State Technical College-Harlingen.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1076 by Van de Putte – Relating to the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1077 by Van de Putte – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1078 by Van de Putte – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1079 by Van de Putte – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the University of Texas at San Antonio.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1081 by Ellis – Relating to recycling market development.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Referred to House Committee on House State Affairs

SB 1094 by Van de Putte – Relating to veteran's employment preferences.
Last Action: 5- 5-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

SB 1109 by Van de Putte – Relating to use of the money from the Texas Enterprise Fund to benefit small-business concerns.
Last Action: 4-18-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 1110 by Ellis – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas Southern University for campus facilities and infrastructure.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1118 by Ellis, Coleman – Relating to the authority to change the name of component institutions of the A&M University System.
Last Action: 5-20-05 H Withdrawn from the Local Calendar

SB 1138 by Estes – Relating to the establishment of a recreational and health facilities fee at Midwestern State University.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 1140 by Carona – Relating to requiring a record vote by each house or committee of the legislature on bills.
Last Action: 5-12-05 H Referred to House Committee on House State Affairs

SB 1145 by Shapiro – Relating to tuition or fee exemptions granted by public institutions of higher education to children of certain classroom teachers.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1164 by Zaffirini – Relating to prohibiting human cloning and other uses of human tissue by institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-19-05 S Committee action pending Senate Health and Human Services

SB 1169 by Armbrister – Relating to the authority and financing of the Railroad Commission in relation to gas utilities.
Last Action: 4-28-05 S Committee action pending Senate Natural Resources

SB 1180 by West – Relating to the group benefit plans provided to certain retired state and university employees and their dependents.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1181 by West – Relating to exempting a peace officer from tuition and fees charged by a public institution of higher education.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1184 by West – Relating to an annual analysis and report by the Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding financial information submitted by institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1185 by West – Relating to the qualifications of and training and continuing education for certain officials and personnel or career schools or colleges.
Last Action: 5- 2-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 1201 by Ellis – Relating to creating an office of civil rights at certain state agencies.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Referred to House Committee on House State Affairs

SB 1215 by Eltife – Relating to financial records and audits of certain charitable nonprofit corporation.
Last Action: 4-29-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Business and Industry

SB 1228 by Shapiro – Relating to a statewide assessment and accountability system for public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 9-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 1239 by Lucio, McReynolds – Relating to a risk assessment program for Type 2 diabetes.
Last Action: 5-24-05 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 1242 by Madla – Relating to the procedures required for a governmental entity to perform construction-related work on facilities under the construction manager-agent method.
Last Action: 4-14-05 S Committee action pending Senate Intergovernmental Relations

SB 1243 by Carona – Relating to the provision of a preference in certain state construction contracts for contractors that provide health benefits to employees.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

SB 1269 by Deuell – Relating to establishment of a defined contribution health care benefits program for certain active state employees that is operated through the establishment of health reimbursement arrangements.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1276 by Harris – Relating to financial disclosure by appointed state officers after leaving office.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Referred to Committee on Senate Committee on Administration

SB 1278 by Lucio – Relating to a college entrance examination preparation pilot program.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1279 by Armbrister – Relating to the registration and regulation of architects, landscape architects, and interior designers.
Last Action: 5-17-05 S Committee action pending Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1289 by Wentworth – Relating to authorizing a state university to conduct a one-time lottery.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1293 by Deuell – Relating to prohibiting wireless Internet access to obscene materials on public property.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 S Committee action pending Senate Criminal Justice

SB 1300 by West – Relating to an excused absence from a public institution of higher education for a person called to active military service.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 1319 by Staples – Relating to participation of certain annuitants and their dependents in the state employees group benefits program.
Last Action: 5-23-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Pensions and Investments

SB 1324 by Armbrister – Relating to the delivery of prescription drugs by mail order.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1337 by Madla – Relating to the governor's study of emerging technology and economic development.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 1348 by Barrientos – Relating to records and reports kept and produced by the Texas Workforce Commission civil rights division.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1352 by Williams – Relating to the maximum reservation for certain individual projects of a portion of the state ceiling for private activity bonds.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1355 by West – Relating to requiring a contractor to provide health insurance to its employees as a condition of eligibility for the award of certain state contracts.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

SB 1389 by Ellis – Relating to a limitation on increases in the total amount of tuition and compulsory fees charged by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1398 by Ellis – Relating to the eligibility of a student for a tuition equalization grant.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1399 by Ellis – Relating to the portion of designated tuition required to be set aside to provide student financial assistance at institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1400 by Ellis – Relating to a limitation on increases in the total amount of tuition and compulsory fees charged by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1403 by Armbrister – Relating to authorizing the state to operate video lottery at racetracks, to the operation of video lottery by Indian tribes, to the authority of the Texas Lottery Commission, and to the conduct of gambling in this state.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1404 by Wentworth – Relating to the reapportionment of congressional districts and the creation, function, and duties of the Texas Congressional Redistricting Commission.
Last Action: 5-22-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Redistricting

SB 1414 by Shapleigh – Relating to health benefit plan coverage for an enrollee with certain mental disorders.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1444 by Averitt – Relating to contingent payment clauses in certain construction contracts.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1449 by Averitt – Relating to requiring public retirement systems periodically to submit an asset and liability study to the Pension Review Board.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1456 by Wentworth – Relating to telecommunications infrastructure fund assessments and collections.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1475 by Shapleigh – Relating to prerequisites to an institution of higher education increasing designated tuition.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1482 by Shapleigh – Relating to the acquisition of goods and services for certain state agencies providing health and human services.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 S Committee action pending Senate Health and Human Services

SB 1483 by Williams – Relating to exempting textbooks for university and college courses from the sales tax.
Last Action: 3-21-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1484 by Williams – Relating to general revenue appropriations to institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-11-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 1499 by Brimer – Relating to the telecommunications infrastructure fund, including the administration of the fund.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1500 by Lucio – Relating to the allocation of federal funds directed to be used to support graduate medical education in connection with the state Medicaid program.
Last Action: 5-19-05 H Not heard in committee House Public Health

SB 1502 by West – Relating to improvements in and assessments of the status of higher education in this state and to the coordination of public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4-11-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1503 by West – Relating to the creation of the Institute on Race, Crime, and Justice at the University of North Texas at Dallas to examine and provide training regarding racial profiling by law enforcement.
Last Action: 5-18-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Urban Affairs

SB 1513 by Averitt, Eiland – Relating to the creation, powers, and duties of the health insurance division of the Texas Department of Insurance.
Last Action: 5-17-05 H Reported favorably from committee as amended House Pensions and Investments

SB 1520 by Deuell – Relating to prescription drug insurance benefits provided through or by the Employees Retirement System of Texas or the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1527 by Zaffirini – Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for Texas A&M International University.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1529 by Zaffirini – Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-16-05 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

SB 1530 by Zaffirini – Relating to a statewide strategic plan for the support and promotion of technology research.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies

SB 1531 by Averitt – Relating to requiring a contractor or subcontractor to provide health insurance to its employees to participate in certain state contracts.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Committee action pending Senate State Affairs

SB 1532 by Averitt – Relating to the eligibility of certain educational employees to participate or be enrolled in certain group health benefit programs.
Last Action: 5-21-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 1536 by Armbrister – Relating to prescription drug benefits under certain health benefit plans.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1543 by Barrientos – Relating to the applicability of across-the-board salary increases to employees of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1544 by West – Relating to purchasing practices of public junior colleges and community college districts.
Last Action: 5-24-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 1545 by Barrientos – Relating to the composition of the board of trustees of the Employees Retirement System.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1546 by Barrientos – Relating to the admission of students to general academic teaching institutions.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1547 by Duncan – Relating to the Department of Information Resources' management of state electronic and telecommunications services.
Last Action: 5-17-05 H Committee action pending House Government Reform

SB 1553 by Ellis – Relating to the creation of a program for alternative funding of Toward Excellence, Access, & Success (TEXAS) grants.
Last Action: 5- 3-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 1554 by Ellis – Relating to a limitation on increases in the total amount of tuition charged by public institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1561 by Lucio – Relating to requirements imposed under the vehicle fleet management plan.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 1567 by Williams – Relating to the amount of longevity and hazardous duty pay for certain state employees.
Last Action: 4-19-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations

SB 1568 by Williams – Relating to membership in the Employees Retirement System of Texas.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1572 by Williams – Relating to certain health coverage under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1574 by Williams – Relating to the benefits and compensation of retired state employees who return to state employment.
Last Action: 3-22-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1575 by Williams – Relating to the elimination of certain reports to or prepared by the Legislative Budget Board.
Last Action: 4-18-05 S Committee action pending Senate Government Organization

SB 1594 by Lucio – Relating to a small contractor assistance program for bidding on construction contracts at institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 4-19-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1606 by Ogden – Relating to directing payment, after approval, of certain miscellaneous claims and judgments against the state out of funds designated by this Act.
Last Action: 5-17-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations

SB 1607 by Ogden – Relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations. Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1608 by Ogden – Relating to statutory authority to reduce appropriations made by the legislature to certain governmental educational entities and to other fiscal matters involving certain governmental educational entities.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1609 by Ogden – Relating to statutory authority to reduce appropriations made by the legislature to certain governmental entities.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1613 by Ogden – Relating to statutory authority for the legislature to make or reduce appropriations to certain governmental entities.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1614 by Ogden – Relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce appropriations to those agencies.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1616 by Ogden – Relating to statutory authority for certain governmental entities to take certain actions to permit the legislature to reduce appropriations to those agencies.
Last Action: 3-23-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1617 by Ogden – Relating to the powers, duties, and functions of the Legislative Budget Board.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Finance

SB 1634 by Seliger – Relating to the Texas Energy Council and authorizing the imposition of an assessment on producers of oil, gas and condensate.
Last Action: 4-21-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 1643 by Hinojosa – Relating to a strategy to ensure that public institutions of higher education employ faculty and staff who reflect the population of Texas.
Last Action: 4- 5-05 S Committee action pending Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1644 by Shapleigh – Relating to the TexasOnline project, the TexasOnline Authority, and related powers and fees.
Last Action: 5-10-05 H Referred to House Committee on House Government Reform

SB 1647 by Staples – Relating to regulatory takings.
Last Action: 4-26-05 S Committee action pending Senate Natural Resources

SB 1666 by Duncan – Relating to the creation of a diabetes in youth registry.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

SB 1671 by Hinojosa – Relating to higher education tuition exemptions for members of certain groups that are underrepresented among the faculty or administration of public junior colleges.
Last Action: 4-19-05 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1684 by Janek – Relating to reimbursement received by The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston for uncompensated care.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1687 by Barrientos – Relating to eligibility for group benefits coverage for certain government employees and retirees.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 1690 by Duncan – Relating to state fiscal matters.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1694 by Duncan – Relating to financing authority for Texas Tech University System for improvements, construction, and acquisitions for academic buildings.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1695 by Duncan – Relating to the amount of the annual constitutional appropriation to certain agencies and institutions of higher education and to the allocation of those funds to those entities.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1696 by Duncan – Relating to a pilot project to provide additional capacity for higher education undergraduate education.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1701 by Averitt – Relating to tuition and fee rebates for timely completion of degree programs offered by general academic teaching institutions.
Last Action: 4-26-05 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1706 by Staples – Relating to the construction, acquisition, financing, maintenance, management, operation, ownership, and control of transportation facilities in Texas.
Last Action: 5-16-05 S Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar for

SB 1711 by Staples – Relating to the creation of and funding for the Texas Entrepreneurship Network. Last Action: 4-28-05 S Not heard in committee Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1716 by Van de Putte – Relating to the sale of instructional materials and other merchandise to students of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5-19-05 H Meeting set for On adj., JHR 120, House Higher Education

SB 1713 by Shapleigh - Relating to the use of certain human cells and tissue.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

SB 1734 by Shapleigh - Relating to the readmission of a student to an institution of higher education who leaves the institution to enter military service.
Last Action: 5-10-05 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1738 by Duncan, Isett - Relating to consumer access to health care information and consumer protection for services provided by or through hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers.
Last Action: 5-18-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Insurance

SB 1743 by Shapleigh - Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for The University of Texas at El Paso.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1750 by Ellis - Relating to grievance and complaint resolution procedures for certain state employees.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Government Organization

SB 1759 by Gallegos - Relating to retirement benefits for law enforcement officers employed and commissioned by certain institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 3-30-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1790 by Wentworth - Relating to the ability of football teams of general academic teaching institutions to participate in certain postseason intercollegiate competitions.
Last Action: 4- 4-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SB 1812 by Wentworth - Relating to oral requests for public information.
Last Action: 5-12-05 S Failed in committee Senate State Affairs

SB 1845 by Deuell - Relating to audit practices of pharmacy benefit plans.
Last Action: 4-25-05 S Not heard in committee Senate State Affairs

SB 1852 by Van de Putte - Relating to consideration of a person's eligibility for a tuition and fee exemption for certain veterans or their family members in determining whether to admit the person into a degree program.
Last Action: 5-20-05 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

SB 1861 by Ellis - Relating to a prohibition on the investment of state funds in private business entities doing business in Sudan.
Last Action: 4-19-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 1893 by Ellis - Relating to the tuition and fees charged to students of institutions of higher education.
Last Action: 5- 4-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SJR 6 by Carona - Relating to requiring a house or committee of the legislature to take a record vote on certain legislative measures and actions.
Last Action: 4-28-05 S Vote failed in committee on Senate Committee on Administration

SJR 22 by Shapleigh - Relating to authorizing a student member of the board of regents of a state institution of higher education or state university system to serve a term that differs from the terms served by other members of the board.
Last Action: 3-10-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

SJR 26 by Wentworth - Relating to authorizing a student member of the board of regents of a state institution of higher education or state university system to serve a term that differs from the terms by the other board members.
Last Action: 3-14-05 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Subcommittee on Higher Education

1st and 2nd Called Special Sessions

The 1st Called Session

As noted above, despite strenuous efforts, reform of public school finance and performance and property tax relief, the two biggest issues of the 79th Session, failed resolution during the Regular Session. In keeping with the importance of these issues, Governor Perry ordered the legislature back to Austin for the 1st Called Session on June 21st. In case anyone doubted his determination, the Governor also vetoed the funding of the Texas Education Agency (i.e., the state's funding of public schools) for the 2006-2007 biennium. As stated in his veto proclamation:

"I am vetoing the appropriations to the Texas Education Agency because the legislature did not make the best use of resources available for public education. By not passing House Bill No. 2 the legislature failed to make meaningful reforms in education policy, improve student performance, increase accountability, provide better teacher compensation, and did not appropriately fund textbooks and classroom technology."

This action meant that unless the legislature resolved these issues, or re-appropriated their funding, the public schools probably would not be able to open in the fall.

Once the Legislature convened, Governor Perry added other issues to the call; including authorization of tuition revenue bonds for higher education's capital needs, telecommunication reform, and, in response to a recent ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court, limitation of government's use of eminent domain powers. However, Governor Perry increased the incentive for the Legislature to address the public school and property issues by stipulating that none of these other issues would be considered until a resolution of the two priority issues was crafted and adopted by both chambers. An omnibus TRB bill, HB 6 by Rep. Morrison, was filed and passed by the full House. A much more circumscribed companion bill passed out of the Senate Finance Committee but never was taken up by the full Senate.

In the end, there was only one issue that members could agree on; the Legislature did pass out an appropriations bill (HB 1) for the Texas Education Agency. However, the first special session produced no legislative solution to the school finance and property tax reduction puzzle. However, a glimmer of hope did surface near the end in regard to the school finance bill. The conference committee on HB 2 reported out an agreement; however, the report came too near the end of the session for concerns among other members to be satisfied. Some senators who did not serve on the Conference Committee on HB2 (and some who served, but did not sign the report) raised concerns about what they considered to be "tangential" issues that were incorporated into the conference committee report. There were enough of these "hot-button" issues that Senator John Whitmire decided to filibuster

the bill. Thus, the first special session ended on a hopeful note but with success yet out of reach.

The 2nd Called Session

Given that the 1st Called Session ended with a signed conference committee report on the school finance piece and that “positive” talk bubbled out from the property tax conference committee, Governor Perry seized the moment and called a second special session to open immediately upon adjournment ‘sine die’ of the 1st Called Session. The issues that the Governor included in the call for the second special session were the same ones that he had included in the first.

The second special session started out with “A Plan,” to wit: file and move the school finance and property tax bills smartly through the House process, send them over and pass them out of the Senate as soon as possible, then refer them to conference to resolve the differences between the chambers. However, when the school finance bill hit the House floor, it hit a rock in the road. Over the course of time, locally elected school board members, superintendents, and teacher groups had studied the bill carefully, they had much to say, and what they had to say was about their districts. After vigorous debate and with many House members getting jittery in response to their districts’ manifested interests, enough members had changed their minds so that an amendment widely regarded as the “democratic” version of the bill was adopted by the full House—and moreover, with the support of several leadership Republicans. Once that amendment was adopted, all the other amendments lying on the Speaker’s podium were accepted as well, and so the sponsor of the bill, Rep. Grusendorf, moved to kill his own bill. Thus ended the school finance bill. In turn, this “mini-revolution” extended to the property tax bill: a host of amendments were offered and accepted, whereupon Rep. Keffer followed suit and moved to kill his own bill; it went down 124-8. With both “session” bills now blown up in the House, the 2nd Called Session was effectively over, at least insofar as school finance and property tax were concerned...and the Speaker said as much. However, the Senate, led and strongly “encouraged” by Governor Dewhurst, pushed on and amid much angst among members, did vote out its version of the school finance bill, which the House did not take up. However, since all tax bills must originate in the House, the Senate could not address the property tax relief/shift issue.

Notwithstanding those intractable school and tax issues, the 2nd Called Session was by no means a failed session. It did pass two major pieces of legislation: the telecommunications and eminent domain bills. Brief summaries of these two bills are provided below. In addition, the Legislature resurrected the contentious judicial pay raise issue, and this time passed it.

As in the 1st, the 2nd Special Session also failed to pass higher education’s urgently needed tuition revenue bonds. Once again, the House passed out the omnibus TRB bill (HB 6), but the Senate did not address the issue at all this time. If and when the Legislature convenes again in a special session to address the lingering school finance and property tax issues, higher education leaders will request the Governor and Legislature to act favorably on tuition revenue bonds.

2ND CALLED SESSION LEGISLATION AS IT RELATES TO THE A&M SYSTEM

SB 5 by Fraser/King - Relating to furthering competition in the communications industry. SB 5 reshapes the regulation landscape of the of cable and telecommunications industry in Texas. The last major overhaul of the telecommunications industry occurred in 1995, when the 74th Legislature enacted H.B. 2128, which opened the local telephone market to competition. Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers, such as Southwestern Bell, were allowed to elect into a reduced regulatory framework, including pricing flexibility under incentive regulation. Companies electing incentive regulation were required to provide discounts for private lines for school districts, higher education institutions (both public and private), public and non-profit hospitals, and libraries. These discounted rates afforded substantial advantages for education, research, and telemedicine activities.

Among its many far-reaching provisions, S.B. 5 contains language that will ensure that this discounted pricing will continue until 2012.

Additionally, the Public Utility Commission (PUC) is directed to begin a study on establishing a funding mechanism to provide support to telecommunications utilities that provide these discounts. The study will evaluate alternative funding sources that would make financial support available to utilities on a nondiscriminatory basis, in a technologically neutral fashion. The PUC will issue a report to the Legislature before November 15, 2006, regarding the viability of establishing such a new funding source.

SB 7 by Janek/Corte - Relating to limits on the use of the power of eminent domain. SB 7 prohibits certain governmental entities, including institutions of higher education, from using their power of eminent domain to take private property, if the taking confers a private benefit on a particular private party through the use of the property or was for a public use that merely was a pretext for conferring a private benefit to a particular private party. The legislation set forth a listing of uses for eminent domain that is not affected by the legislation.

Notwithstanding other laws, information collected, assembled, or maintained by non-governmental bodies authorized by law to take private property would be subject to the Public Information (Open Records) Act, if the information was related to the taking of private property.

SB 7 creates an interim legislative committee to study the use of the power of eminent domain, including its use for economic development, and to report to the 80th Legislature by December 1, 2006. The committee will be composed of five senators appointed by the lieutenant governor and five House members appointed by the speaker of the House. The lieutenant governor and speaker each would designate a co-chair from among the members each had appointed.

SB 7 also contains language specifically directed at institutions of higher education. The governing board of an institution of higher education may not use the power of eminent domain to acquire land to be used for a lodging facility or for parking or a parking structure intended to be used in connection with the use of a lodging facility. During debate, it became clear that this language was intended to preclude the use of eminent domain in connection with a particular piece of property adjacent to the campus of UT-Austin.

Acknowledgements

Bill Analysis Task Force

The following is a listing of those individuals that served as **primary** analysts on the BATF for the 79th Legislative Session.

Academic Related Issues

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Agriculture Related Issues

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Ruth McMullen
Doni Roper

Investment/ Treasury/ Workers Comp Issues

Greg Anderson
Kevin McGinnis
Maria Robinson

Legal Related Issues

Ginny Stubbs

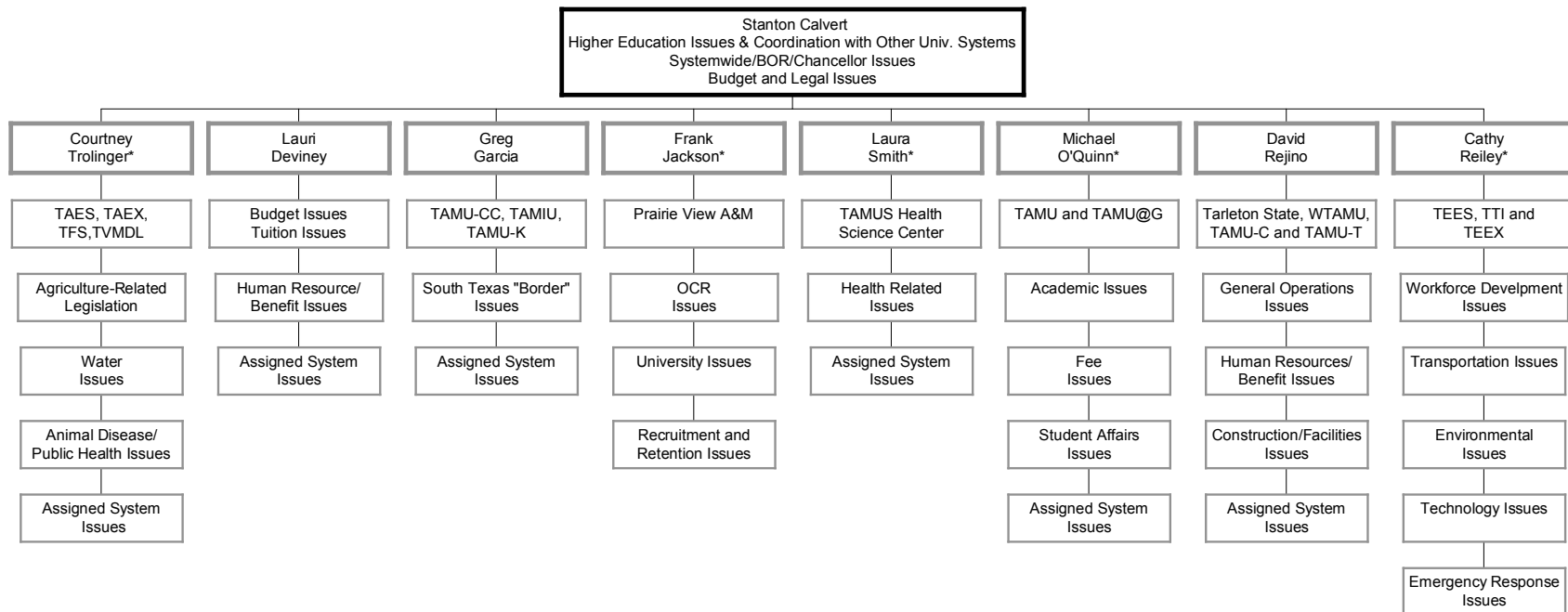
Real Estate Related Issues

Dan Buchly

Student Service Related Issues

Don Albrecht

The Texas A&M University System Governmental Relations Team



* denotes a dual reporting responsibility: 1) to VC-GR for legislative contacts and for communicating System approved legislative program to Texas Legislature; and 2) to institutional CEO for faculty, staff and alumni contacts and development of institution's legislative proposals.