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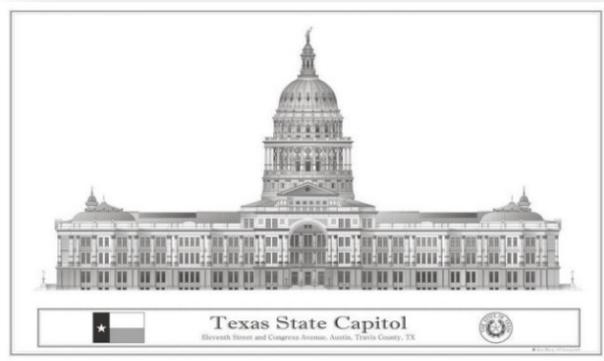


VanDeaver

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

District & Capitol Report - 85th Legislature
House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties
District & Capitol Report - 85th Legislature

November 2018



Representative. Ms. Ridge's brightly colored ornament displays the autism symbol and states "autism . . . a different gift." The ornament represents House District 1 on this year's tree and demonstrates the talents and skills of our students. Thank you, Alexia!



Rep. VanDeaver speaking to community college student government association meeting.

Texarkana College (TC). Earlier this month, I attended two events at TC that included the Texas Junior College Student Government Association Region III Fall Conference ("the Conference"), as well as the building dedication and ribbon-

Around the District. 2018 Christmas ornament.



Ms. Alexia Ridge, from Hooks but who is a student at New Boston High School, created an ornament for this year's Christmas tree located in the Chamber of the Texas House of

cutting ceremony of the Betty and Buddy Ledwell Workforce Training Center ("the Center"). Over 100 people from Angelina, Kilgore, Navarro schools, Northeast Texas Community College, Paris, Texarkana, Tyler, and Trinity Valley colleges attended the Conference.

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Rep. VanDeaver talking with Patsy & Don Morriss from Texarkana at the Ledwell Workforce Training Center dedication.

Texarkana College built the 20,000 square foot Center so more students can participate in career education and industrial training classes. As reported in the *Texarkana Gazette*, these classes have been in such demand that TC has had to expand the number of course offerings and times they are offered. This will be a great opportunity for our area's workforce and local economy.

Around the Capitol. Now that the November elections are behind us, legislators are busy preparing for the start of the 86th Texas Legislature that begins its 140-day regular session on January 8, 2019, and adjourns on May 27, 2019. Here is a link to the Texas Legislature Online so that you can track legislation and view hearings in real time, or as an archive: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>. From this site, you will be able to tag bills of interest and get notices of hearings, as well as access other key information from how a bill becomes law to maps of the Capitol.

Bills filing begins. November 12, the Monday after Election Day, began the bill filing period for next session. As of November 29, there have been 639 pieces of legislation filed by Texas Senators and members of the House of Representatives. This number includes 426 House Bills and 211 Senate

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Bills along with dozens of proposed amendments to the state constitution and 100s of general resolutions. While it is typical for over 10,000 pieces of legislation to be filed each session, generally only about 20-25% of these are actually substantive bills while the remainder of the filed legislation includes honorary, congratulatory and memorial resolutions. Bill statistics may be found on the Texas Legislative Reference Library link at: <https://lrl.texas.gov/sessions/billStatistics.cfm>.

To date, I have filed five bills:

- **HB 330** - to no longer count students as dropouts on the school accountability rating system if they are critically injured or ill and cannot return to school.
- **HB 331** - to require the Department of State Health Services' Medical Advisory Board (MAB) that assists the Texas Department of Public Safety in determining if a license applicant is capable of driving a vehicle safely to comply with the state's open meetings law.
- **HB 396** - clarifies how the state's Instructional Materials Allotment (IMA) for textbooks and software can be used.
- **HB 397** - allows school districts to use its IMA to purchase inventory software to better track their instructional materials.
- **HB 418** - adds federal prosecutors to the list of elected and government officials who can have their personal information exempted from public disclosure to help ensure they and their families' safety.

Numerous other issues brought to me by constituents and concerned Texans are currently being drafted into legislation that I will file as soon as the bill drafts are completed by the Texas Legislative Council.

Texas FFA Foundation. Last week, I had the privilege of speaking to the inaugural meeting of the "Legislative LEAD" gathering of the Texas FFA Foundation that brought ag science teachers to the Capitol for strategic advocacy and leadership training.



Rep. VanDeaver and the Texas FFA Foundation representatives in the House Chamber at the Capitol.

The Texas
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Foundation's stated goal was to "prepare these educators with a better understanding of the legislative process so they can use that knowledge to engage in legislative, government and education discussions to be better informed and prepared to engage in positive discussions."

Social media. Please follow me on both my Facebook and Twitter accounts!

My office is here to help. I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.

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