

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



April 22, 2011

Friends,

Happy Easter! I hope you are able to spend this joyous holiday with loved ones. My office will be operating with a skeleton crew until Tuesday so that staff may spend time with their families. It has been a busy week here in Austin and I am looking forward to spending the weekend back in my favorite place, House District 112. Next week when I return to Austin, the House will debate HB 400 which gives local school districts more control, and the plans for redistricting for the Texas House. I will update you on these two important issues next week.

Bills that Impact You

There are many bills in different stages of the legislative process that potentially impact the day to day lives of Texans.

The following legislation has already passed the House:

HB 33 increases the affordability of textbooks used for college courses by requiring universities to compile course schedules each semester which include required textbooks including their cost and ISBN numbers. They must also provide this information to bookstores which serve college students. Universities would have to make a reasonable effort to distribute this information to students.

HB 243 prohibits a driver from writing, or sending a text message or e-mail unless the vehicle they are driving has stopped.

HB 843 allows property tax payers the option and convenience of receiving their property tax bill by e-mail.

HB 2779 prohibits a Home Owners Association from prohibiting or restricting a property owner from displaying the U.S. or Texas flag or an official or replica flag of any branch of the U.S. armed forces.

Another piece of legislation you may have heard about in the news is HB 1201. This bill does several things to the transportation code. One of which is repealing any reference to the Trans-Texas corridor that may exist in statute. This is in response to public outcry against the Trans-Texas Corridor. By repealing the "Trans-Texas Corridor" from code, it finally puts this idea to rest. Another aspect of this legislation that has received mixed reviews in the media is the provision that the transportation commission MAY set the speed limit to 85 mph on some highways after an engineering and traffic study determines it is a safe speed limit on that particular stretch of highway. This is only applicable on new constructions that are complete after June 1, 2011.



Here I am on the House floor discussing legislation with my desk-mate, Rep. Doug Miller, Representative Mark Shelton, and Representative John Kuempel.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail
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