

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



February 15, 2013

Friends,

Technology Hearing

On Monday, the Technology Committee met for the first time during the 83rd legislative session. This was an organizational meeting where we heard informative testimony from invited witnesses. We heard from the Department of Information Resources (DIR), CEOs from FibeRio and Ideal Power Converters, and from Patrick Boswell, the Interim Director of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund (ETF).

It was a very informative hearing. DIR provides statewide leadership and oversight for management of government information and communications technology. They delivered an update on their current operations and spoke briefly about what was on the horizon for the agency with Cloud computing. The two CEOs provided insight into the high tech industry. Patrick spoke about how the majority of the 140 companies invested in by the ETF since it began in 2005 are still operational and in fact, how the fund has made a profit for the state.

Appropriations

This week the Appropriations Committee passed out HB 10. The Calendars Committee has set this bill to be heard on the floor next Thursday, the 21st. This bill recognizes that currently, Medicaid funding will run out towards the end of March 2013. HB 10 includes \$4.5 billion supplemental appropriations in order to maintain Medicaid, CHIP, and other necessary Health and Human Services programs. This is needed so doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes will continue to get paid. In addition to the Medicaid payments we knew we would have to make, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) was underfunded by approximately \$1 billion. HB 10 begins to start funding the TEA's deficit so that it can pay its bills to schools through the end of this fiscal year, August 31, 2013. As you may remember from previous updates and discussions, we were aware when we adopted the budget last session, that we would have to find a way to fund these areas for the remainder of this biennium and HB 10 will accomplish that.

Rowlett Legislative Days

I was pleased to welcome the delegation from the City of Rowlett and the Rowlett Chamber of Commerce for Rowlett Legislative Days at the Capitol this week. They came to Austin to speak to their state elected officials, Senator John Carona, Representatives Cindy Burkett, Scott Turner, and me, regarding Rowlett's legislative priorities including topics such as economic development, transportation, and water and natural resources. Rowlett is a thriving community whose residents enjoy lakeside living along 30 miles of beautiful shoreline. Moreover, Rowlett is ranked in the Top 25 "Best Places To Live in a City Under 100,000" by Money Magazine!

It was nice to see so many friendly faces from Rowlett. My staff and I joined them for a reception and dinner Monday night, and I was pleased to visit with them at my office and honor them with a resolution read from the House floor on Tuesday.



Meeting with the Rowlett Legislative Days group at their reception and dinner. From left to right: Liz Beauchamp of Atmos, Me, Rowlett Assistant City Manager Brian Funderburk, and Bobby Montgomery of Lake Pointe Medical Center.

Pastor of the Day Mayor Ron Jones

Every morning to open the day's activities at the Texas House, a guest pastor is invited to lead the invocation. This past Wednesday, I had the privilege of hosting Garland Mayor Ron Jones as the Pastor of the Day. Mayor Jones is not only mayor of Garland, but also the Senior Pastor at the historic New Hope Baptist Church, the oldest African American church in Dallas. After he led the entire House in prayer, I presented my mayor and friend, Ron Jones, with a resolution honoring his hard work and dedication to the City of Garland during his time as mayor. Several other Garland and Dallas area representatives joined me in thanking Mayor Jones for his service to our city.



On the House Floor with Mayor Ron Jones, Speaker Joe Straus, and in front from left to right: Representatives Linda Harper-Brown, Cindy Burkett, and Kenneth Sheets.

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 Angie.Button@house.state.tx.us.