

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



February 20, 2015

Friends,

In Austin, many House committees began holding meetings this week. The three committees I serve on held their first meetings. The Ways & Means and Economic & Small Business Development Committees met to organize and to hear testimony from state agencies as well as experts in their respective areas. The Rules & Resolutions Committee met to set the Congratulatory and Memorial calendar for the week.

House Members and Senators have been busy preparing legislation before the March 13th bill filing deadline. Once a bill is filed, it is referred to the committee that has jurisdiction over the subject matter for a hearing. The chair of each committee decides when the committee will meet and which bills will be considered. After considering a bill in a public hearing, a committee may choose to take no action or may vote the bill out of committee.

In the House, if a bill is voted out of committee, it is sent to the Calendars Committee where the Committee determines the schedule for when bills will be heard before the entire House. In the Senate, local and noncontroversial bills are scheduled for senate consideration by the Senate Administration Committee. All other bills in the Senate are placed on the regular order of business for consideration by the full senate in the order in which the bills were reported from the Senate committees.

In order for a bill to become law, it must pass both the House and the Senate before it goes to the Governor. Once the Governor receives a bill, he has 10 days to sign the bill, veto it, or allow it to become law without a signature.

Economic & Small Business Development Committee

Thursday morning, the Committee on Economic & Small Business Development, which I have the honor of chairing this session, held our very first hearing. I am glad to work on this Committee with fellow North Texan Representative Eric Johnson who serves as Vice Chair. This committee

will work to ensure that Texas remains the top state for jobs and businesses. We heard from the Governor's Director of Economic Development & Tourism, Bryan Daniel. The Comptroller's office testified about some of the tax incentive programs that they offer. The Department of Agriculture spoke about some of the programs that are aimed at rural and agricultural businesses in our state. The Economic & Small Business Development Committee has a great deal of work ahead of us this session as we work to keep Texas the number one job creator in our country while ensuring each tax dollar spent brings a return on our investment.

State of the State

On Tuesday, Governor Greg Abbott gave his first State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature. Assessing the health of the state, Governor Abbott pointed to the vitality of the state economy by declaring, "As the sun rises on 2015, the state of Texas is strong and together we're about to make it stronger." He also laid out the major initiatives that he wants to advance in the next couple of years. He identified five emergency items that he wanted the legislature to address this session: transportation, border security, pre-kindergarten education, higher education research funding, and ethics reform. I look forward to working with our governor on these issues.



Discussing the State of the State with Governor Greg Abbott

State of the Judiciary

On Wednesday, we heard the State of the Judiciary address before a joint session of the legislature by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan Hecht. Chief Justice Hecht urged the legislature to focus on continuing legal aid to the poor and military veterans and to complete reform of student truancy. He also pointed out work the legislature had done to lessen the amount of disruptive student tickets, highlighting the collaborative effort between the judicial and legislative branches.

Senior Rally Day

This week, the Texas Silver Haired Legislature came to the state capitol to advocate on behalf of senior citizens in the state. I was very happy to get to meet with my dear friend Pastor Jerry Nichols of Richardson and his friend Manuel Flores. I really appreciate all of the senior citizens

that came to their state capitol this week to open a dialogue with their elected officials and to speak about issues that are important to them.



Pictured with Pastor Jerry Nichols and Manuel Flores



Former Garland Mayor Bob Day visited the Capitol this week to discuss issues important to optometrists



I enjoyed getting to see Tonna Duke of Richardson when she visited me at my office to discuss teacher retirement issues

This Thursday marked the beginning of the Lunar New Year which I was happy to celebrate with my colleagues on the House floor.

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.