

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas
House of Representatives



May 22, 2015

Friends,

There are just ten days left in the session. There are still many important matters before us. This week, the House and the Senate agreed on a \$3.8 billion tax relief package for Texas businesses and homeowners. The agreement includes:

- \$10,000 increase in the Homestead Exemption subject to passage of a Constitutional Amendment that will go before the voters in November
- 25% permanent reduction in the business margins tax
- Requiring a 60% vote of the governing body of any taxing unit wishing to adopt an increase in property taxes that exceeds the effective tax rate

I am proud to serve on the Ways & Means Committee which worked diligently throughout the legislative session to provide meaningful tax relief to Texans. I look forward to seeing these bills become law.

Ending Double Taxation on Software

SB 755, which I proudly sponsored, updates our sales tax policy to clarify that a computer program sold as part of an internet hosting package may only be taxed once: when the internet hosting program is sold to end users. Texas' taxation of software began in 1984 before the World Wide Web even existed - long before cloud computing. Our current law allows software for cloud computing to be taxed twice: once when the cloud computing company purchases it to sell to a customer, and again when the customer buys it.

This bill seeks to remedy this problem by treating computer programs purchased for internet hosting services the same as materials purchased for the manufacture and sale of goods within Texas.



Discussing Legislation with my Desk Mate, Rep. Doug Miller

Protecting Your Tax Dollars by Reforming State Contracting Practices

This week, the House passed SB 20 which reforms the way that state agencies award contracts. Currently, we have a Contract Advisory Team that reviews large contracts worth over \$10 million, but SB 20 expands their purview to agencies with recent contracting problems that are under that threshold. The bill also requires agencies to review how vendors perform and would ban those contractors that have a history of poor performance. The bill will now go to a conference committee between the House and the Senate to iron out the last minute differences.

Pastor Protection Act

Another important piece of legislation that the House passed this week was SB 2065, the Pastor Protection Act. The bill clarifies that members of the clergy have the right to refuse to conduct marriages violating their beliefs. This is very important to clergy members across Texas as it ensures that their religious rights are being protected. I was a proud co-author of the House version of the bill, HB 3567, and I was proud to vote for SB 2065 yesterday when it passed the House 141-2. The bill will now head to the Governor's desk to await his signature.



Discussing Legislation Impacting North Texas with my Dallas Area Colleague, Rep. 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.