



State Representative Lyle Larson
TX HD-122

04.26.2011

Weekly Recap #15

What's new in District 122

Last week, **HB 3726**, a bill that will assist the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) to continue managing the Alamo, was passed by the House. As discussed in previous newsletters, I have been working with the DRT over the past few weeks to craft legislation to address concerns dealing with their custodianship. This bill requires the DRT to submit annual financial reports to the state, and sets up a preservation advisory board comprised of representatives from the city, county, and state levels. Senator Wentworth has filed a similar bill that the Senate will take up soon.

During House Natural Resources Committee meeting last week, we listened to several hours of testimony on **HB 814**, a bill that would allow the pumping of water from Uvalde County to San Antonio, which is currently prohibited by a 1993 law that created the Edwards Aquifer Authority. There are several impassioned individuals on both sides of the argument. Based on the information we have about water available in the Edwards, this may be a plausible solution to our water needs, but it's clear that all parties involved must come to an agreement before any action may be taken. Also, a revised version of SB 332, the groundwater ownership bill, may be eligible for a vote by the Committee soon. The language was changed to replace the term "vested rights" with "owns the groundwater below the surface of his land as real property." This will codify what has been common practice in water law for the last several decades. The revised bill is considered a better compromise that will ensure property owners will be able to sell water beneath their land for market price, while ensuring our ability to conserve and plan for our state's future water needs.

Also this week, the House will vote on **HB 400**, the "School Efficiency bill" by Public Education Committee Chairman Rob Eissler. Several school district superintendents and school board members have indicated that HB 400 provides relief from unnecessary mandates on school districts and rewards effective teaching.

Wednesday, the House will take up CSHB 150, the redistricting bill for the Texas House. Based on 2010 Census data, the ideal size for a Texas House district is 167,637 people. Several

of the 150 House districts have experienced either extreme growth or population loss. In Bexar County, District 122, the district I represent, must lose roughly 80,000 people, while many adjacent districts need to gain several tens of thousands to get as close as possible to the ideal 167,637 number. Please send me your feedback and let me know what you think about this map.

As you may know, several bills have been introduced in the House that would allow for the expansion of gambling in Texas. Proponents say that it will provide up to \$3 billion in additional revenue for the state.

At the Capitol



Working on redistricting with other members on the House floor.



With constituents Clay, Pamela and Leann Branz

If we may be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact our Capitol office at (512) 463-0646 or lyle.larson@house.state.tx.us. Please continue to let us hear from you!

Best,