



State Representative Lyle Larson
TX HD-122

05.17.2011

Weekly Recap #18
What's new in District 122

Last week was quite a marathon with midnight Thursday, May 12th being the deadline for consideration of House bills on 2nd reading. Of the 927 House bills and joint resolutions that were sent to the Calendars Committee, 588 were actually placed on the calendar. The remaining 339 were not set and died in Calendars.

"The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not deter us from the support of a cause we believed to be just." ~Abraham Lincoln

Bills we filed that passed out of committee and were sent to Calendars that ultimately died include HB 684 (tent jails), HJR 84 & HB 1131 (ending highway diversions), HB 2348 (paper ready inmates), HB 2349 (allowing school districts to invest in corporate bonds), HB 3188 (EPA pushback). Because the House can consider Senate bills until May 23rd, we are working to find relevant Senate bills to attach these bills to in the form of amendments.

Loan sharks, cockfighting, groping and spanking: some of the interesting issues debated by the House last week.

Some of last week's highlights include:

- The passage of HB 12, the Sanctuary Cities bill. HB 12 would prevent local law enforcement officers from refusing to ask individuals who have been arrested if they are citizens. After many hours of emotionally charged debate, HB 12 finally passed 100-47.
- HB 272, which includes major reforms to the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), passed on Thursday. As Texas continues to face hurricanes each year, HB 272 will increase transparency in the agency and better protect consumers.

- A set of payday lending reform bills were debated, with one crossing the finish line. The bill would allow the industry to continue issuing loans, but seeks to reign in the predatory institutions.
- HB 359, a bill that would require parental consent before school administrators are allowed to use corporal punishment, passed last week. Currently, public school heads are allowed to spank students when there is a breakdown in discipline, with or without parental consent.
- The passage of HB 1043, which makes watching or organizing cockfights illegal.
- The passage of HB 1937, which would restrict the Transportation Security Administration in Texas from touching travelers inappropriately as part of a security screening. Texas is the first state in the nation to enact such legislation.
- HB 2817 and HB 804, two election reform bill, will prohibit vote harvesting and increase penalty for unlawful assistance of voter registration.

Also last week, I introduced an amendment to HB 2078 that would prohibit a chief appraiser of an appraisal district from changing an evaluation made by the district's appraisal review board (ARB). For several years, many Bexar County residents have experienced frustration when the chief appraiser has repeatedly manipulated the appraisal review process and changed the decision of the ARB. My amendment delineates the appraiser's role in the process and will prevent the chief appraiser from abusing his or her power.

I also introduced an amendment to HB 2347, which would allow Texas counties the option to block vehicle registration if the owner of the vehicle failed to appear in court in connection with a complaint, citation, information, or indictment.

At the Capitol



With members of the Reagan High School girls golf team



With the Alamo Council of the Blind

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,