



January 24, 2013 | Volume 3 | Issue 3

Representative Dan Huberty



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Getting Settled In...

We have reached the end of the third week of the 83rd Session. The veteran members are getting back into the swing of things and the freshmen members are catching-on to ways that will ease the weekly commute to Austin from home each week.

In observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Texas House of Representatives did not return to the Capitol to reconvene business until Wednesday. However many members, like myself, were at the Capitol earlier in the week to conduct other business.

On Tuesday afternoon, I joined State Senators Tommy Williams and John Whitmire for a press conference regarding the proposed "Texas School District Security Act". You can read more about the legislation and the press conference in this newsletter.

The week ended on Thursday, as the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 29. We will pick-up our business next week. For now, I look forward to the many wonderful events occurring in District 127 this weekend and encourage you to join me in attendance. See the "Upcoming Events" section for more information.

Please take the time to read through our newsletter. If you would like to learn more about any of the items listed in this newsletter, please contact my staff at either the District Office, 281-360-9410, or the Capitol Office, 512-463-0520. And remember you can always contact me through the House website at www.house.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative - District 127

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Texas School District Security Act Press Release

Sen. Tommy Williams, The Woodlands, Sen. John Whitmire, Houston, and Rep. Dan Huberty, Humble, announced their intention today (Tuesday, Jan. 22) to file legislation to enhance safety for students and school personnel. The "*Texas School District Security Act*" would give school boards, parents and taxpayers' local choices and control in hiring licensed peace officers to protect school campuses. The plan is a response to the school-shooting tragedy last month at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Ct. The plan would rely on professional police officers to defend our children and schools for local communities that want this option. The three legislators characterize their plan as "a Texas solution to save lives without sacrificing freedoms" while noting "school communities are smart enough to figure out what works best for them and how much they're willing to commit."

"We can offer a solution that will save lives. We can do so without overreactions and gun control and with the best interests of our students, teachers, faculty and communities. We can also let local school districts decide for themselves," Sen. Williams said. "A blanket state mandate won't work. Nor will a one-size-fits-all policy. Our idea emphasizes local choice and local control."

"I support Senator Williams in proposing a plan to allow school districts an option to develop their individual security plans," stated Senator Whitmire, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. "I trust our school boards and parents to decide what is best for their schools and this will allow them that opportunity."

Representative Huberty served as president of the Humble School Board before his election to the Texas Legislature. "I understand first-hand the importance of local control and how this law will allow school districts, school boards and their constituents the ability to decide for themselves how to best use their resources to protect our most precious assets --- our children," Rep. Huberty said. "I look forward to working with Senators Williams and Whitmire and my House colleagues during this session to pass this important piece of legislation."

Additional protection of students and schools won't come without additional cost, noted Sen. Williams, new chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "I know just how tight state and local budgets are these days. I also know that we need to pay as we go, avoid running up debt, and empower local school districts to decide what the best policy is for them," the Senate Finance chairman said. "This plan also underscores accountability to voters." Many Texas school districts are already stretched to the maximum but should be able to decide for themselves if they want to invest in increased, dedicated safety protections, the officials said while outlining their "*Texas School District Security Act*."

Modeled after current law, which allows municipalities to vote to adopt Crime Control Districts, the legislation, being drafted, would do the following:

- Allow individual independent school districts to vote on and approve dedicated funding for enhanced school security measures.
- Place trained, licensed and armed peace officers in all schools within a district – or only those in which the school district chooses.
- Provide funding for enhanced screening and security measures at public K through 12 schools.
- Allow for dedicated sales tax (if available under the state cap), or a dedicated property tax specifically for crime control and enhanced security based on local school district votes and desires. The revenue generated from a local option School District Security Fund would be separate from all other district funding.
- Provide transparency and accountability by requiring ISD's to hold public hearings on what is to be included and provided by the "*Texas School District Security Act*". Costs will be spelled out and voters will know the estimated amount of the dedicated property or sales tax to cover those costs before holding an election on the issue.
- Require a review and renewal election of the "*Texas School District Security Act*" every 5 years by voters.
- Repeal of the "*Texas School District Security Act*" will be allowed with a repeal petition that contains valid signatures from voters in the district equal to at least 50 percent of the number of votes cast in the election creating the special district.
- The elected and accountable local school board would also serve as the board of the "*Texas School District Security Act*".
- A constitutional amendment may be required to give school districts authority to fund the School District Security Act. The bill is still being drafted and the funding details are part of the process. We are confident that Texas voters will support such an amendment, if necessary, to help make our schools safer.

"Voters in school districts across Texas ought to be able to decide for themselves if they want to dedicate some funds - that are accountable and transparent - to enhance the protection of our school children and our schools," Sen. Williams said.

KTRH Radio Interview - Matt Patrick

Early Monday, January 21, Rep. Huberty was live on the air with KTRH 740 radio host, Matt Patrick. He was asked to speak to his legislation regarding school board trustees with concealed handgun licenses. Currently, members of school boards, who possess concealed handgun licenses (CHL), are not allowed to carry while performing their elected duties. However, they are one of the only elected officials not afforded this right. Rep. Huberty's House Bill 223, would simply allow CHL-licensed school board trustees to carry while acting in their elected capacity.

Representative Sarah Davis was also interviewed by Matt Patrick, regarding her House Bill 485, which relates to decreasing the fee paid by certain peace officers and veterans of the United States armed forces for a license to carry a concealed handgun. You can listen to the interview in its entirety by [clicking here](#).

Adopt-A-Beach Contest

The 17th Annual Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest is fast approaching. Students have an opportunity to submit art work based on the theme "Treasures of the Texas Coast" and should depict why the Texas coast is important or special to the student. All Texas students (public, private, and home-schooled) in grades K-6 are invited to participate in this contest. All entries must have a completed parental release form affixed to the back of the artwork. All submissions must be postmarked by Monday, March 4th, 2013 and mailed to the Texas General Land Office. Late submissions will not be accepted. For more information regarding Adopt-A-Beach visit their website at <http://www.glo.texas.gov/adopt-a-beach/index.html>.

TexShare Cards

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has introduced a new statewide library card, called the TexShare card, that will allow the use of materials offered at all participating libraries throughout Texas. Most libraries throughout the state are taking advantage of this program, however lending policies may be different. To see if your local library participates visit www.tsl.state.tx.us/texshare. This new way to easily find legislative information for research and leisure online is available exclusively to the state of Texas and it cannot be found on any other database. Magazines, journals, books, and references full of valuable information is available to card-holders.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 25

- 9 AM** **The 10th Annual Travis McCormick Kleenwood Day**
Kingwood Town Center
[Click here for more information](#)
 - 9 AM** **Bayou Land Conservancy's Annual Tree Planting Event**
Little Cypress Creek Preserve- 14900 Telge Road, Cypress, TX 77429
[Click here for more information](#)
 - 1 PM** **2013 Texas Rally for Life**
Texas Capitol (South Steps)
Visit www.texasrallyforlife.org for more information
 - 5:30 PM** **HLSR GO METRO Humble/Kingwood - Boots & Buckles Ball**
Humble Civic Center
[Click here for more information](#)
 - 6 PM** **FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center's Hearts of Gold Gala**
Sheraton North Houston
[Click here for more information](#)
 - 12 PM** **Huffman FFA Show and Auction**
Hargrave High School
[Click here for more information](#)
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