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Representative Dan Huberty



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Bill Filing Deadline

The day has finally come and gone. If a bill was not been filed by Friday, it will not be heard in the 83rd Legislative Session. As we reach the benchmark of having less than 80 days left until the end of our biennial gathering, we reflect on all that has been accomplished. Yet, we can also now see the full amount of work left for us to tend to for the State of Texas.

I look forward to addressing these issues with my fellow members. We have some tough subjects to face, including infrastructure like a state water plan, roads and bridges, power capacity and public school finance.

Personally, I have filed a bevy of legislation covering a range of topics from public education, to Municipal Utility Districts and even energy production. The next few months of session will bring lots of hearings for my committees, plus several visits to other committees to hopefully have my bills passed along favorably to the full membership of the house to discuss. Although this brings a large increase in workload for our office, we will continue to be open for any and all visiting constituents to come see us at the Texas Capitol.

In this newsletter, you will find a wrap-up of the legislation I have filed, along with a recap of what happened at the Texas Capitol last week. There is still a ton of great moments to come this session and I look forward to them all.

As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions you may have regarding the 83rd Legislative Session. You can reach the Capitol staff at 512-463-0520, or my District staff at 281-360-9410.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty
State Representative - District 127

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Legislative Update

As a sophomore member this session, Representative Huberty has decided to take on more issues than last session. He has filed 19 bills, ranging in issues from student assessment, teacher evaluation, trustee safety, municipal items, political contribution reporting, power generation and small business regulation.

A full list of the legislation filed by Representative Huberty can be viewed on his House website, accessible by [clicking here](#). You can also view each individual bill by clicking the bill number. But here are some brief snippets of several of those bills that have already been heard in a committee hearing:

HB 222 - Heard in Public Education Committee

- Under current law, if a campus receives a rating of "academically unacceptable" for one school year, they are required to allow their students to transfer to another campus within the same district for three years following that negative rating. The school is also required to notify parents for three years following the negative rating.
- This bill simply lowers that notification to two years if in the immediately following year, that campus receives an "academically acceptable" rating

HB 224 - Heard in Public Education Committee

- This bill repeals the mandate that 15 percent of a student's final grade in a particular course come from their performance on an end-of-course exam.
- This requirement was established during the 81st Legislative Session in HB 3, which required school districts to enforce this mandate beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. The Commissioner of TEA has issued a stay on this mandate due to a significant number of complaints from across the state over the last two years.

HB 1035 - Heard in Elections Committee

- Currently all state office holders are required to file personal financial statements. At this moment in time, these documents have to be delivered by regular mail or hand delivered.
- This bill would allow the electronic delivery of these documents to be an option.

HB 1264 - Heard in Public Education Committee

- This bill provides a way for public schools and open enrollment charter schools to report the number of students identified with dyslexia to the state through PEIMS.
- Some Texas school districts gather this information for local purposes but have no way to report those numbers to TEA. This bill allows districts to report numbers so that we can better allocate resources to support teachers and serve students with dyslexia and related disorders.



Rep. Huberty laying out House Bill 1035 in the Elections Committee Hearing

Aggie Green & Georgia Grey

Kingwood residents, Aggie Green and Georgia Grey, visited Representative Huberty at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 5. At his invitation, they came to the Austin for the day for a private tour and lunch with Rep. Huberty.

It was a very busy day at the Capitol with lots of groups walking the grounds and halls. They truly enjoyed their time at the Capitol and all of their activities. Representative Huberty is happy to host constituents anytime during the legislative session. Please contact the Capitol Office for more information.



Stay Connected with the Texas Legislature

As originally stated in the November 2012 newsletter, there are several ways to be engaged in the political proceeding in Austin from the comfort of your own computer. For information on House or Senate members, please visit www.house.state.tx.us or www.senate.state.tx.us. You can also watch the members in action by viewing the daily live stream from both Chambers at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/> or <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/bin/live.php>. Similarly, these websites offer live stream video of all and Committee Hearings throughout the legislative session.

Individuals more interested in watching specific legislation as it goes through the process are encouraged to utilize the Texas Legislature Online website. This allows you to track bills, set alerts for hearings, watch specific topics and keep a pulse on what is happening in the Capitol building for the 140 days between swearing-in and Sine Die. This site can be accessed at <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/>.

There are several other great online resources available to all Texans. You can access the Texas Legislative Reference Library (LRL), which performs research for Texas legislators, their staff, and legislative committees, at <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/index.cfm>. The library also assists the public and other state agencies with legislative research.

Another great resource, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB), is a permanent joint committee of the Texas Legislature that develops budget and policy recommendations for legislative appropriations, completes fiscal analyses for proposed legislation, and conducts evaluations and reviews to improve the efficiency and performance of state and local operations. It can be accessed at <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/>.

Also available online is the State Auditor's Office (SAO), which serves as the independent auditor for Texas state government. The SAO operates with oversight from the Legislative Audit Committee, a six-member permanent standing committee of the Texas Legislature, jointly chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The SAO can be accessed at <http://www.sao.state.tx.us/>.

The Sunset Advisory Commission (SAC) is also a great resource. The SAC was created to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies. The 12-member Commission is a legislative body that reviews the policies and programs of more than 150 government agencies every 12 years. The Commission questions the need for each agency, looks for potential duplication of other public services or programs, and considers new and innovative changes to improve each agency's operations and activities. The Commission seeks public input through hearings on every agency under Sunset review and recommends actions on each agency to the full Legislature. In most cases, agencies under Sunset review are automatically abolished unless legislation is enacted to continue them. Their website is <http://www.sunset.state.tx.us/>.

Contact the office of Representative Dan Huberty with questions about these or other resources.

Lake Houston Sports & Recreation Foundation

The LHSRC has been busy working to fulfill their mission of creating a better habitat for fish and wildlife in Lake Houston. Just recently, several board members working on practical enhancements to Lake Houston, including, reestablishing aquatic vegetation along the lake's shoreline and releasing another 100,000 fish in to the lake. The vegetation will be grown in boxes on the shoreline of the lake, then relocated to help refurbish the habitat. The role of plants in aquatic systems is significant. Aquatic plants provide valuable fish and wildlife habitat, serve as a food source for waterfowl and other aquatic wildlife, improve water clarity and quality, reduce rates of shoreline erosion and sediment re-suspension and help prevent the spread of nuisance exotic plants.



Rep. Huberty with his sons, Ryan & Dylan, and members of the LHSRC with the vegetation boxes

The LHSRC's annual fundraising golf tournament will be occurring on Friday, April 5, and you can learn more about that event [by clicking here](#). And their annual "Take-A-Kid-Fishing" Day will be held on Saturday, April 27. More information will be provided on that later.

H-GAC 2013-2016 TIP Call for Projects Public Comment Period and Public Meeting

H-GAC is announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period on the Draft 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects. Approximately \$446 million of state and federal funds are available for the selection of projects submitted during the 2013-2016 TIP Call for Projects. The 2013-2016 TIP is a multimodal program of transportation infrastructure and service improvements planned for implementation in the Houston Region over the next four years. It includes projects of regional significance for which federal, state and local funding has been assigned. The TIP contains the program of projects for each of the region's transit providers, and the above revisions relate to or have the potential to affect services provided by: the Metropolitan Transit Authority (METRO), Connect Transit, Galveston Island Transit, The District, and the City of Conroe.

The public comment period begins on March 6, 2013 and ends on April 5, 2013 at 5:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comments to H-GAC. All written comments may be submitted to Transportation Public Information, Houston-Galveston Area Council, P.O. Box 22777, Houston, TX 77227-2777, emailed to publiccomments@h-gac.com, or faxed to (713) 993-4508. For more information, please visit: http://www.h-gac.com/tag/public_info. Two public meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013, Noon until 1:00 p.m. and again from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The meetings will be held at the H-GAC offices, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor Conference Room A, Houston, TX 77027.



Lovett Elementary Students

Students from Lovett Elementary School, a Fine Arts Magnet School in Houston ISD, recently performed on the steps of the State Capitol Building in recognition of "Arts Education Days at the Capitol." Over 200 groups requested the privilege to attend and Lovett was the only school representing Houston ISD. The band performed a number of songs including "Texas, Our Texas" and closed with a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." The band met a number of elected officials, including State Representative Dan Huberty, and were warmly received by the executives in charge of the program.