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March 10, 2017

Dear Fellow Texan,

Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. This edition contains information about what happened at the Texas Capitol during the ninth week of the 85th Legislative Session.

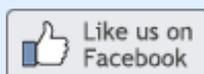
On Sunday evening, I spoke to members of ATPE at their annual conference. They came to the Capitol Monday morning to visit with legislators and staff for their advocacy day. I recognized the statewide group from in the Chamber with a House Resolution.

The rest of the week, visitors from across the state came to the Capitol. There were several committee hearings, including one on Public Education. Pensions will be meeting next week. The House adjourned on Thursday and will convene again on Monday. Today is the bill filing deadline so the building has been buzzing all week.

Take a look below to read more about these events and should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my staff at any time. Our contact information is listed at the bottom of this email.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty



What's Going On in Austin?

85th Session Legislative Statistics

Once again, here are the statistics for the 85th Legislative Session thus far. As mentioned previously, bill filing began in November 2016 and will continue through March 10th, 2017. The current legislative statistics are shown in the table below:

85th Regular Session - 2017

Status	HB	HCR	HJR	HR	SB	SCR	SJR	SR	Total HB & SB	Total
Introduced	4175	82	107	810	2176	42	58	399	6351	7849
Passed	0	7	0	584	0	7	0	399	0	997
Vetoed	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0

*as of 3:45 PM on Friday, March 10, 2017

All of these bills, including those that Rep. Huberty has filed, can be viewed by visiting the Texas Legislature Online website at <http://www.legis.texas.gov/>. Here you can track bills and follow them as they move through the legislative process.

Rep. Huberty's Legislation

Friday, March 10th, marks the Bill Filing Deadline for the 85th Legislative Session. Rep. Huberty has been filing legislation since November and now has 38 bills on his agenda. His legislation varies from public school finance to annexation. The majority of his bills have been referred to their respective committees and several have already been presented in a hearing.

HB 21 - Relating to the public school finance system.

HB 22 - Relating to public school accountability

HB 23 - Relating to a grant program to fund innovative programs for public school students with autism.

HB 356 - Relating to the carrying of concealed or holstered handguns by certain handgun license holders attending a meeting of the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school.

HB 357 - Relating to the eligibility of the children of certain first responders for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

HB 361 - Relating to erecting signs for a public election on certain rights-of-way.

HB 363 - Relating to a prohibition of a monitoring system performance indicator based on the number or percentage of students receiving special education services.

HB 364 - Relating to exemptions for disabled peace officers and fire fighters from payment of tuition and fees at public institutions of higher education.

HB 380 - Relating to authorizing the purchase of certain insurance coverage by public school districts for the benefit of businesses and students participating in career or technology training programs and providing for immunity from liability of certain public school students participating in career or technology programs.

HB 402 - Relating to money used by certain counties for the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program and local initiative air quality projects.

HB 412 - Relating to regulation of the retail sale of fireworks.

HB 424 - Relating to municipal annexation.

HB 966 - Relating to the use of individual graduation committees to satisfy certain public high school graduation requirements.

HB 1606 - Relating to the authority of the Texas Military Department to purchase food and beverages.

HB 1854 - Relating to the sequencing of required English language arts courses and mathematics courses in schools.

HB 2039 - Relating to creating an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three.

HB 2051 - Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.

HB 2108 - Relating to an increase in the tax rate limitation on the issuance of tax-supported bonds for certain school districts.

HB 2340

- Relating to the use by a school district of certain undesignated funds in the district's general fund.

HB 2614

- Relating to school district discretion to administer college preparation assessment instruments to public school students at state cost.

HB 3044 - Relating to educator preparation programs.

HB 3075 - Relating to excluding certain students from the computation of dropout and completion rates for purposes of public school accountability.

HB 3311

- Relating to the date and time for the public sale of real property.

HB 3326

- Relating to job order contracting by governmental entities.

HB 3347

- Relating to before-school and after-school programs established by public school districts.

HB 3369

- Relating to the statewide plan for special education and assistance to public school districts in providing special education programs.

HB 3381

- Relating to Texas Military Heroes Day in public schools.

HB 3476

- Relating to cardiac assessments of high school participants in extracurricular athletic activities sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

HB 3487

- Relating to the creation of an instructional materials web portal by the commissioner of education.

HB 3599

- Relating to parental rights and information regarding certain intervention strategies used with public school students.

HB 3615

- Relating to the ownership, sale, lease, and disposition of property and management of assets of an open-enrollment charter school.

HB 3665

- Relating to the definition of volunteer fire department for purposes of certain motor fuel tax exemptions.

HB 3812

- Relating to an allotment under the foundation school program for students with dyslexia or related disorders.

HB 3821 - Relating to voting by the qualified voters of a water or sewer district wholly or partly annexed by a municipality.

HB 3822 - Relating to voting rights and eligibility for office of residents of certain districts subject to a strategic partnership agreement.

HB 3828 - Relating to accreditation interventions and sanctions.

HB 4191 - Relating to the public school finance system.

You can view Rep. Huberty's Legislative Package at this link:

<http://www.legis.texas.gov/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=author&LegSess=85R&Code=A2285>

Use the this link or go directly to the Texas Legislature Online website to follow these and other bills as they move through the process. You can set alerts and watch specific bills that are important to you.

Press Conference: House Bill 21 - Public School Finance

Texas House Public Education Committee Chairman Dan Huberty on Monday filed House Bill 21, which provides \$1.6 billion in additional resources for education while making several improvements to the state's school finance formulas.

When compared to what they are scheduled to receive under current law, more than 95 percent of Texas school districts receive additional per-student funding under House Bill 21. In addition, almost every charter school gets additional dollars. Funding for House Bill 21 is included in House Bill 1, the House's proposed state budget for the next two years.

"We are putting more resources in the classroom and making needed reforms to our school finance formulas," Chairman Huberty said. "By increasing state funding for schools, we can improve instruction and reduce the need for higher property taxes. This bill would keep more local tax dollars in local public schools."

House Bill 21:

- Reduces the amount of money that local taxpayers would pay in recapture by \$163 million in 2018 and \$192 million in 2019.
- Increases the Basic Allotment from \$5,140 to \$5,350.
- Creates new transportation funding at \$125 per student funded through the Basic Allotment, which will benefit charters and allow districts that pay recapture to fully access state transportation funding for the first time.
- Provides weighted funding for students with dyslexia.
- Provides a two-year hardship grant program to help districts affected by the expiration of Additional State Aid for Tax Reduction.

[Click here for more information on HB 21.](#)

"This plan helps students across the board, including those who attend charter schools," Chairman Huberty said. "We are beginning to fix flaws in our school finance system and helping schools meet the increasingly high demands that have been put on them."

Last year, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the state's school finance system was constitutional but deeply flawed. Following that ruling, House Speaker Joe Straus encouraged legislators to continue working on school finance reforms.

"Our school finance system needs a lot of work, and Chairman Huberty's bill is a very good start," Speaker

Straus said. "We have the time and the resources to improve public education this year, and I want to thank Chairman Huberty for presenting a strong and bipartisan plan to address this priority."

[You can view the HB 21 Press Conference in full here.](#)



Texas House Republican Caucus Ethics Reform & Anti-Corruption Acts of 2017

House Bill 500

- House Bill 500 protects the public's trust in our state and local governments by prohibiting a public retirement system from paying a full retirement annuity to an elected official convicted and imprisoned for an abuse of office. Elected officials that violate the public trust should not be allowed to receive full public compensation in the form of a pension while serving time.
- The bill also provides a clear line for future reference: once a legislator or state officer is convicted of a felony, they are removed from office on the day that conviction becomes final.

House Bill 501

- Expands transparency and disclosure requirements for state ethics reporting by requiring elected officials to disclose contracts with governmental entities, including bond counsel services, and legal referral fees.
- Broadly, HB 501 proposes three disclosure reforms.
 - First, the bill requires that elected officers and candidates disclose contracts for goods or services between themselves, or their spouse or dependent child, and governmental entities.
 - Second, HB 501 requires legislators that offer bond counsel services to public issuers, such as water districts or cities, to disclose specific information regarding each issuance.
 - Lastly, the bill requires state officers that are attorneys to report specific information regarding legal referrals, including the date the referral is made, the style of the case referred, and the referral fee paid.

House Bill 502

- Shines a brighter light on lobbyist spending on elected officials. HB 502 proposes three key reforms regarding lobbyists' disclosure requirements.
- HB 502 lowers the reporting threshold for lobbyist spending on transportation, lodging, food and drink, or entertainment for a member of the legislative or executive branch from 60 to 30 percent of the legislative per diem.
- Ends the practice of "ticket splitting."
- The bill expands the reporting requirements for lobbyist spending on transportation, lodging, food and drink, or entertainment to include those amounts spent on the immediate family of a member of the legislative or executive branch.

House Bill 503

- Prohibits a person who is a registered state or federal lobbyist, or required to be registered, from running for office and prohibits elected officials from lobbying.
- Does not preclude a person who is no longer a registered lobbyist from seeking elected office.

House Bill 504

- Prohibits former legislators from lobbying for a minimum of two years following their retirement from legislative office. This cooling off period would last for the duration of one legislative cycle, which begins on the first day of a regular session and ends on the day before the first day of the succeeding legislative session.

House Bill 505

- Prohibits the use of campaign funds by a former officeholder that has registered as a lobbyist for two years following their retirement from office. This change establishes a two-year cooling off period before former elected officials can use their campaign war chests for lobbying purposes.

Our democracy is founded on the belief that public servants are elected by the people to serve as their voice in government, and to represent their interests. The House ethics reform package aims to protect and restore the public's trust and confidence in our elected bodies.

The proposed ethics reform legislation is intended to build public trust and confidence in our elected leaders and public institutions. Broadly, the bill establishes needed punishments for abuse of office, shines a brighter light on lobbyist spending and public officials' contracts with governmental entities, and cements a firm wall between elective office and lobbying.

Capitol Events & Visitors



Rep. Huberty speaking on a panel with Sen. Taylor & Rep. Gonzales at the annual ATPE Conference



Rep. Huberty reading HR 736 honoring ATPE on their Day at the Capitol





Humble ISD ATPE with Rep. Huberty



Governor Greg Abbott with Rep. Huberty at the Annual Republican Party of Texas Dinner



Rep. Huberty spoke with with Sallie Hernandez of KXAN News about Public School Finance

The Texas Historical Commission 2017 Diversity Internship Program

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is offering a **paid internship** opportunity at THC for the summer of 2017. March 17, 2017 is the deadline for applications and supporting documents. Please see below for more information and how to apply.

The THC created the Diversity Internship in Historic Preservation to build interest in, and awareness of, career in historic preservation, specifically among students from underrepresented cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. This initiative strives to encourage students' interests in the fields of history, preservation, architecture, archaeology, downtown revitalization and heritage tourism. [Read more about the Diversity Internship Program by clicking here.](#)

Eligibility:

- US Citizen
- College students who have completed 50 or more credit hours upon start of internship
- Attending a college or university in Texas, or a Texas resident attending school out-of-state
- Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 system (or comparable GPA)
- Preference may be given to candidates from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds
- Prior recipients are ineligible
- To apply (all materials must be postmarked by March 17, 2017):
 - Determine your top 3 divisions/areas of interest
 - Complete your [online application](#)
 - Request two letters of reference
 - Transcripts and References may be sent directly to Diversity Internship Program, Texas Historical Commission, PO Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711

Constituent Resources

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

House District 127 Events

Do you want to know what Rep. Huberty has been up to this month? Head over to his Facebook page! Give him a "like," and you'll never be out of the loop when it comes to updates, events, and photos.



Upcoming Events

March 2017

See an event you're interested in? Click the links on each date to learn more about the event's details. Under each link, you can find R.S.V.P. information, exact times, locations, and much more.

This color box indicates an event in or near House District 127.

This color box indicates an event in Austin, Texas.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4

			Ash Wednesday		Texas Tribune Public Education Symposium	
5	6 HB 21 Press Conference	7 House Public Education Committee Hearing	8	9	10 Bill Filing Deadline	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Begins	13 House Pensions Committee Meeting Spring Break	14 House Public Education Committee Hearing Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17 Spring Break	18
19	20 House Pensions Committee Meeting	21 House Public Education Committee Hearing	22	23	24	25 Including Kids Gala
26	27 House Pensions Committee Meeting	28 House Public Education Committee Hearing	29	30	31	

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