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July 28, 2017

Dear Fellow Texan,

Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. This edition contains information about the second week of the first-called Special Session of the 85th Legislature.

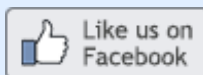
The House returned to Austin on Monday to debate HB 1, relating to avoiding the abolishment of certain agencies subject to the Texas Sunset Act on September 1, 2017. The legislation passed without any amendments.

The House Public Education Committee also met on Monday and heard bills addressing plans for public school finance reform, including HB 21, which is similar to our school finance plan during the regular session. The committee convened again on Tuesday to hear several bills related to Additional State Aid for Tax Relief (ASATR), among other topics.

You can read more about the ongoing Special Session in the following newsletter. 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?

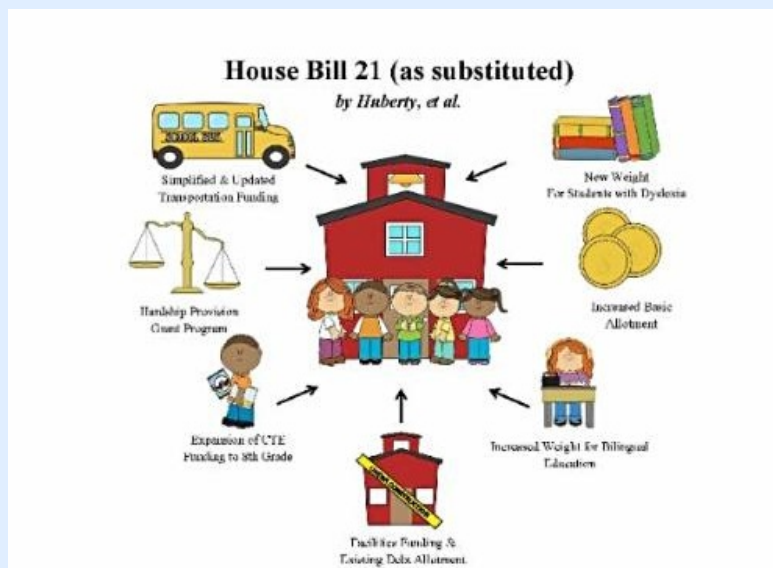
### Featured Legislation: House Bill 21 Relating to the public school finance system

HB 21 will put \$1.9 billion of new money into public education via appropriation and nearly every school district and charter school in Texas will receive more dollars per student. It simultaneously improves and simplifies public education funding in Texas. HB 21 provides more resources for schools, and it distributes those resources in an efficient method. This legislation marks the first step in the long road ahead to a full

In its current form, HB 21:

- Increases the statutory floor for the basic allotment from \$4,765 to \$5,140, with room to grow via appropriation;
- Modernizes and simplifies current transportation funding, providing a flat \$125 per student through the basic allotment;
- Updates the decade-year-old pay increases for non-professional staff by modeling it after current funding for professional staff;
- Establishes a two year Hardship Grant for school districts affected by the expiration of ASATR or other financial hardship (a total of \$200 million for the biennium);
- Repeals an antiquated hold-harmless mechanism that dates back to 1993 and benefits only a handful of property-wealthy school districts;
- Creates a new weight to assist school districts in educating students with dyslexia or related disorders;
- Increases the weight for bilingual education by 0.01;
- Expands the small district adjustment;
- Provides \$25 million in facilities funding for charter schools and an increase of \$75 million for the Existing Debt Allotment for traditional public schools;
- Reduces recapture by approximately \$390 million dollars in 2018-2019; and
- Expands of CTE funding to eligible courses in 8th grade.

"As I have said throughout the journey of this legislation, when it comes to improving our schools, there is no need to wait on another study report or a judicial order. We can do it this session. We can do it today," said Chairman Dan Huberty.



Click on the image above to explore HB 21 in more detail.

## Special Session Legislative Statistics

Currently, members of the House have filed 339 bills, whereas members of the Senate have filed 110 bills. Committees are currently meeting to hear testimony on many of these bills.

85 Legislature - 1st Called Session 2017										
Status	HB	HCR	HJR	HR	SB	SCR	SJR	SR	Total HB & SB	Total
Introduced	339	11	35	144	110	1	8	81	449	729
Passed	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	81	0	91
Vetoed	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0

\*As of July 28, 2017 at 3:00 PM

Visit the [Texas Legislature Online](#) to view any of the items listed above.

## ATPE Recognizes Huberty for Supporting Public Education

Members of ATPE met with Chairman Huberty on Tuesday to present him with a resolution of support from their membership to recognize him for his continued support of public education. During the 2017

Summit, the ATPE House of Delegates voted unanimously to commend Chairman Huberty with this formal expression of their gratitude as a "steadfast supporter of Texas students, Texas educators, and Texas public schools during the 85th legislative session."



The resolution concludes with "Therefore, be it resolved that the Association of Texas Professional Educators, on behalf of its more than 100,000 members, expresses the deepest gratitude to State Representative Dan Huberty, Chair of the House Public Education Committee, for his courage and years of tireless work defending and supporting the educators of Texas and the 5.4 million young Texans educators are privileged to serve in their classrooms, campuses, and school districts across this great state."

[Click here to watch a video of ATPE member and House District 127 resident, Gayle Sampley, presenting the resolution to Chairman Huberty at the Texas Capitol.](#)

## Free Prekindergarten Extended to Children of Those Eligible for the Star of Texas Award

During the 85th regular session, Chairman Huberty passed HB 357 creating an additional prekindergarten eligibility criteria for children of those eligible to receive the Star of Texas Award. These awards honor Texas peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. The award also honors federal law enforcement officers or special agents acting in assistance to state or local law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders and are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty on or after September 1st, 2003. Since the awards inception, 474 brave Texans have been honored.

House Bill 357 was signed by Governor Abbott on June 15, 2017 and was effective immediately. The Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division honors the recipients of this award annually every September. The resolution (certificate) awarded to an individual serves as proof of eligibility to enroll these children in free prekindergarten if they are age-eligible. A list of past honorees may be viewed on the [Criminal Justice Division- Past Honorees webpage](#).

If an individual has a prekindergarten-aged child and has been nominated, but not notified as an honoree prior to the current school year, an individual may make a request to the Office of Early Childhood Education to make an eligibility determination based on the nomination submitted for review to the Criminal Justice Division.

To learn more about the Star of Texas Awards, please visit: <https://gov.texas.gov/apps/cjd/staroftexas/default.aspx>

## Capital Tonight with Karina Kling

Chairman Huberty spoke with Karina Kling of Capital Tonight on Tuesday, July 25th. You can watch the interview by clicking on the photo below. The conversation on Public Education begins at the 10:44 time-stamp in the interview and continues for the next 12 minutes.



Chairman Huberty on Capital Tonight with Katrina Kling

## Texas House Republican Caucus: Special Session Update

The Republican Members of the Texas House are committed to working diligently to successfully address the conservative legislative agenda put forth by Governor Abbott in this special session.

Just as the Texas House delivered real results earlier in the year by passing a strong conservative budget that spends \$200M less than the previous biennium, a ban on sanctuary cities, a Voter ID bill, a ban on partial birth and dismemberment abortions, the elimination of Planned Parenthood funding, several new religious liberty protections and American Laws for American Courts, Texans can count on Republicans in the Texas House to continue to champion conservative legislative priorities during this special session.

The Texas House Republican Caucus is comprised of all Republican Members serving in the Texas House of Representatives. The purpose of the Caucus is to provide research, education, policy development and other support to the Caucus Members and their staff. The Texas House Republican Caucus works to promote limited government, fiscal responsibility and personal liberty to continue cultivating economic growth for all Texans.

## Constituent Resources

### TxDoT Announcement: Toll Tag Fees & Violations

The Texas Department of Transportation has issued an apology for the experiences people may have had with recent toll billing. If you believe you have been affected by these events, please be sure to keep all documentation and closely monitor your account. TxDoT believes that they have captured all the issues and are in the process of correcting them as quickly as possible. In the meantime, they are going to suspend all Pay-By-Mail invoices and violations until the issue is resolved.

**Be assured - customers will NOT pay any fees they did not accrue on their own.**

In fact, those customers with any of the Texas tolling authority tags - TxTag, EZTag and TollTag - do not have to call in; TxDoT is working with those tolling agencies to reverse the erroneous charges. However, should a customer want to speak with someone, those with TxTags or who received a TxTag bill can call 888-468-9824. Customer service hours have been extended from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Need Assistance?

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

July 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.
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Special Session Begins	19	20	21	22 National Day of the Cowboy
23 National Parents Day	24 House Public Education Hearing	25 House Public Education Hearing	26	27	28	29
30	31	August 1 House Public Education Hearing	2	3	4	5

## Contact Information

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**NOTE:** Please call the Capitol  
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