



APRIL 2017

H.B. 4021

Texas Ports are responsible for over 30% of the Texas gross domestic product, and are vital to our economy here in Texas. The Panama Canal expansion project has doubled the capacity of the Panama Canal, vastly increasing ship traffic through the waterway. In order to ensure that our ports remain competitive, I filed H.B. 4021. This bill would increase state financing of Texas ports, so they can meet the challenges of the Panama Canal expansion. H.B. 4021 was voted out of the House Select Committee on Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure on April 25th, 2017, and will wait its turn to be heard on the house floor.

H.B. 3145

There is a growing trend among Texas schools where regular recess periods are being reduced or eliminated. Recess can significantly improve a child's cognitive abilities, behavior, physical fitness and social development. Eliminating or reducing recess is not in the best interest of children, and it's unfortunate that this is taking place in Texas. To address this issue, I filed H.B. 3145, which would require the board of trustees of each school district to adopt and implement a school recess policy that includes the required number of minutes of unstructured playtime. H.B. 3145 was voted out of the House Committee on Public Education on April 24th, 2017, and will wait to be heard on the House floor.

100 Black Men of Texas

The 100 Black Men of Texas visited our state capitol to bring awareness to issues affecting African American communities, with the hope that their hard work will improve the life of African Americans everywhere. The national organization focuses on mentoring, health and wellness, economic empowerment, education and enhancing the quality of life for African Americans in general. There are many challenges that our young men face, and the work that the 100 Black Men of Texas do is critical to our community. I commend them for their extraordinary efforts, and I hope that they will continue to inspire young black men to be great.