



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Cecil Bell, Jr.

District 3



Dear Friends of District 3,

I am often fielding questions regarding legislation we passed during session which has an impact to Texans on a day-to-day basis. Below you'll find a list of the most commonly asked about bills. Most became effective September 1 but some of you might not yet be familiar with them. As always, please call my office if you have any questions.

God Bless Texas!

DPS Related Bills

HB 347	Expands current ban on cell phones in school zones to also apply to all public or private elementary or middle school property unless the vehicle is stopped or the driver uses a hands-free device.
HB 625	Restores the \$200 fine for driving without both license plates.
HB 1174	Increases fines for passing a school bus from \$200 to \$500.
HB 3668/ SB 275	HB 3668 closes a loophole in the "Failure to Render Aid" statute. Requires that a driver involved in an accident stop and determine whether a person was injured and required aid, render aid, and provide information. SB 275 increases the penalty for failing to stop and render aid from a third-degree felony to a second-degree felony.
SB 181	Allows a driver to present proof of auto insurance to a peace officer via a cell phone or other device.
SB 510	Requires drivers, on approaching a TxDOT vehicle with its lights on, either to vacate the lane closest to the TxDOT vehicle or to slow down to 20 mpg below the posted speed. Violators can receive a fine of \$200.

Gun Related Bills

HB 48	Allows an individual to renew a CHL online.
HB 3142	Removes the categories of handgun on a CHL and allows a CHL holder to concealed carry any legal handgun.
SB 299	Protects a CHL holder from being penalized for accidentally displaying a handgun.
SB 864	Reduces CHL classroom hours to 4.
SB 1907	Allows teachers and students that have a CHL to store their firearm and ammunition in their vehicle on a university campus.

Residential Related Bills

HB 35	Restricts a subdivision association from prohibiting or restricting an owner of a lot on which a residence is constructed from using an adjacent lot also owned by the owner for "residential purposes."
HB 680	Allows homeowners in deed restricted areas to install a flag pool in their front yard.
HB 1772	Requires landlords of apartment complexes to give written notice to tenants and to the city of pending disconnection of utility service because of landlord's nonpayment of a bill. Effective Jan. 1, 2014.
SB 198	Makes it illegal for a homeowners association to prohibit xeriscaping, drought-resistant landscaping, or water-conserving natural turf.