

SERGIO MUÑOZ JR

District 36

Capitol Newsletter



"This week we saw significant movement in many important areas. We were able to vote a supplemental appropriations bill out of committee that allocated an additional \$500 million for the Foundation School Program. We also saw one of our local bills voted out of the house and our important Medicaid prompt pay bill voted out of committee. In addition to this, we saw two of my joint authored bills dealing with Texas Workforce issues engrossed by the House and sent over to the Senate. If you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact our office. Have a great weekend!"

Sergio Muñoz

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

AUTHORED

- S H.B. 995 - Water District 19:** Relating to the powers and duties of the Hidalgo County Water Control and Improvement District No. 19. HB 995 will allow additional road infrastructure development in District 36. This bill was passed out of the House and reported engrossed on Thursday, April 18th.
- S H.B. 2647 - Medicaid Prompt Pay:** This bill seeks to improve the delivery time in which healthcare providers would be reimbursed for the services provided to Medicaid patients. HB 2647 seeks to do this through reducing the number of days allowed for managed care organizations to make payment to 15 days from 45 days after a clean claim is received. This bill also requires that managed care organizations allow Medicaid providers and physicians to submit documentation for reimbursement claims electronically as an additional measure to increase efficiency in the system. This bill was voted out of committee on Thursday, April 18th.



JOINT-AUTHORED

Both of the bills bellow were passed by the House and reported engrossed on Thursday, April 11th:

- S H.B. 1296 - Post secondary education and Texas' workforce needs** - This bill amends the Texas Education Code to require TEA to prepare information comparing institutions of higher education in Texas and post the information on TEA's website and give to students in order for them to make a more educated decision about their future in higher education. This comparison will consist of relative cost of tuition, retention and graduation rates, student debt, and employment rates, while also identifying Texas' future workforce needs. This bill will also charge the Higher Education Coordinating Board with producing a report projecting Texas' workforce needs and the levels of education, training, and skills needed to meet these needs.
- S H.B. 1297 - Review of the effectiveness of Skills Development Programs** - This bill requires public community or technical colleges that provide workforce training under statutory provisions relating to the skills development fund to conduct a review of the different programs to determine the effectiveness of the programs in improving the socioeconomic circumstances of participants. This will allow the state and the students to have enough information to make an educated decision about which are ineffective and which programs need to be expanded.

SPOTLIGHT BILLS

- S H.B. 1025 - Supplemental Appropriations:** After intense discussion on HB 1025, the second supplemental appropriations bill was unanimously voted out of committee. This bill appropriates non-expended funds from the current biennium for food banks, wildfire prevention and cleanup, and most importantly, \$500 Million for the Foundation School Program.



CONSTITUENTS @ THE CAPITOL

(Below) On April 8th, 2013, Rep. Muñoz recognized Cpt. Ken Baker on the house floor for Cpt. Baker's 41-year service in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. After the recognition, Rep. Muñoz, Speaker Straus, Cpt. Baker, and members of his family posed for a commemorating photo.



(Below) On April 9th, 2013, Rep. Muñoz discussed important legislative issues of interest to the Catholic Church with 10 individuals from the Brownsville Dioceses during Texas Catholic Conference Lobby day.



(Above) On April 9th, 2013, Rep. Muñoz met with a group of distinguished students from District 36, who were nominated for the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year Award.

