

SERGIO MUÑOZ JR

District 36

Capitol Newsletter



"This week we witnessed the deadline to consider house bills on the House Floor. After a frenzied few weeks at the Capitol, our hard work, graced with good fortune, has led to success in that we passed many of our important bills out of the House before the deadline. While many around the Capitol were scrambling to keep house bills alive, we were ahead of the game and passed two Senate Bills by Sen. Hinojosa out of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. These bills are common sense legislation that help make our criminal justice system fair and transparent. Thank you for your continued support, and please do not hesitate to contact our office. Have a great weekend, and Happy Mother's Day!"

Sergio Muñoz

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

SPONSERED

- S B 358 - Polygraphs:** This bill clarifies that judges cannot revoke a person's probation solely on the basis of a failed polygraph test. Given that probation is a cost-efficient and effective alternative to incarceration and that Texas' highest court has ruled that polygraphs are not reliable enough to be used to revoke probation, it is essential that individuals are denied probation only when other rehabilitative options have been exhausted. **Status:** Rep. Muñoz laid out SB 358 in front of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on May 7, and the bill was voted out of the committee on May 9.
- S B. 780 - Public Defender:** This bill would require, in criminal cases, a court to appoint an attorney from a Public Defender's Office, with certain exceptions. This bill ensures the proper utilization of County Public Defender's Offices, ensuring the rights of the accused. **Status:** Rep. Muñoz will lay out SB 780 in front of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on May 13th.
- S B. 1096 - Community Supervision Fees:** HB 1096 clarifies that a judge may not require an individual who has satisfactorily completed their community supervision, to pay the administration fees associated with the supervision after their community supervision has been terminated. This bill allows individuals who have completed their probation terms to put their resources towards positive opportunities that will increase their success in the community. **Status:** Rep. Muñoz laid out SB 1096 in front of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on May 7, and the bill was unanimously voted out of the committee on May 9.

JOINT-AUTHORED

- S H.J.R. 147- Hidalgo County Hospital District:** This joint resolution amends the Texas Constitution to allow a hospital district in Hidalgo County. This district is essential to creating the infrastructure needed to sustain the creation of a new medical school in Hidalgo County. **Status:** H.J.R. 147 passed the House on May 1 and awaits consideration by the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee.
- S H.B. 1147 - Human Trafficking Prevention:** HB 1147, like HB 8 featured in a previous newsletter, was filed in response to the findings made by Rep. Muñoz and the other members of the Interim Committee on Human Trafficking. HB 1147 would require a state or local law enforcement agency, district attorney, or county attorney that assists in the prevention of human trafficking, at the request of the human trafficking prevention task force, to cooperate and assist the task force in collecting any statistical data on the nature and extent of human trafficking in the possession of the law enforcement agency or district or county attorney. **Status:** HB 1147 passed the House on May 2nd and awaits consideration by the Senate Criminal Jurisprudence Committee.

CONSTITUENTS @ THE CAPITOL

(Below) A monument honoring the historical legacy of Tejanos was unveiled on the lawn of the State Capitol on March 29, 2012, and in the year since, it has served to educate visitors on an important chapter in the Story of Texas. On May 10, 2013, Rep. Muñoz, Rep. Richard Raymond, and other Representatives involved in the monument recognized the dedicated individuals who worked to make this monument a reality and to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the unveiling of the Tejano Monument.



IN THE DISTRICT



(Above) On May 7, 2013, Cindy Pacheco and Loradel Mariano, two of Rep. Muñoz legislative staff, attended Career Day on behalf of Rep. Muñoz at Escandon Elementary. Cindy and Loradel shared their experiences in public service and the Texas Legislature with 120 4th grade students.

