



Things are ramping up in the Texas Legislature! Monday marked the first day that the House could consider bills on the House floor. Bills are making their way out of their respective committees and onto the House floor for debate. Currently, 27 of the 35 bills that I have filed this legislative session are referred to committee. I am tremendously proud of the legislation I have filed this session and my staff and I are working diligently to ensure that our bills are passed to meet the legislative needs of the Rio Grande Valley. From this point forward, we can expect lively debates on the House floor, such as the one you witnessed this week regarding HB 11. I hope you all enjoyed your Spring Break, and I thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. God Bless!

## ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

This week the House of Representatives passed HB 11, authored by Representative Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton). This broad border security bill addresses:

- The prevention of unlawful transfer of contraband from Texas to Mexico as well as other unlawful activities, such as human smuggling.
- The hiring of experienced law enforcement officers, especially those from agencies along the border, to meet the need for increased staffing, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- The creation of a State Law Enforcement Operations Oversight Committee.
- Cooperation of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with the establishment of the Texas Transnational Intelligence Center as a central repository of real-time information relating to the criminal activity along the border.



"In order to secure the economic prosperity of the Rio Grande Valley, we must ensure that our communities remain safe and that our law enforcement is equipped with the necessary resources," said Representative Muñoz. "However, we must also make sure that our region is recognized for its positive contribution to the Texas economy--one that we can all be proud."

## LEGISLATION UPDATES

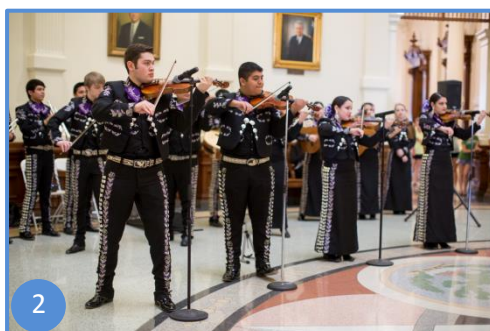
**HB 3501** provides guidelines for the placement of a student who is a moderate or high risk sex offender in public schools. This bill empowers school districts to transfer a student to a juvenile justice alternative education program or institute supervision to ensure the safety of all students.

**HB 3679** sets certification requirements for lifeguards and swimming instructors at public swimming pools. This bill requires them to be certified by a nationally recognized aquatic program in swimming instruction, first aid, CPR, and be trained in drowning risk prevention.

**HB 3492/HJR 136** establishes a permanent endowment, enabled by a constitutional amendment, allowing voters to approve the creation of Permanent Public Community College Fund from which public junior colleges, such as South Texas College, can receive funds to support the construction, acquisition, improvement, and equipping of buildings, facilities, and other improvements.

**HB 2748** requires a business establishment that sells any form of nitrous oxide, also known as Whip-Its, to display warning signs of the danger associated with the abuse of nitrous oxide. This bill also imposes penalties for businesses that are not complying with the warning sign requirement.

## CONSTITUENTS AT THE CAPITOL



(1.) On March 18th, the City of Pharr celebrated "Pharr Day at the Texas Capitol." Pictured: The City of Pharr leaders posed for a photo with Speaker of the House, Joe Straus. (2.) Representative Muñoz welcomed the award winning McHi Mariachi Oro to the Texas Capitol on March 16th. Pictured: McHi Mariachi Oro performed in front of state leaders, staffers, and visitors in the Capitol Rotunda.

