

The Capitol Ledger



April 30, 2021

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Want to schedule a meeting?

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A Busy Few Weeks in the Capitol

As we reach four weeks away from the end of the session, work in the Capitol has been constant. This week, our office was presenting a bill in committee or the House floor daily. I'm grateful that much of my legislation has continued to move forward. The past two weeks also saw much of the Winter Storm bills move forward out of the house and into the Senate. The summaries of the winter storm bills can be found at the end of the ledger.

This Week's Shine Bills Presented

On Wednesday, April 28, I presented House Bill 624, which passed the Texas House. There have been reports of police officers and their families becoming subject to harassment or assault after having their personal information, including their address, disclosed. House Bill 624 would make doxing a police officer or their family a criminal offense.



On Tuesday, I presented House Bill 988 in Ways & Means. House Bill 988 regards accountability in the appraisal review board process in dealing with property taxes and valuations of property tax.

I was also proud to present House Bill 3243 in Ways & Means on Monday. House Bill 3243 relates to the payment of delinquent ad valorem taxes on property subject to a tax sale.

Today, April 30, House Bill 4570 will be presented on the House Floor. House Bill 4570 will create the River Farm Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Bell County.

Children of the Republic of Texas



Congratulations to Alayne Denton on her election as President for the Children of the Republic of Texas. I was honored to meet with Alayne late last week.

President Denton is the daughter of Todd and Kathy Denton. The CRT is a program created by the Daughter of the Republic of Texas over 100 years ago.

Birthday at the Capitol



One of our constituents, Ali Strait, came to visit us at the Capitol on April 20. For Ali's 8th birthday, her birthday wish was to see the Texas Capitol. We were impressed and happy to oblige. She'll make a great State Representative someday!

ERCOT & Power Outage Updates

We have not forgotten about the Winter Storm and the importance of making sure what happened never occurs again. The House and Senate is moving forward with critical legislation involving our energy grid. Now, with much of the legislation leaving the Texas House, many of the bills are heading to the Senate.

House Bill 3648 - On April 20, the House voted out House Bill 3648. This bill would require the Railroad Commission and the Public Utility Commission to work together to adopt rules to designate certain gas entities and facilities as critical during an energy emergency. House Bill 3648 is currently assigned to the Senate Jurisprudence Committee.

House Bill 1520 - On April 20, the House voted out House Bill 1520. House Bill 1520 would address the high gas cost many of us dealt with from the winter storm. The bill would allow local distribution companies to securitize the cost of gas during the winter storm and spread the cost over several years.

House Bill 11 - Voted out earlier this month, House Bill 11, requires electric transmission and generation facilities to be weatherized. House Bill 11 has been sent to the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence.

House Bill 12 - Earlier in the month, House Bill 12 was voted out of the Texas House. House Bill 12 would create a statewide alert system to alert Texans of impending disasters and extreme weather and provide information on power outages to affected consumers.

House Bill 13 - House Bill 13, establishes a council of representatives from ERCOT, the PUC, Railroad Commission, and TDEM to address issues with fuel supply, repairs, and interruptions during a disaster. House Bill 13 was sent to the Senate earlier this month after passing the Texas House.

House Bill 14 - House Bill 14 has been received by the Texas Senate after passing the Texas House last week. House Bill 14 requires gas pipeline operators to implement measures to ensure service quality and reliability during extreme weather. House Bill 14 would create the 'Texas Electricity Supply Chain Security and Mapping Committee' to designate priority electricity service. House Bill 14 has been sent to the Senate.

House Bill 16 - House Bill 16 was heard yesterday, on April 29, and was placed on the Local & Uncontested calendar in the Senate. House Bill 16 bans variable-rate plans that resulted in exorbitant bills for residential consumers.

House Bill 17 - House Bill 17 was placed on the Senate Intent Calendar last Thursday after passing the Texas House late last month. House Bill 17 ensures residential and commercial consumers have a choice in their source of energy.