

State Representative Lynn Stucky

April Newsletter

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REPRESENTATIVE STUCKY RAPIDLY PASSES FIRST BILL

Representative Stucky passed House Bill 3451 by a vote of 127-12 on April 18 and sent it to the Senate for its approval. This bill stemmed from an emergency rule the Texas Department of Agriculture issued in response to a product to poison feral hogs that had questions surrounding its mechanism of action and effects it would have on the environment.

Dr. Stucky was the third member of his freshman class to shepherd legislation through the full House, getting a bill to the floor even before some veteran members.

"We are very pleased to have this overwhelming vote of support for this common-sense approach to testing these poisons before spreading them across Texas lands. We hope that this very fast, very strong passage will encourage the Texas Senate to similar approval of HB 3451," Stucky said.

Representative Stucky understands there is an uphill battle for HB 3451 to become law. However, he is encouraged that there is broad support from groups such as the Texas State Rifle Association, Texas Wildlife Association, Texas Medical Association, and the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

Testimony and support brought by these groups and interested citizens represent a broad range of concerns. The Public Health and Calendars Committees recognized these concerns and moved swiftly to bring the bill to the House floor where it received overwhelming support.

TEXAS HOUSE APPROVES BALANCED BUDGET THAT PRIORITIZES EDUCATION, CHILD PROTECTION

The Texas House gave overwhelming approval to a balanced two-year state budget proposal with a final vote of 131-16 in early morning of April 20th. This budget reduces state spending by more than \$1 billion but puts additional resources into public schools and child protection.

Senate Bill 1 now provides an additional \$1.5 billion for public schools, \$500 million to address a shortfall in the health care program for retired teachers, and an increase of more than \$450 million to address crises in Child Protective Services. It also puts more resources toward mental health services, Texas Grant scholarships, and protects voter-approved funding for transportation improvements. The House additionally passed HB 2 that helps keep Texas living within its means while making investments that provide funding to close the Medicaid shortfall in the current budget year.

Members of the House and Senate are in current negotiations in the conference committee to finalize a budget that can be sent to Governor Greg Abbott for approval.

Representative Stucky is proud to stand by the House's commitment to our public schools and universities, retired teachers, and Child Protective Services. For the history and intent on the use of the Economic Stabilization Fund please click [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONTINUED

The rest of Representative Stucky's legislative packet is moving fast through the House of Representatives! All but one of his bills have been passed out of their respective committees; a great feat for a new member.

Of his remaining bills, 4 of his 8 bills were crafted with the help of local leaders and officials, which relate to Tax Assessor Collectors, hotel occupancy taxes, and MUDs. These four have been reported to the Local & Consent Calendars Committee and are set to be debated on the House Floor on May 4th.

One sits in the Calendars Committee awaiting to be set and the last is being heard this week in the Public Education Committee.

Representative Stucky attributes his early success to his ability to build strong coalitions with other members to benefit Denton County.

TYLER HAMMONS, PAGE



Pictured: Representative Lambert & Kacal, Tyler Hammons, Representative Stucky

Representative Stucky was honored to have Tyler Hammons, grandson of Denton County Constable Johnny Hammons, as his Honorary Page on April 17th. Tyler helped the House Sergeants and gavelled through bills and resolutions as they were passed on the House Floor!

UNT STUDENT, SPECIAL FORCES VETERAN HONORED ON HOUSE FLOOR



Pictured: Jimmy Marquez and Representative Stucky

On April 13th, UNT student Jimmy Marquez, a former Ranger and Special Forces member of 13 years, was recognized on the House floor for his great work at the UNT Veteran Student Services Program. He finishes his bachelor's degree this month and plans to pursue an MPA. The University of North Texas is one of the best universities in the country for veterans and it is important that we recognize their commitment to our service men and women.

REPRESENTATIVE STUCKY'S CAPITOL FACT

When a new Governor is elected, the exiting Governor gets the chance to commission an artist of his/her choosing to paint the official gubernatorial portrait, paid for by the House and Senate. When the portrait is complete, a ceremony is held in the Capitol Rotunda to honor the former governor. The former Governors' portraits are rotated one spot over across the four floors circling the rotunda. This rotation process takes about three days.