

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



February 15, 2019

Friends,

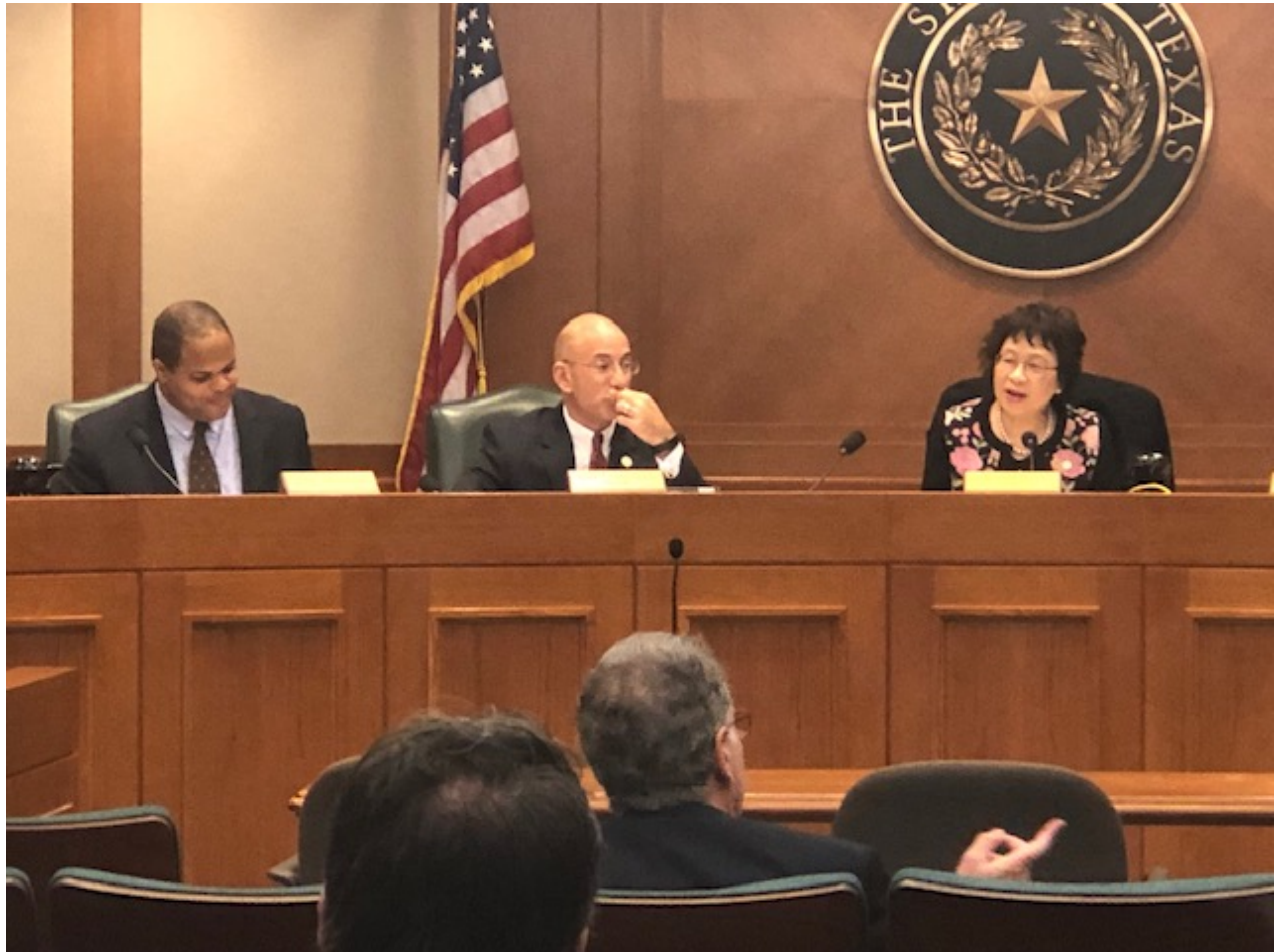
This week, many House committees began meeting and the Speaker began referring bills to committees. Due to the size of the legislature and the enormous volume of work that is before us each session, lengthy deliberation on every proposed measure by the full body of the House is simply not possible. As a result, the basic business in both the House and the Senate is conducted according to the committee system.

Urban Affairs

The Committee on Urban Affairs held our first hearing on Thursday morning. This was an organizational hearing where we heard from individuals, organizations, and state agencies that provided information about issues that will be coming before the committee. The committee is charged with oversight over the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection. TDHCA offers services such as disaster recovery for residents during natural disasters like Hurricane Harvey, housing and home expense assistance, as well as helping Texans achieve homeownership. The Texas Commission on Fire Protection regulates training and safety standards for our state's fire departments. The work of fire fighters is very important for our communities. This committee also oversees all matters pertaining to

municipalities. During our hearing officials from the cities of Midland and San Antonio talked about the challenges cities face, in particular the expanding short term vacation rental market. This is an industry spurred by advances in technology that the state and local governments are trying hard to keep up with.

North Texas is well represented on this committee as four of our members are from our area. Vice Chairman Matt Shaheen of Plano, Representatives Eric Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez of Dallas, and Rep. Jared Patterson on Frisco. I am excited to work with them and Representatives Valoree Swanson, Vikki Goodwin, and Mayes Middleton to address the unique needs of our growing state.



The committee on Urban Affairs had a wonderful first meeting. I am pictured with Vice-Chairman Shaheen and Representative Johnson as we were discussing municipal issues and local control.

Higher Education

On Wednesday, the Higher Education committee convened for the first hearing of the session. We heard testimony from the State Demographer, Dr. Lloyd Potter. Texas has become the fastest growing state in the past decade, increasing 14.1% of our population. We are working hard to address the increasing demands population growth has on our education system. The good news is that the number of college enrollment has been growing consistently in our state, indicating that Texans are becoming more and more educated in recent years. Although the numbers are satisfactory, being consistent is not good enough and we want to lead the way for educational attainment in our globalizing economy.

We also heard from Texas Higher Education Board Commissioner Raymond Paredes on the progress of our 60x30TX plan. The 60x30TX plan is designed to ensure that Texas remains globally competitive. This may be accomplished by ensuring at least 60 percent of Texans, age 25-34, receive a certificate or degree, by the year 2030. One of our greatest assets is the youthfulness of our population, we have an ever-increasing college-age population and how we choose to educate them will have far-reaching impacts into the future of Texas. Hispanics and African Americans historically have the lowest certificate and degree attainment rate but we are seeing improvements. Making sure that the traditionally underserved students receive the education resources they need is essential for success.

Our last testimonies came from the University of Texas System, Texas A&M University System, and East Texas Baptist University regarding what the different universities are doing to ensure compliance with Title IX. Title IX is a federal act ensuring equal opportunity for all sexes in any educational program or activity.



Wednesday was Sachse Day at the Capitol! I am proud to have these fine community leaders from home here in Austin to help educate my colleagues about our wonderful community and the issues that are important to Sachse.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail
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