



2015 Legislative Analysis Report

84th LEGISLATURE • REGULAR SESSION
Summary Information on Bills of Interest to County Officials



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2015 LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT

84th Legislature | Regular Session



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2015 LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT

TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

ANALYSIS OF ADOPTED BILLS BY SUBJECT

ANALYSIS OF ADOPTED BILLS BY SUBJECT

ADULT PROBATION

HB 372 by Riddle. Relating to the monitoring of the Internet access of certain sex offenders placed on community supervision or released on parole or to mandatory supervision. Prohibits certain sex offenders assigned a risk level of two from engaging in certain Internet activity while placed on community supervision; previously, this prohibition only applied to those with a risk level of three. Requires a court that places sex offenders with a risk level of two or three on community supervision to ensure compliance with these Internet Access Restrictions by requiring the defendant to submit to regular inspection or monitoring of each electronic device used by the defendant to access the Internet; also applies to sex offenders released on parole or mandatory supervision who are subject to the Internet Access Restrictions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 583 by Larson. Relating to donations to certain local veteran's charities ordered as a condition of community supervision. Authorizes a judge to order a donation to a local veteran's organization, or other charity, as a condition of community supervision and in lieu of community service restitution hours. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1930 by White, James. Relating to strategic planning for the operation of community supervision and corrections departments. Replaces the Community Justice Plan with a Strategic Plan developed to the unique needs of each Community Supervision and Corrections Department; requires the approval of the district judge(s) prior to submitting the strategic plan as required for state funding eligibility. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2159 by Moody. Relating to requiring the payment of restitution as a condition of community supervision for offenses involving family violence committed in the presence of certain children. Requires a defendant placed on community supervision for domestic violence to pay restitution in the amount equal to the costs of necessary rehabilitation, medical, psychiatric and psychological care and treatment for a person under the age of 15 who witnessed the domestic violence. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1070 by Hinojosa. Relating to allowing certain defendants to successfully complete education at a substance abuse treatment facility in lieu of attending an education program; changing required conditions of community supervision for certain defendants. Requires a judge to waive the requirement that a defendant convicted of certain intoxication offenses complete a rehabilitative educational program operated by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) if the defendant has already completed educational training in a residential center under the standards of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ). *Effective 9/1/2015.*

ANIMAL CONTROL

HB 1436 by Smithee. Relating to appeals regarding dangerous dogs. Sets out the process for a dog owner to file an appeal of a dangerous dog determination; prohibits the destruction of a dangerous dog while the appeal is pending. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

APPRAISAL PROCESS

HB 394 by McClendon. Relating to the information in ad valorem tax appraisal records that may not be posted on the Internet by an appraisal district. Prohibits information in property tax appraisal records that indicates the age of a property owner from being posted on the Internet, including information indicating that a property owner is 65 years of age or older. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2083 by Darby. Relating to the determination of the appraised value of property for purposes of an ad valorem tax protest or appeal. Requires the use of generally accepted appraisal methods and techniques in protests or appeals on the basis that the appraised value is higher than the median appraised value of a reasonable number of comparable properties appropriately adjusted. Requires that the selection of comparable properties and the application of adjustments made to the appraised value of a property be based on generally accepted appraisal methods. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

SB 46 by Zaffirini. Relating to the confidentiality of certain property tax appraisal photographs. Provides for the confidentiality of a photograph that is taken by the chief appraiser of an appraisal district or the chief appraiser's authorized representative for property tax appraisal purposes and that shows the interior of an improvement to property, with certain exceptions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1468 by Watson. Relating to certain communications regarding the appointment or conduct of certain appraisal review board members; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Provides that the prohibition against communications to the local administrative district judge regarding the appointment of appraisal review board members does not apply to a communication between a chief appraiser, other specified appraisal district persons and the judge regarding information related to certain administrative duties or to the removal of a member of the appraisal review board.

Additionally, the prohibition against communications to the local administrative district judge regarding the appointment of appraisal review board members does not apply to a communication between a property tax consultant, a property owner, or an agent of the property owner and the appraisal district's taxpayer liaison officer regarding information relating to the removal of a member of the appraisal review board. The appraisal district taxpayer liaison officer would be required to report the contents of the communication to the local administrative district judge. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1985 by Uresti. Relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of a real property interest in oil or gas in place. Updates the price adjustment factor for purposes of appraising a real property interest in oil or gas to base it on the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) most recently published edition of the Annual Energy Outlook, rather than EIA's Early Release Overview of the Annual Energy Outlook. It also replaces the reference "price of imported low-sulfur light crude oil" with "spot price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil" for the purposes of calculating the price adjustment factor. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

BAIL BONDS

HB 643 by Harless. Relating to the procedures for discharging bail in certain criminal proceedings. Authorizes a surety to file a motion for the purpose of discharging the defendant's bail if an indictment or information is not presented against the defendant within a certain prescribed time frame. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 885 by Paddie. Relating to certain county bail bond boards. Revises current meeting requirements of certain county bail bond boards by requiring a bail bond board in a county with a population of less than 150,000 to meet at least four times a year during certain months and at other times at the call of the presiding officer. Also provides that a bail bond surety's license continues in effect until the next meeting of a board in a county with a population of less than 150,000 if the board tables a license holder's application for renewal or does not otherwise take action on the application. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2499 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to the electronic filing of bail bonds. Authorizes the electronic filing of a bail bond with the court, judge, magistrate, or other officer taking the bond in any manner permitted by the county in which the bond is written. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2894 by Lozano. Relating to the election of certain county bail bond board members. Clarifies the process for the election of certain members on a county bail bond board. Requires the bail bond board to annually conduct a secret ballot election to elect the criminal defense attorney representative selected by certain attorneys and authorizes each elected justice of the peace in the county who is not prohibited from voting in an election for the purpose to cast one vote to elect the member who is a justice of the peace. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

BORDER SECURITY

HB 11 by Bonnen, Dennis. Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Department of Public Safety, military and law enforcement training, and the investigation, prosecution, punishment, and prevention of certain offenses; creating an offense and increasing a criminal penalty; authorizing fees.

Amends various codes relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), military and law enforcement training, and border security. Requires DPS to assist the federal government and local law enforcement working with the federal government at international border checkpoints, and authorizes DPS to share the cost of staffing border checkpoints with the federal government. Requires the attorney general to establish a transnational and organized crime division and increases the penalties for the offense of smuggling of persons.

Requires the Hidalgo County Sheriff's Office and the McAllen Police Department to jointly establish and operate the Texas Transnational Intelligence Center as a central repository of real-time intelligence data submitted by certain local law enforcement agencies, and requires DPS to assist in the establishment and operation of the center. Requires the Texas Facilities Commission to construct a multiuse training facility to be used by DPS, the Texas military forces, county and municipal law enforcement agencies and any other military or law enforcement agency, including the federal government, for training purposes. Additionally, the bill authorizes the Public Safety Commission to provide for the establishment of a reserve officer corps and authorizes DPS to accept certain honorably discharged military veterans into the DPS trooper trainee academy. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 12 by Longoria. Relating to the border prosecution unit. Codifies the structure and duties of the state's border prosecution unit within the governor's criminal justice division to support prosecuting attorneys in prosecuting border crime. The unit, which is composed of certain prosecuting attorneys from the border region, has several specified duties. It is required to: advise the governor's criminal justice division on several matters, including the allocation of grants under the prosecution of border crime grant program; facilitate the coordination and collaboration of the border prosecuting attorneys with any regional counsel and other law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of border crime; develop best practices and guidelines; assist in developing a training program on specific issues and techniques relating to the investigation and prosecution of border crime; and develop accountability and performance measures for

members of the unit who receive a grant under the prosecution of border crime grant program, among other duties. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1853 by Lucio. Relating to authorizing the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas to establish a statewide program for the prevention and detection of certain criminal offenses. Amends the Government Code to authorize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish a statewide program for preventing and detecting certain criminal offenses involving contraband and the smuggling or trafficking of persons between Texas and an adjacent state or the United Mexican States. If the program is established, DPS must implement the program in conjunction with federal and local law enforcement agencies. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

COUNTY AUTHORITY

HB 40 by Darby. Relating to the exclusive jurisdiction of this state to regulate oil and gas operations in this state and the express preemption of local regulation of those operations. Subjects an oil and gas operation to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state. Prohibits a political subdivision from enacting an ordinance or other measure or revising an existing ordinance or other measure that bans, limits, or otherwise regulates an oil and gas operation within its boundaries or extraterritorial jurisdiction; provides certain specified exceptions to this prohibition for municipalities. *Effective 5/18/2015.*

HB 418 by Wu. Relating to child victims of trafficking who are placed in secure foster homes. Authorizes a commissioner's court to contract with a child-placing agency to verify a secure agency foster home or secure agency foster group home for child victims of trafficking and specifies certain services that such a verified foster home must provide. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 905 by Frullo. Relating to the regulation of knives by a municipality or county. Adds knives to the regulated weapons provision in the Local Government Code and prohibits a county from adopting regulations relating to the transfer, private ownership, keeping, transportation, licensing or registration of firearms, air guns, knives, ammunition, or firearm or air gun supplies. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1542 by Paddie. Relating to the use of digital message display systems in certain public facilities. Authorizes a commissioners court of a county to enter into an agreement with a public or private entity for a digital message display system to promote county information or news items of general interest in public areas of the tax office or in a jury assembly room. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

HB 1725 by Stephenson. Relating to the composition of local boards of the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System. Allows a commissioners court to select retirees or beneficiaries to serve on local boards of the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System if there are not a sufficient number of active members to serve and there are no other local board members to make the appointments. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

HB 2002 by Keffer. Relating to the recycling of county surplus or salvage property. Authorizes a commissioners court to dispose of surplus and salvage property through a recycling program. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

HB 3002 by Martinez, "Mando". Relating to the fee imposed on certain property owners by a county for the establishment of street lights along a county road. Applies to the unincorporated area of a county that has any of its territory located within 150 miles of an international boundary. Applies to a county commissioner's court that has chosen to provide for street lights on a county road and impose a fee. Directs the tax assessor-collector of the county in which such a fee is imposed to include the fee in the property tax bill sent to each landowner whose real property is benefitted by the street lights. The tax bill must separately state the amount of the fee imposed by this section. The tax assessor-collector must collect the fee in the same manner that the tax assessor-collector collects ad valorem taxes for the country. Allows the commissioners court, upon providing notice, to obtain a lien against real property benefitted by the street lights in order to obtain payment. Sets certain parameters upon the lien. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3067 by Coleman. Relating to the amount that may be donated by contract by certain populous counties to crime stoppers or crime prevention organizations. Allows the commissioners court of a county with a population of one million or more to donate up

to \$100,000 each year to a crime stoppers or crime prevention organization. The commissioners court of a less populous county may continue to donate up to \$25,000 each year. *Effective 6/10/2015.*

SB 267 by Perry. Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of the rental or leasing of housing accommodations. Prohibits a county from adopting or enforcing a regulation prohibiting a rental property owner from refusing to rent housing to someone because a person's lawful source of income to pay rent includes a federal housing choice voucher. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 917 by Seliger. Relating to the applicability of the Texas Mass Gatherings Act to certain horse and greyhound races. Amends the Health and Safety Code to apply the requirements of the Texas Mass Gatherings Act to certain horse and greyhound races and allow a county's local law enforcement and health officials to determine, through a permit process, if certain standards for public health and safety are sufficiently being met at these events. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1756 by Taylor, Van. Relating to the issuance of driver's licenses and personal identification certificates and the classification and operation of certain vehicles; authorizing a fee. Expands the pilot program established by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and authorizes any county to contract with DPS to allow the county to renew and duplicate driver's license and other identification certificate services. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

COUNTY LIABILITY

HB 1666 by Bonnen, Dennis. Relating to the liability of certain persons for damages arising from training exercises to prepare the persons to respond to certain emergencies. Provides that a volunteer is not liable for damages arising from training to respond to a fire or emergency to the same extent as the volunteer would not be liable if actually responding to a fire or emergency. Provides that, except in a case of reckless conduct or intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct, a person who is immune from civil liability for an act or omission that occurs in giving care, assistance, or advice with respect to the management of a hazardous or dangerous incident (as defined by Chapter 79, Civil Practices and

Remedies Code) is immune from civil liability for an act or omission that occurs during the execution of a training exercise intended to prepare the person to give that care, assistance, or advice. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2390 by Bohac. Relating to civil liability arising from an employee wellness program. Provides that an employer is not liable for establishing, maintaining, or requiring participation in an employee wellness program unless: the program discriminates on the basis of a prior medical condition, gender, age, or income level; or the cause of action is based on intentional or reckless conduct. Provides that the added section of law does not create a cause of action or expand an existing cause of action. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 273 by Campbell. Relating to certain offenses relating to carrying concealed handguns on property owned or leased by a governmental entity; providing a civil penalty. Prohibits a political subdivision or state agency from providing notice (by communication or sign) indicating that a concealed handgun license holder carrying a handgun is prohibited from entering or remaining on the premises unless license holders are, in fact, prohibited from carrying a handgun on the premises under Sections 46.03 or 46.035 of the Penal Code. Provides that a political subdivision or state agency is liable for a civil penalty between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for the first violation and \$10,000 and \$10,500 for the second or a subsequent violation.

Authorizes the filing of a complaint with the attorney general's office if the violation is not cured within three days of the state agency or political subdivision's receipt of notice of the violation. Requires the attorney general to give the political subdivision or agency 15 days to cure the violation to avoid the penalty, unless there has been a previous finding of liability for a violation. Authorizes the attorney general or appropriate county or district attorney to sue to collect the civil penalty if the violation has not been cured within the 15-day period, and provides that sovereign immunity is waived and abolished to the extent of liability created by the law.

Further, the bill provides that a license holder commits the offense of unlawfully carrying a handgun where a meeting of a governmental entity

is held only if the meeting is an open meeting subject to Chapter 551 of the Government Code and the entity provided notice as required by that law. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 450 by Schwertner. Relating to the liability of a political subdivision of this state for certain claims relating to land acquired by the political subdivision under certain circumstances. Provides that, with respect to liability of governmental units for tort claims for land acquired under foreclosure or lien, the exclusion from liability applies to all political subdivisions rather than only to municipalities. Clarifies that the exclusion applies where land is conveyed in satisfaction of tax debt. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

COUNTY OFFICIALS

SB 435 by Lucio. Relating to the powers and duties of a county treasurer. Adds the county treasurer to the list of statutorily authorized individuals who may administer an oath to allow them to administer the oath of office to the treasurer's deputy to carry out the duties of the office. Allows the county treasurer to complete the authorized introductory course of instruction upon being elected or appointed to that office instead of upon taking office. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1025 by Seliger. Relating to supplemental compensation paid to certain county judges. Increases the annual state salary supplement for a county judge from \$15,000 to an amount equal to 18 percent of the salary provided for a district judge (\$25,200). To qualify, at least 40 percent of a county judge's duties must be judicial functions. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

COURTS

HB 331 by Wu. Relating to the sealing of certain court documents filed electronically in a child protection suit. Requires a court to consider documents filed through an electronic filing system in the same manner as any other document filed with the court for the purposes of determining whether to seal documents in a child protection suit. *Effective 6/15/2015.*

HB 1306 by Hughes. Relating to the reimbursement of expenses incurred by court reporters in judicial districts composed of more than one county. Provides that reimbursed travel expenses for each official or deputy court reporter of a district court in a district composed of more than one county may not exceed the reasonable mileage rate set by the commissioners court of the respective county of the judicial district for which the expenses were incurred. Under prior law, such reimbursed expenses could not exceed 25 cents per mile. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1782 by Bonnen, Greg. Relating to protective orders against certain persons who are convicted of or placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for an offense involving family violence. Allows for the issuance of a protective order when the respondent has previously been convicted or placed on deferred adjudication for certain offenses against the child, parental rights have been terminated and contact with the child is sought. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2278 by Muñoz, Jr. Relating to authorizing certain current and retired associate judges to conduct a marriage ceremony. Authorizes a sitting or retired associate judge of a county court at law or statutory probate court to conduct a marriage ceremony. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2486 by Keffer. Relating to the right of a person to enter the person's residence or former residence accompanied by a peace officer to recover certain personal property; creating an offense. Allows an individual who is denied access to personal property located in a residence to apply to a justice court for an order authorizing entry with a peace officer to retrieve certain specified items. Requires an individual's application to attest to denied entry, specify items needed, certify that no protective order prevents the individual from entry, and allege personal harm if the items are not retrieved. Requires the applicant to execute a bond. Provides immunity from civil and criminal liability for a peace officer who provides assistance in good faith and with reasonable diligence, and creates a Class B misdemeanor offense for interfering with a person or peace officer retrieving property under a court order. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3003 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to the appointment of counsel in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship. Authorizes a commissioners court, on written approval of a statutory county court or district court judge with family law jurisdiction in the county, to create an office of child representation, an office of parent representation, or both, by establishing a county department or contracting with a nonprofit corporation to provide court-appointed legal representation in certain child protection cases. Also authorizes a commissioners court to appoint a governmental entity, nonprofit corporation, or local bar association to operate a managed assigned counsel program to provide legal representation in those cases. Additionally, the bill allows for the joint creation of such offices or programs with two or more counties, and sets forth certain standards and procedures for establishing and operating them. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 292 by Nelson. Relating to a request for a waiver of the waiting period before human remains may be cremated. Requires a justice of the peace or medical examiner's office authorized to grant a waiver of the waiting period before human remains may be cremated to adopt a written policy for requesting a waiver. The bill establishes requirements that must be included in the policy, including the process for making a request outside regular business hours. *Effective 5/29/2015.*

SB 536 by Whitmire. Relating to the designation of certain prostitution prevention programs as commercially sexually exploited persons court programs. Renames the "prostitution prevention program" certain counties are required to establish as the "commercially sexually exploited persons court program." Transfers the provisions applicable to the program to the section of the Government Code pertaining to specialty courts. Authorizes a county to apply to the governor's criminal justice division for a grant for the establishment or operation of such a program. Additionally, the bill requires counties to receive verification from the governor's criminal justice division of the program's compliance with certain requirements. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

SB 737 by Rodriguez. Relating to certain protective orders and magistrate's orders for emergency protection. Requires magistrates and clerks to provide notice of protective orders to law enforcement, victims, and others, as applicable, within prescribed time periods. Authorizes delays in sending a copy of an order only if information necessary to ensure service and enforcement is lacking. Authorizes the copy of the order and any related information to be sent electronically or in another manner that can be accessed by the recipient. Additionally, the bill requires a law enforcement agency to enter certain required information about a protective order into the statewide law enforcement information system maintained by the Department of Public Safety not later than the third business day after the date of the receipt of a copy of an order except in certain circumstances, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 873 by Rodriguez. Relating to the courts authorized to hear certain matters relating to a *capias pro fine*. Authorizes an arresting officer to take a defendant to another specified court in lieu of placing the defendant in jail if the court that issued a *capias pro fine* is unavailable. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1116 by West. Relating to a notice or document sent by mail or electronic mail by a court, justice, judge, magistrate, or clerk of a judicial court. Permits a court, justice, judge, magistrate, or clerk to send any notice or document through mail or electronic mail, unless a statute requires proof of delivery. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1139 by Huffman. Relating to the operation and administration of and practice in courts in the judicial branch of state government, the composition of certain juvenile boards, and the increase of certain filing fees. Includes numerous provisions creating certain district and statutory county courts; adds certain prosecuting attorneys to the Professional Prosecutors Act; and increases the statewide electronic filing fee on the filing of certain civil actions or proceedings from \$20 to \$30, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015 except for certain sections.*

SB 1341 by Taylor, Van. Relating to the transfer of certain court records. Authorizes a clerk to transfer

cases, including certain case documents and a bill of costs, between district and county courts in electronic or paper form. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

SB 1369 by Zaffirini. Relating to reports on attorney ad litem, guardian ad litem, guardian, mediator, and competency evaluator appointments made by courts in this state and an interim study on a billing system for attorneys ad litem. Requires a clerk to prepare a report on certain court appointments for an attorney ad litem, guardian ad litem, guardian, mediator, or competency evaluator for a case before the court in the preceding month which must include certain information, including the name of each person appointed, the name of the judge and the date of the order approving compensation to be paid in those appointments, as well as the total compensation paid to persons appointed. Requires a clerk to submit a copy of the report to the Office of Court Administration and post the report at the courthouse and on any court website not later than the 15th day of each month. Makes a court ineligible for any state grant money for the next fiscal biennium if the court fails to provide the information required for the report to the clerk. Additionally, the bill requires the Office of Court Administration to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing a statewide uniform attorney ad litem billing system. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1725 by Creighton. Relating to notice of excess proceeds following an ad valorem tax sale. Requires the clerk of a court, following a property tax sale, to send to the attorney general notice of the deposit and amount of excess proceeds if the attorney general or a state agency represented by the attorney general is named as an in rem defendant in the underlying suit for seizure of the property or foreclosure of a tax lien on the property. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1876 by Zaffirini. Relating to the appointment of attorneys ad litem, guardians ad litem, mediators, and guardians in certain counties. Requires each court in a county with a population of 25,000 or more to establish and maintain the following lists of individuals registered with the court: a list of all attorneys who are qualified to serve as an attorney ad litem; a list of all attorneys and other persons who are qualified to serve as a guardian ad litem; a list of

all mediators; and a list of all attorneys and private professional guardians who are qualified to serve as a guardian under the law. Requires a court using a rotation system to appoint the person whose name appears first on the applicable list except in certain circumstances. Authorizes a local administrative judge to maintain the lists for multiple courts, and requires a court to post each established list at the courthouse and on any court website, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1913 by Perry. Relating to a court administrator in certain counties. Authorizes courts in a county that has more than one district court or statutory county court to establish and maintain a court administrator system on approval of the commissioners court. Authorizes the judges of the district courts or the statutory county courts to designate local court divisions and the duties of the court administrator for each division by local rule. Specifies that the court administrator is appointed by the judges of the district courts or statutory county courts served by the administrator and that the administrator serves at the pleasure of those judges. Provides that a court administrator is entitled to reasonable compensation, as determined by the judges served and in the salary range for the position, as set by the commissioners court. Additionally, the bill requires the judges served by the court administrator to appoint appropriate staff and personnel with the approval of the commissioners court. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1931 by Garcia. Relating to the appointment of an attorney ad litem for a parent in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship. Requires a court to inform a parent not represented by an attorney at the parent's first appearance in certain child protection suits of the right to be represented by an attorney and the right to an appointed attorney ad litem if the parent is indigent. Authorizes a court to consider certain specified financial information at a hearing to determine a parent's indigence. Authorizes a court to appoint a temporary attorney ad litem for a parent for a limited period before commencement of a full adversary hearing in certain circumstances; sets forth the duties of such an attorney; and allows a court to appoint the attorney ad litem to continue to represent the parent if the court determines that the parent is indigent. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 10 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to certain criminal and civil consequences of trafficking of persons, compelling prostitution, and certain other related criminal offenses; to the prevention, prosecution, and punishment of those offenses, and to compensation paid to victims of those offenses. Amends various statutes related to the trafficking of persons and compelling prostitution: removes the statute of limitations on compelling prostitution of a child younger than 18 years of age; expands the offense of prostitution conduct and enhances the penalty; authorizes a prosecutor to compel a party to testify about a trafficking of persons offense in exchange for immunity from prosecution; allows a claimant or victim of child trafficking to be compensated from the Texas crime victims' compensation fund; and creates the Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Unit within the criminal justice division of the governor's office, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 48 by McClendon. Relating to the creation of a commission to review convictions after exoneration and to prevent wrongful convictions. Establishes the Timothy Cole Exoneration Review Commission to examine wrongful convictions. Authorizes the Commission to review and examine all cases in which an innocent defendant was convicted and then, on or after January 1, 2010, was exonerated to identify the causes of wrongful convictions and suggest ways to prevent future wrongful convictions; ascertain errors and defects in the laws, evidence, and procedures applied or omitted in the defendant's case; and identify procedures and training opportunities designed to eliminate or minimize the identified causes of wrongful convictions, among several other duties. The Commission is required to issue a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed policy changes. Additionally, the Commission may request that an entity of a political subdivision provide information related to the Commission's duties, and an entity may provide the requested information unless otherwise prohibited from disclosing it. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

HB 480 by Bell. Relating to retaining a reserve investigator by a prosecuting attorney. Allows a commissioners court to authorize a prosecuting attorney to appoint reserve investigators. A commissioners court may also limit the number of reserve investigators that a prosecuting attorney may appoint. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 530 by Hernandez. Relating to the use of proceeds from criminal asset forfeiture to provide college scholarships to children of peace officers killed in the line of duty and to an annual report regarding the total value of forfeited property in this state. Authorizes a law enforcement agency to transfer not more than 10 percent of the gross amount credited to the agency's asset forfeiture fund to a separate special fund to provide college scholarships to children of peace officers killed in the line of duty. The bill also requires the attorney general to develop an annual report based on information submitted by law enforcement agencies and prosecuting attorneys detailing the amount of funds forfeited, or credited after the sale of forfeited property, in this state during the preceding calendar year. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 710 by Turner, Sylvester. Relating to procedures for certain persons charged with a violation of a condition of release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on parole or to mandatory supervision. Allows certain parole violators to receive a summons, instead of a warrant, for violating a condition of release including certain Class C misdemeanors committed after the first year of release, excluding new offenses for family violence or against children under the age of 17, and only if the parolee has maintained steady employment and housing for at least one year. The bill also requires the issuance of a summons instead of a warrant if the person is only charged with committing an administrative violation that is alleged to have been committed one year (instead of three years) after release and other requirements are met. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1293 by Alvarado. Relating to the confidentiality of identifying information of victims of stalking; creating a criminal offense. Authorizes certain victims of stalking to choose a pseudonym to designate the victim in all public files and records

concerning the offense, including police summary reports and records of judicial proceedings. Requires a victim who chooses to use a pseudonym to complete a form developed by the attorney general and return it to the law enforcement agency investigating the offense. Requires law enforcement agencies and attorneys for the state to take certain actions upon receiving notice of the pseudonym, and creates a Class C misdemeanor offense for certain unlawful disclosures of the victim's information by a public servant. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1690 by King, Phil. Relating to the investigation and prosecution of offenses against public administration, including ethics offenses. Establishes a Public Integrity Unit within the Texas Rangers division of the Department of Public Safety to perform initial investigations into whether certain offenses against public administration have been committed. Requires the Unit to refer the matter to the local prosecuting attorney of the county with proper venue under the law if there is a reasonable suspicion that an offense against public administration has occurred. Provides for the recusal of a prosecuting attorney in certain circumstances. Additionally, the comptroller is required to pay from specific funds appropriated to the comptroller's judiciary section reasonable amounts incurred by a prosecuting attorney for extraordinary costs of prosecution of an offense against public administration. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2246 by Villalba. Relating to the restriction of certain intoxication offenders to the operation of a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock device in lieu of a license suspension. Requires a judge to restrict a person whose license has been suspended after a conviction for certain intoxication offenses to the operation of a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock device. Authorizes a defendant whose license is suspended for certain intoxication offenses to operate a vehicle if the defendant obtains and uses an ignition interlock device and receives an occupational driver's license with an ignition interlock designation. Additionally, the bill entitles a person convicted of certain intoxication offenses who is restricted to the operation of a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock device to receive an occupational license without an essential need finding if the person shows evidence of financial responsibility and proof of an installed ignition

interlock device, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2455 by Burkett. Relating to the establishment of a task force to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information relating to family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking. Establishes a task force, whose membership includes representatives of the judiciary, law enforcement, and clerks, to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information on family violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking and prescribes certain duties of the task force, including the development of certain policy recommendations and best practices guidelines.

Effective 6/16/2015.

HB 3327 by Alvarado. Relating to a grant program to fund domestic violence high risk teams. Establishes a domestic violence high risk teams grant program and authorizes the attorney general to award grants from any appropriated funds to such teams composed of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and others to increase the safety of family violence victims. Authorizes a grant recipient to use money received to fund the activities of a high risk team in reducing or preventing incidents of domestic violence and providing domestic violence services to victims. Requires the attorney general to establish procedures to administer the grant program.

Effective 9/1/2015.

SB 195 by Schwertner. Relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances, access to information about those prescriptions, and the duties of prescribers and other entities registered with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration; authorizing fees. Moves the state's prescription drug monitoring program from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy where the prescribing and dispensing history of patients and physicians can be more closely monitored. Authorizes a law enforcement or prosecutorial official engaged in an investigation or enforcement of certain laws regarding illicit drugs to request and obtain certain prescription drug information from DPS for law enforcement purposes.

Effective 9/1/2016, except for certain sections that take effect 6/20/2015.

SB 578 by Hinojosa. Relating to providing inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice with information regarding reentry and reintegration resources. Requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to identify and collaborate with organizations that provide reentry and reintegration services at the local level; requires TDCJ to provide reentry resource guides to inmates upon release from prison so they may access housing, transportation, employment, health and mental health services, among many other services in an effort to successfully reintegrate and lower the chances of recidivism. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 746 by Whitmire. Relating to the civil commitment of sexually violent predators; amending provisions subject to criminal penalties. Reforms the civil commitment process for sexually violent offenders. Renames the Office of Violent Sex Offender Management as the Texas Civil Commitment Office. Transfers jurisdiction for civil commitment proceedings from the 435th District Court in Montgomery County to the court of conviction in the county for the person's most recent sexually violent offense. Authorizes a prosecuting attorney serving that court to file a petition to initiate the civil commitment process for such offenders; under prior law, the state's special prosecution unit pursued such commitment proceedings. Requires the special prosecution unit to provide legal, financial, and technical assistance to the attorney for the civil commitment proceeding upon request.

Requires a trial to determine whether a person is a sexually violent predator and should be civilly committed to be conducted not later than the person's discharge date. Revises the supervision and treatment process for committed offenders by creating a tiered program which must provide for the seamless transition of a committed person from a total confinement facility to less restrictive housing and eventually to release from civil commitment, among several other provisions. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 790 by Kolkhorst. Relating to the procedures applicable to the revocation of a person's release on parole or to mandatory supervision. Authorizes a magistrate to release on bond with parole supervision or mandatory release supervision a person arrested for a technical violation on a pre-

revocation warrant by the parole division. The bill also requires the parole board or a parole panel to make a final determination of a parole violation before issuing a warrant for arrest. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1287 by Hinojosa. Relating to the Texas Forensic Science Commission, the accreditation of crime laboratories, and the licensing and regulation of forensic analysts; authorizing fees; requiring an occupational license. Requires the Texas Forensic Science Commission to accredit crime laboratories and establish the qualifications for a forensic analyst license, which would be required before a person could act as a forensic analyst for a court or crime laboratory. The bill also requires the Commission to establish a method for collecting DNA and other forensic evidence related to unidentified bodies located less than 120 miles from Rio Grande River, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015 except Section 4-a(b), Article 38.01, Code of Criminal Procedure takes effect 1/1/2019.*

SB 2019 by Uresti. Relating to the composition of the Texas Violent Gang Task Force. Adds a member of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission to the Texas Violent Gang Task Force. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

HB 211 by Rose. Relating to resuming a criminal case after a defendant is determined to be competent to stand trial. Revises certain procedures after a defendant is returned to court upon completion of a competency restoration program, and imposes certain notification and meeting requirements regarding such a defendant. In counties with populations of at least one million but less than four million, criminal proceedings against a defendant must be resumed not later than the 14th day after the date of the court's determination that the defendant's competency has been restored. In all other counties, criminal proceedings must be resumed as soon as practicable. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

HB 324 by Dutton. Relating to a requirement that a peace officer obtain a search warrant before conducting a body cavity search during a traffic stop. Prohibits a peace officer from conducting a body cavity search of a person during a traffic stop unless the officer first obtains a search warrant authorizing

the search. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 326 by Wu. Relating to information provided by electronic means in support of the issuance of a search warrant. Authorizes a magistrate to consider information communicated by telephone or other reliable electronic means in determining whether to issue a search warrant and sets forth certain procedures relating to the issuance of such a search warrant. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 644 by Canales. Relating to the contents of a search warrant and to the offense of tampering with a governmental record consisting of a search warrant. Requires a magistrate's name and signature on a search warrant and enhances the penalty for tampering with a governmental record if the record is a search warrant issued by a magistrate. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1264 by Wu. Relating to the preservation of toxicological evidence collected in connection with certain intoxication offenses. Requires a governmental entity or an individual, including a law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office, or crime laboratory, that is charged with the collection, storage, preservation, analysis, or retrieval of toxicological evidence to ensure that such evidence (defined as a blood or urine specimen) collected pursuant to an investigation or prosecution of certain intoxication offenses is retained and preserved for certain specified time periods. Requires a court to determine as soon as practicable the appropriate retention and preservation period and notify the defendant and entity or individual charged with storage of the evidence of the period for which the evidence is to be retained and preserved. Additionally, the bill authorizes the destruction of the evidence on expiration of the time period. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1396 by Workman. Relating to certain criminal offenses, punishments, and procedures; the construction of certain statutes and rules that create or define criminal offenses and penalties; a review of certain penal laws of this state. Prohibits a peace officer from searching a person's cellular telephone or other wireless communications device without a search warrant and provides procedures for the issuance of such a warrant. Requires a court to give preference to a criminal trial involving a victim

younger than 14 years of age over other matters before the court. Provides for certain construction of ambiguous statutes or rules involving criminal offenses or penalties. Revises the monetary thresholds used to determine the penalty for certain offenses. Additionally, the bill creates a commission to study and review certain state penal laws. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1595 by Murr. Relating to testing certain defendants or confined persons for communicable diseases. Requires a person who is arrested for a misdemeanor or a felony to be tested for communicable diseases if a correctional officer or magistrate comes into contact with the person's bodily fluids. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

HB 2185 by Clardy. Relating to the execution of a search warrant for taking a DNA specimen. Authorizes a search warrant issued by a district judge for DNA collection for the purpose of connecting a person to an offense to be executed in any county in the state. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 487 by Ellis. Relating to postconviction forensic DNA analysis. Authorizes a convicted person to submit a motion for forensic DNA testing of evidence that has a reasonable likelihood of containing biological material; prior law limited the motion to the testing of evidence containing biological material without the reasonable likelihood standard. Requires a court to find there is a reasonable likelihood that the evidence contains biological material suitable for DNA testing before issuing an order for such testing. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1326 by Menendez. Relating to the maximum cumulative period allowed for restoration of a defendant's competency to stand trial and to certain time credits awarded against that cumulative period. Authorizes a court, in calculating the cumulative maximum time period that a defendant can be committed to a mental hospital, residential facility, or other program for competency restoration, to consider good time credit that the defendant may have been granted while confined in a correctional facility before the initial commitment order was entered. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1902 by Perry. Relating to the eligibility of criminal defendants for an order of nondisclosure of criminal history record information; authorizing a fee. Allows issuance of an order of nondisclosure at the time of a defendant's dismissal and discharge from a term of deferred adjudication community supervision of certain misdemeanor offenses if the person proves to the court eligibility for the order of nondisclosure and pays a \$28 fine. Expands eligibility for an order of nondisclosure to include certain offenders who have been convicted of certain non-violent offenses. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SB 100 by Hinojosa. Relating to the enterprise zone program. Makes several revisions to the Enterprise Zone Program. Among its provisions, it authorizes all counties to nominate a business project that is located within the jurisdiction of a municipality in the county for enterprise project designation, and requires a nominating county to enter into an interlocal agreement with the municipality specifying which governmental body will have administration authority over the project. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 318 by Hinojosa. Relating to the amount the Texas Military Preparedness Commission may grant to local governmental entities for certain purposes. Increases the scope of certain grants to counties affected by base closures and realignment to also include infrastructure and other projects necessary to prevent the reduction or closing of a defense facility, and increases the maximum amount of a grant from \$2 million to \$5 million. Grant funds may also be used to train workers to support military installations or defense facilities. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 503 by Perry. Relating to financial assistance to local governmental entities affected by the realignment of defense jobs or facilities. Increases the scope of certain grants to counties affected by base closures and realignment to also include infrastructure and other projects necessary to prevent the reduction or closing of a defense facility, and increases from \$2 million to \$5 million an alternative cap amount for the grant. Grant funds may also be used to train workers to support military installations or defense facilities. *Effective 5/22/2015.*

ELECTIONS

HB 484 by Capriglione. Relating to the eligibility of a person to be a candidate for or holder of certain public elective offices. Requires candidates to be registered to vote in the territory from which the office is elected. A candidate must be registered to vote within the same period that the candidate must be a resident of the territory from which the office is elected. This is a new eligibility requirement for candidacy and will require a change to the application for a place on the ballot. The bill also adds Section 601.009 to the Government Code to require a person to be a registered voter before qualifying for office. Under prior law, with some exceptions, candidates and officers have not generally been required to be registered voters.

Effective 9/1/2015.

HB 621 by Lozano. Relating to the termination of a volunteer deputy registrar appointment. Amends Section 13.036 of the Election Code to allow termination of a volunteer deputy registrar's appointment on a determination by the county voter registrar that the volunteer deputy registrar has either intentionally destroyed or altered an application or has engaged in any other activity that the county voter registrar determines "conflicts with the responsibilities of a volunteer deputy registrar" under Chapter 13 of the Code. Current law only provides a means to terminate a volunteer deputy registrar midterm if he or she fails to adequately review an application. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1026 by Thompson, Ed. Relating to eligibility for appointment as a tabulation supervisor in an election. Allows a tabulation supervisor to be either a registered voter of the political subdivision establishing the counting station or an employee of the political subdivision that owns the tabulating equipment. Under prior law, the tabulation supervision was required to be a registered voter of the entity establishing the central counting station, which became a difficult requirement for counties when operating a counting station for multiple political subdivisions. The tabulation supervisor is a technical position and this change ensures the county is able to use a person familiar with the equipment. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

HB 1927 by Bonnen, Greg. Relating to the procedures for applying for a ballot to be voted by mail; creating a criminal offense. Makes it an offense for a person to witness more than one application for annual ballots by mail in a calendar year. Section 84.007 of the Election Code is amended to allow electronic transmission of a scanned application for ballot by mail. The early voting clerk is required to designate an e-mail address for receipt of electronically transmitted applications. Section 84.007(c) is amended to state applications for ballot by mail may be submitted any time during the year in which the election will take place but no later than the 11th day before Election Day. Section 84.038 is added to clarify that cancellation of a mail ballot application is effective for a single ballot only and does not cancel the ballot for subsequent elections, either the runoff or as an annual application. Section 86.0015 is amended to require a county clerk to provide early voting clerks of political subdivisions holding elections within the county a list of voters that have annual applications on file. The early voting clerk shall then mail a ballot to the annual applicants. Section 86.006 is amended to allow a voter, upon submission of an acceptable form of identification, to deliver his or her marked mail ballot in person to the early voting clerk while the polls are open on Election Day. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2027 by Bonnen, Greg. Relating to establishing precincts for elections held on a uniform election date by certain political subdivisions. Requires use of county election precincts on Election Day for all elections held on any uniform election date rather than just the November date. An exception is carved out for May uniform date elections if the political subdivision either conducts personal appearance early voting at 75 percent or more of its permanent or temporary branches on the same days and hours as voting at the main early voting polling place and conducts personal appearance voting at the remaining polling places for at least 2 consecutive days for eight hours on each of the two consecutive days or does not establish permanent or temporary branch early voting for the election at all. This change appears designed to address the concerns of some groups that local political subdivisions influence elections by emphasizing early voting at the expense of election day by establishing multiple

temporary early voting branches (for example at high school football games) and then offering a single election day polling place at a location other than the one at which voters are used to voting in county-held elections. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2050 by Rodriguez, Eddie. Relating to voter information provided by a voter registrar to the secretary of state. Requires the record that the voter registrar is required to electronically submit for each voter participating in certain elections to include a notation of the method by which the voter voted.

Effective 9/1/2015.

HB 2160 by Paul. Relating to the release of election judges' and clerks' contact information. Adds Section 32.076 to the Election Code. The new section exempts e-mail addresses and phone numbers of election judges and clerks collected or maintained by the authority holding the election from disclosure under the Public Information Act. The information is available on request to county chairs eligible to submit lists of judges or clerks for the election and state executive committees with a chair eligible to submit lists or clerks for the election. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2366 by Goldman. Relating to the notation on the precinct list of registered voters that a voter voted early. Requires the early voting clerk to enter "early voting voter" next to each person on the precinct list that voted early. The act shifts this responsibility from the precinct judge to the early voting clerk. As a practical matter, many early voting clerks have already been doing this by printing annotated precinct lists. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 142 by Garcia. Relating to the appointment and training of volunteer deputy registrars. Adds Section 13.048 to the Election Code. The new section authorizes counties to adopt an appointment method for volunteer deputy registrars as developed by the secretary of state or by the county and approved by the secretary of state. It requires the secretary of state to provide training materials for volunteer deputy registrars on its website. The secretary of state must also provide an online examination based on the materials. When a person has successfully completed the secretary of state training, the voter registrar shall appoint the person as a volunteer deputy registrar, advise the person of any county-

specific procedures for processing applications, and note that the only requirements for voter registration are prescribed by state law or by the secretary of state. *Effective 6/20/2015.*

SB 383 by Uresti. Relating to the time of delivery to the early voting ballot board for ballots voted by mail in certain counties. Allows delivery of ballot by mail jacket envelopes to the early voting ballot board beginning on the ninth day before the last day of early voting by personal appearance in counties with a population of 100,000 or more. Prior law allowed the ballot transfers to begin on the ninth day before Election Day in these counties. This change should help urban counties process the large numbers of mail ballots in a more timely manner and lessen the early voting ballot board's Election Day load. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 733 by Fraser. Relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to change the date of their general elections. Gives local political subdivisions (other than counties or municipal utility districts) a period to change the date of their general elections from a date other than the November uniform election date to the November uniform election date. The change must be ordered by the governing body not later than December 31, 2016. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 1115 by Campbell. Relating to a program allowing certain military voters on active duty overseas to cast a ballot electronically. Requires the Secretary of State to continue its pilot program under which certain counties may receive emailed ballots from active duty overseas members of the armed forces who are eligible for hostile fire pay. Prior law limited the pilot to a single county; the secretary of state may now select multiple counties to participate. *Effective 6/15/2015.*

SB 1703 by Huffman. Relating to the deadlines for certain processes and procedures involving an election. Shifts a number of deadlines in the Election Code. The deadline to order an election to be held on a uniform election date is changed to the 78th day before election, which previously had been the deadline for elections held on the date of the general election for state and county officers. Runoff elections are added as an exemption to the 30 day blackout period following general elections, the general primary, and primary runoff elections. The

period for the early voting ballot board to meet and count late ballots is changed to the ninth day after Election Day and the 13th day after Election Day for elections held on the date of the general election for state and county officers. The period to hold special elections to fill a vacancy is the first uniform election date occurring after the 46th day after the date the election is ordered, which is a change from the current 45th day before the uniform date. Similarly, a candidate's application for a place on the ballot for a special election must be filed by 5 p.m. of the 40th day before Election Day if the election is on or after the 46th day and before the 70th day after the date the election is ordered. Section 65.051(c) is repealed. This section had exempted the early voting ballot board's post-election deadline from the weekend and holiday deadline extension language of Section 1.006 of the Code, which had caused problems when a federal holiday fell on the Monday following a Tuesday November election. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HB 120 by Flynn. Relating to the purchase of food and beverages by the Texas Division of Emergency Management for certain division personnel. Allows the Texas Division of Emergency Management to use appropriated funds to purchase food and beverages for division personnel who are activated in response to a disaster and who are unable to leave or are required to remain at their assigned areas due to the disaster. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

HB 942 by Kacal. Relating to the storage of certain hazardous chemicals; transferring enforcement of certain reporting requirements, including the imposition of criminal, civil, and administrative penalties, from the Department of State Health Services to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty; reenacting a criminal offense. Establishes reporting procedures for ammonium nitrate storage, requires an owner of an ammonium nitrate storage facility to allow a fire marshal to enter the facility in order to complete an inspection for hazardous conditions, and grants the facility owner up to 10 days to correct the hazard. In addition, the facility owner must allow the local fire department access to the facility to perform a pre-fire planning assessment.

The bill also adjusts the reporting timeline for ammonium nitrate storage facilities to hasten the notice to state and local emergency entities, and transfers the Tier II Chemical Reporting Program from the Department of State Health Services to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015 except Sections 1 and 2 take effect 6/16/2015.*

HB 2358 by Lucio III. Relating to the exemption from certain registration and licensing requirements and taxes for certain businesses and employees who enter this state in response to a disaster or emergency. Implements the Facilitating Business Rapid Response to State Declared Disasters Act. Exempts out-of-state business entities and employees from certain obligations, including certain taxes and registration and licensing requirements, if their business or employment in Texas is limited to disaster or emergency-related work during a disaster response period, as defined by statute. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

HB 2827 by Phillips. Relating to the definition of homeland security activity. Expands the definition of Homeland security activity in the Government Code to include any activity related to the prevention or discovery of, response to, or recovery from a fire or medical emergency requiring resources beyond the capabilities of a local jurisdiction. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 904 by Hinojosa. Relating to exempting emergency preparation supplies from the sales and use tax for a limited period. Establishes a sales tax free weekend during the last weekend in April for certain emergency preparation items. Tax free items include certain portable generators and storm protection devices, as well as weather radios, rescue ladders, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and first aid kits. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1465 by Watson. Relating to creating limited purpose disaster declaration authority for the governor and a search and rescue task force in each disaster field response region. Allows the governor to declare a limited purpose disaster if the governor determines that a disaster can be adequately addressed without invoking all the powers and duties provided by law. Retains the governor's ability to suspend certain statutory provisions or state agency rules in order to expedite state action and respond to local requests for assistance. *Effective 6/18/2015.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

HB 2020 by Martinez, "Mando". Relating to the scope of duties of an emergency medical technician-paramedic and a licensed paramedic. Authorizes an emergency medical technician-paramedic or a licensed paramedic acting under the direction of a licensed physician to provide advanced life support in certain health care facilities, including a hospital emergency room, in certain circumstances. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

HB 2498 by Zerwas. Relating to a compact with other states regarding the licensure of emergency medical services personnel and the authority of those personnel to perform job duties in this state and other states. Enacts the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and specifies that Texas enter into the compact with all other states legally joining in the compact. Provides that member states consider a veteran, active military service member, and member of the National Guard and Reserves separating from an active duty tour, and a spouse thereof, who holds a current valid and unrestricted National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians certification as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for such licensure. Specifies that the states in the compact would create and establish the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of the compact. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 31 by Zaffirini. Relating to the authority of certain volunteer firefighter and emergency services organizations to hold tax-free sales or auctions. Authorizes certain volunteer firefighter and emergency services organizations to hold 10 tax-free sales or auctions during a calendar year, with each sale or auction lasting no longer than 72 hours. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

SB 788 by Eltife. Relating to requiring direct access to 9-1-1 service from certain telephone systems and equivalent systems that use Internet Protocol enabled services. Simplifies emergency services by requiring a business service user to configure a telephone system and equivalent systems that use Internet Protocol enabled services to allow 9-1-1 to be dialed directly without an additional code, digit, prefix, postfix or trunk-access code. *Effective 5/15/2015.*

SB 1108 by Lucio. Relating to the creation of regional emergency communication districts; authorizing a fee. Creates the Regional Emergency Communication Districts Act that authorizes counties and municipalities in a 9-1-1 region serving a total population of less than 1.5 million to create a regional emergency communication district. Authorizes a district's board to impose and collect an emergency service fee that does not exceed 50 cents per month for each line. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1462 by West. Relating to the prescription, administration, and possession of certain opioid antagonists for the treatment of suspected opioid overdoses. Allows emergency services personnel to administer an opioid antagonist to a person believed to be experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose. Provides that a person who administers or does not administer an opioid antagonist to another person whom the person believes is suffering an opioid-related drug overdose is not subject to criminal prosecution or sanction under any professional licensing statute or civil liability resulting from the administration or failure to administer the opioid antagonist. Authorizes any person to possess an opioid antagonist regardless of whether the person holds a prescription for it. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1574 by Uresti. Relating to emergency response employees or volunteers and others exposed or potentially exposed to certain diseases or parasites and to visa waivers for certain physicians. Authorizes emergency response employees and volunteers exposed to bodily fluids and potential communicable diseases during an arrest or scope of employment or service to be notified of certain post-exposure test results. Requires an entity employing or using emergency response employees or volunteers to nominate a designated infection officer with specific duties dealing with exposure to communicable diseases. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1899 by Campbell. Relating to the regulation of emergency medical services. Authorizes emergency medical technicians and paramedics acting under the supervision of a physician to provide advanced life support in an emergency room or urgent care setting. Authorizes the Department of State Health Services to develop an exam for an applicant for an emergency medical services provider license or

personnel certification and determine who should take the exam. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

EMINENT DOMAIN

SB 1812 by Kolkhorst. Relating to transparency in the reporting and public availability of information regarding eminent domain authority; providing a civil penalty. Requires the comptroller of public accounts to create and make accessible on a website an eminent domain database containing certain information regarding public and private entities, including common carriers, authorized by the state by a general or special law to exercise the power of eminent domain. Requires each applicable entity to report to the comptroller certain information as prescribed by the bill on an annual basis, provides for civil penalties for an entity's noncompliance with that reporting requirement, and authorizes the attorney general to sue to collect a civil penalty. Provides that the reporting, failure to report, or late submission of a report by a public or private entity does not affect the entity's authority to exercise the power of eminent domain. The comptroller is required to create and post the database by September 1, 2016. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

EMPLOYMENT

HB 445 by Raney. Relating to providing notice of the availability of paid leave for military service to public officers and employees. Requires a county to give annual written notice to an employee of certain military paid leave time that the employee is entitled to use or carry forward each fiscal year. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 786 by Walle. Relating to the right of a public employee to express breast milk in the workplace. Entitles an employee of a public employer, including a county, to express breast milk at the employee's workplace. Requires a public employer to develop a written policy on the expression of breast milk by employees that supports the practice and makes reasonable accommodations for the needs of these employees. Requires a public employer to provide a reasonable amount of break time and a specified place where the employee can express breast milk. Provides

that a public employer may not suspend or terminate the employment of, or otherwise discriminate against, an employee who has asserted her rights under the law. Additionally, the bill specifies that no private or state cause of action against a public employer is created.

Effective 9/1/2015.

HB 1707 by Stephenson. Relating to the methods by which a political subdivision may submit contributions to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System. Expands the list of available payment methods for a county to make contributions to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System to include automated clearinghouse withdrawals and wire transfers. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2828 by Phillips. Relating to the authority of a municipality or county to obtain criminal history record information for certain persons, including employees, independent contractors, and volunteers. Expands the list of persons for whom a county is entitled to obtain criminal history record information from the Department of Public Safety to include an employee, a contract employee, a volunteer, or applicants for contract or volunteer positions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 463 by Huffman. Relating to the restructuring of certain fund accounts of the Texas County and District Retirement System. Realigns the fund structure in the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS) to better facilitate the implementation of the new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reporting rules for TCDRS and its employers. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

ENVIRONMENTAL

HB 1184 by Paddie. Relating to authorizing certain utility cost savings and alternative fuel programs as eligible for local government energy savings performance contracts. Expands the energy savings performance contracts that a local government may enter into with a provider for energy or water conservation or usage measures to include a contract related to a pilot program operated by the Energy Systems Laboratory at the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station that, among other things, establishes and implements energy efficiency improvements to state-owned buildings maintained

by the Texas Facilities Commission; a contract for the implementation of programs resulting in utility cost savings; and a contract for the implementation of alternative fuel programs resulting in energy cost savings and reduced emissions for local government vehicles. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

HB 1794 by Geren. Relating to suits brought by local governments for violations of certain laws under the jurisdiction of, or rules adopted or orders or permits issued by, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; affecting civil penalties. Limits the amount that can be recovered by counties in civil suits brought against certain polluters. The first \$4.3 million of the amount recovered in such a suit must be divided equally between the state and the county and any amount recovered in excess of \$4.3 million shall be awarded to the state. Requires the trier of fact take into account certain current statutory factors in determining the amount of a civil penalty. Requires the county bring suit no later than the fifth anniversary of the earlier of either the violator notifying the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or TCEQ notifying the violator of a notice of enforcement. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 394 by Perry. Relating to the use of supplemental environmental projects by a local government to come into compliance with environmental laws or remediate environmental harm caused by the local government. Directs the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to approve a county's request for approval of a supplemental environmental project in lieu of paying a penalty for an environmental violation, insofar as the county has not previously committed a violation at the same site with the same underlying cause in the preceding five years, as documented in a TCEQ order, and that the county did not agree, before the date TCEQ initiated the enforcement action, to perform the project. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

FEES & FINES

HB 121 by Fletcher. Relating to an alternative means of payment of certain past due criminal fines and court costs. Allows a court to adopt an alternative procedure for collecting a past due payment on a judgment for a fine and related court costs if a *capias pro fine* has been issued on a case. Under the

procedure, a peace officer is authorized to accept payment for past due fines/costs by credit or debit card, as authorized by the court, in lieu of arresting a person and taking them to jail. *Effective 6/15/2015.*

HB 941 by Hernandez. Relating to the creation of DNA records for the DNA database system. Expands the types of criminal cases to which a \$50 court cost for DNA testing applies upon conviction and credits the funds allocated to the state to the Department of Public Safety to help defray the cost of collecting or analyzing DNA samples provided by certain defendants, among other provisions. A county may retain 10 percent of the funds collected as a collection fee. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1062 by Lucio III. Relating to authorizing a fee for county records technology and infrastructure costs in certain counties. Authorizes the Cameron County Commissioners Court to adopt a records technology and infrastructure fee of \$2.00 as part of the county's annual budget. The fee collected may only be expended on technology and infrastructure for the maintenance of county records and the operation of the county records system. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2182 by Clardy. Relating to the collection and refunding of certain fees and deposits by a county clerk or district clerk; increasing certain fees. Allows the clerk to retain an administrative fee in an amount equal to 5 percent of the withdrawal but that may not exceed \$50 in refunding a cash bail bond; *Effective 9/1/2015.* Raises the jury fee from \$20 to \$40 for a defendant convicted by a jury in a county court, county court at law, or a district court; *Effective 1/1/2016.* Allows the district clerk to collect a records archive fee, if adopted by commissioners court, not to exceed \$10 in any court for which the district clerk accepts filings; *Effective 1/1/2016.* Requires the district clerk to collect fees for performing services related to a matter filed in a statutory county court that are the same fees allowed to be charged for performing those services in the district court; *Effective 1/1/2016.* Requires the district clerk and the clerk of a county court or statutory county court to collect a \$40 jury fee for each civil case where there is a request for a jury trial; *Effective 1/1/2016.* Requires the county clerk to charge a \$10 fee for the filing of a Claim Against Estate in a probate court action; *Effective 1/1/2016.*

SB 287 by West. Relating to the elimination of certain court fees and costs and to the bill of costs provided to a defendant. Repeals certain court costs and fees. Requires a written bill to be produced for costs and signed by the officer who charged the cost in a justice or municipal court; in all other courts, the written bill must also be provided to the person charged with the cost in addition to being produced and signed by the officer. Repeals the following statutory provisions: \$5 fee for filing each additional petition for review of each appraisal review board order after the first petition for review relating to the same property is filed for a tax year; a statutory county court fee of \$10 under the Transportation Code for a county attorney in a suit regarding a railroad company's failure to keep roadbed and right-of-way in proper condition; \$2 fee a county judge collects for hearing an application to secure a pension; and, \$10 fee collected by a county attorney for a lawsuit maintained by the county attorney if a railroad company fails to complete work or repairs on railroad crossings. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 740 by West. Relating to the assessment of court costs and fees on conviction of multiple offenses or on conviction of multiple counts of the same offense. Authorizes a court in a single criminal action on which a defendant is convicted of two or more offenses or of multiple counts of the same offense to assess each court cost or fee only once. Requires each court cost or fee in such an action in which the amount is determined according to the category of offense be assessed using the highest category of offense that is possible based on the defendant's convictions. Establishes that the law's provisions do not apply to a single criminal action alleging only the commission of two or more offenses punishable by fine only. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

FIREWORKS/FIRE SAFETY

HB 1150 by White, James. Relating to the sale of fireworks on and before certain holidays; affecting a provision subject to a criminal penalty. Authorizes a commissioners court to allow the sale of fireworks for the Texas Independence Day, San Jacinto Day, and Memorial Day fireworks seasons. Provides for the following selling periods if authorized by the commissioners court: beginning February 25 and

ending at midnight on March 2; beginning April 16 and ending at midnight on April 21; and beginning the Wednesday before the last Monday in May and ending at midnight on the last Monday in May. Additionally, the bill provides specified dates by which a commissioners court must adopt an order regulating the sale or use of restricted fireworks during these new fireworks seasons in certain drought conditions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2119 by Lozano. Relating to charitable organizations, including charitable organizations that may conduct prescribed burning. Authorizes the members of a charitable prescribed burning organization to conduct a prescribed burn if the member in charge of the burn has completed certain training curriculum and the organization has certain insurance coverage. Provides that the county regulation of outdoor burning under the Local Government Code does not apply to outdoor burning activities conducted by members of a charitable prescribed burning organization if certain conditions and standards are met, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 570 by Estes. Relating to the use of fireworks at certain Texas Department of Transportation rest areas; creating a criminal offense. Allows a commissioners court to petition the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to adopt an order to prohibit or restrict the use of fireworks at a state highway rest area in the unincorporated area of the county. The bill requires the county to reimburse TxDOT for the costs of designing, constructing and erecting signs giving notice of the order. A violation is a Class C misdemeanor. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 761 by Creighton. Relating to the taxation of fireworks. Repeals the state fireworks tax dedicated to the credit of the rural volunteer fire department insurance fund and allocates a specified portion of sales tax revenue derived from the sale of fireworks to the fund in its place. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

INDIGENT DEFENSE

HB 3633 by Herrero. Relating to reimbursement for the costs of legal services provided to an indigent defendant in a criminal case. Clarifies that a defendant determined by a judge to have financial

resources to offset the costs of legal services provided by court-appointed counsel may not be ordered to pay, during the pendency of the charges or as court costs, an amount that exceeds the actual costs paid by the county for the legal services provided, or if the defendant was represented by a public defender's office, the actual amount that would have otherwise been paid to an appointed attorney had the county not had a public defender's office. Provides that a defendant ordered to reimburse a county for legal services as part of a condition of community supervision must first be subject to an "ability to pay" determination and may not be ordered to pay more than actual costs. Also specifically prohibits a judge from imposing a condition of community supervision requiring a defendant to reimburse a county for certain costs of legal services if the defendant has already satisfied that obligation. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 316 by Hinojosa. Relating to the prioritization of certain available legal defense services when appointing representation for an indigent defendant in a criminal case. Requires a court to prioritize the appointment of a public defender's office to represent an indigent defendant in counties with such an office. Provides that the court is not required to appoint the public defender's office if the court has reason to appoint other counsel or a managed assigned counsel program also exists and an attorney will be appointed under that program. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 662 by Rodriguez. Relating to the representation of certain indigent applicants for a writ of habeas corpus. Requires a court to appoint an attorney to represent an eligible indigent defendant for the purpose of filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus if a defendant who was sentenced or had a sentence suspended is not guilty, guilty of only a lesser offense, or was convicted or sentenced under a law that has been found unconstitutional by certain courts. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

SB 1057 by Hinojosa. Relating to the provision of funding for indigent defense services. Authorizes continuing state grant funding at up to 50 percent of costs for regional public defender offices and authorizes the distribution of grants directly to such offices if each participating county satisfies to the Indigent Defense Commission that the county will

provide funds to the office for the duration of the grant for at least half of the office's operational costs and other requirements are met. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1353 by Hinojosa. Relating to the provision and administration of indigent defense services. Authorizes the Texas Indigent Defense Commission to award a grant directly to an entity that provides administrative services to a county under an interlocal agreement for indigent defense services. The bill also allows the Commission to enter into an interlocal contract with one or more counties to assist in the creation and operation of a computerized indigent defense information system. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1517 by Seliger. Relating to the appointment of counsel to represent indigent defendants in criminal cases. Revises provisions regarding the appointment of counsel when a defendant is arrested pursuant to a warrant issued in another county. Requires a court to appoint counsel for an eligible indigent defendant requesting counsel in the county that issued the warrant within a prescribed time frame regardless of whether the defendant is present within the county issuing the warrant. Requires the arresting county to appoint counsel for an indigent defendant for representation in certain habeas corpus and bail proceedings if the defendant has not been transferred to the custody of the county issuing the warrant before the 11th day after the date of the arrest and counsel has not otherwise been appointed for the defendant in the arresting county. Additionally, the bill authorizes the arresting county to seek reimbursement for the actual costs paid for the appointed counsel from the warrant-issuing county if counsel is appointed in the arresting county as required by law, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1743 by Hinojosa. Relating to expanding the powers and duties of the office of capital writs and renaming the office of capital writs the office of capital and forensic writs. Renames the Office of Capital Writs as the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs and expands the office's duties to include the representation of a defendant in a habeas corpus proceeding involving certain forensic science issues if the case was referred to the office by the Texas Forensic Science Commission. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

JAILS

HB 257 by Farney. Relating to a judge's or justice's significant interest in a business entity that owns, manages, or operates a private correctional or rehabilitation facility. Revises current law that prohibits certain judges and justices, including constitutional county judges, from having a significant interest in a business entity that owns, manages, or operates certain correctional or rehabilitation facilities to prohibit any direct investment in such a business entity. *Effective 1/1/2017.*

HB 549 by Johnson. Relating to certain duties of the Commission on Jail Standards regarding visitation periods for county jail prisoners. Requires the Commission on Jail Standards to adopt reasonable rules and procedures for prisoner visitation that provide each prisoner at a county jail with a minimum of two in-person, noncontact visitation periods per week of at least 20 minutes duration each. This prohibits video-only visitation in county jails and requires counties to plan for the building and staffing to accommodate in-person visitation. Provides that a county is exempt from the new jail standard if it has already incurred significant design, engineering or construction costs to provide visitation that does not comply with the standard as of September 1, 2015 or if it does not have the physical capability to provide in-person visitation. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 634 by Metcalf. Relating to the rights of a guardian of a person in the criminal justice system. Provides that court appointed guardians have the same rights to visitation of inmates as next of kin; requires a guardian to provide the sheriff a letter of guardianship. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 875 by Farias. Relating to the verification of the veteran status of inmates and prisoners. Requires the Commission on Jail Standards to require the sheriff of each county to investigate and verify the veteran status of each prisoner by using data made available from the Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS) operated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or a similar service and use the data to assist prisoners who are veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the prisoners may be eligible under a program

administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 904 by Smith. Relating to the transfer of certain inmates to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice following pronouncement of the inmate's sentence. Mandates an offender who has been convicted of a felony and who is ineligible for bond to be transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice pending an appeal. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1140 by Israel. Relating to the confinement of pregnant prisoners in county jails. Requires a county jail to notify the Commission on Jail Standards of any change in the jail's policies and procedures related to the provision of health care to pregnant prisoners and the placement of a pregnant prisoner in solitary confinement or administrative segregation. Requires each sheriff to report to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards by September 1, 2016, detailed information regarding health care, housing conditions, chemical dependency treatment, OBGYN and prenatal care, nutritional standards and caloric intake, situations requiring restraints, and the number of miscarriages experienced by pregnant inmates; expires February 1, 2017. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

JURIES

HB 2150 by Alvarado. Relating to the organization of a grand jury. Revises the process for organizing a grand jury. Eliminates the position of jury commissioner. Requires the court to select 12 persons to serve as grand jurors and four additional persons to serve as alternate grand jurors, and specifies certain causes for which a challenge to a grand juror can be made, among other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2747 by Landgraf. Relating to qualifications to serve as a petit juror. Amends the general qualifications for jury service. Provides that a juror is required to be a citizen of the United States and resident of the state and the county where the person is to serve. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3996 by Blanco. Relating to the donation of juror reimbursements. Amends current law to allow a person who reports for jury service to donate their daily reimbursement to a Veterans Court Program. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 565 by West. Relating to designating the first week of May as Jury Appreciation Week. Designates the first seven days in May as Jury Appreciation Week to recognize and show appreciation to the citizens of this state for their civic duty to our state and judicial system. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

JUVENILE JUSTICE

HB 431 by White, James. Relating to the creation of an advisory committee to examine and recommend revisions to any state laws pertaining to juvenile records. Creates a Juvenile Records Advisory Committee that includes juvenile court judges, peace officers, justice court judges and juvenile prosecutors, among others. Requires the committee to develop a plan for studying, reorganizing, and comprehensively revising Chapter 58 of the Family Code, and any other relevant laws pertaining to juvenile records. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

HB 642 by Canales. Relating to an alcohol awareness program or drug education program for certain minors convicted of or adjudicated to have engaged in, or placed on deferred disposition or community supervision for, certain drug or alcohol related offenses; authorizing a fee. Authorizes a judge to require certain minors and defendants under the age of 18 to attend a drug education or alcohol awareness program; authorizes a fee to be paid by the defendant for the costs of attending the program. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1144 by Dukes. Relating to establishing a task force to examine the adjudication, disposition, and registration of juvenile sex offenders. Establishes a task force to review and make policy recommendations to improve the outcomes for juvenile sex offenders. The task force is composed of judges, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and probation representatives, among others; expires September 1, 2017. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

HB 1491 by McClendon. Relating to the publication of confidential criminal and juvenile justice records of certain juveniles; providing civil penalties. Prohibits certain business entities from publishing confidential juvenile record information or confidential criminal record information of a child. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2398 by White, James. Relating to court

jurisdiction and procedures relating to truancy; establishing judicial donation trust funds; providing criminal penalties; imposing a court cost. Removes the criminal charges for truancy and failure to attend school and makes them civil charges. Entitles an individual previously convicted of a truancy offense or who had a complaint for a truancy charge dismissed to an expunction. Raises the age of mandatory school attendance from 17 to 18 years of age. Authorizes the commissioners court to establish a judicial donation trust fund, as well as the procedures to receive and disburse funds, to assist children and families who appear in court for a criminal offense or truant conduct.

Not later than January 1, 2016, counties with two or more courts hearing truancy cases and two or more school districts must appoint a committee to recommend, by May 1, 2016, a uniform truancy policy and a local plan with strategies to address truancy prevention, intervention and diversion. Establishes truancy courts, which include justice and municipal courts, as well as the constitutional county court in a county with a population of 1.75 million or more. Truancy courts are civil, not criminal, and retain jurisdiction over a person until final disposition. If a school district's truancy prevention measures fail to address the student's conduct, the student may be referred to a truancy court. Authorizes a truancy court to appoint a guardian ad litem for the child in certain circumstances. Certain fines may be assessed to students and parents for their role in failure to attend. Students who are homeless, pregnant, in foster care or are principal earners for the family are exempt from being referred by a school district to truancy court. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2945 by Alonzo. Relating to the use of the juvenile case manager fund. Authorizes a juvenile case manager, on approval by the employing court, to direct certain remaining funds in a juvenile case manager fund toward programs related to the duties of the juvenile case manager, including alcohol and substance abuse programs, educational and leadership programs, and other projects designed to prevent or reduce the number of juvenile referrals to the court. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 107 by Whitmire. Relating to the designation of campus behavior coordinators to serve at public school campuses and issues to be considered when removing a student from class. Seeks to promote discretion in handling of student conduct where zero tolerance policies do not consider extenuating circumstances. Mandates the designation of a campus behavior coordinator and outlines the responsibilities and process for actions taken toward improving student conduct or instances when a decision is made to place a student in campus behavioral programs (i.e., In-School Suspension) or removed from campus to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program or a Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program. *Effective 6/20/2015.*

SB 108 by Whitmire. Relating to certain criminal procedures for misdemeanor offenses committed by children. Allows for the expunction of certain records of a person under the age of 17 if the complaint was dismissed or the person was acquitted of the offense. Expands the eligibility of a student to participate in a teen court program. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 409 by Rodriguez. Relating to the dissemination of confidential information contained in the juvenile justice information system. Limits the dissemination of confidential information concerning juveniles who received pre-adjudication diversion or deferred prosecution, or whose charges were discharged, dropped, or found to be untrue and permits this information to be shared only with certain entities, such as criminal justice agencies, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, and the Department of Family and Protective Services. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 888 by Hinojosa. Relating to the appeal of waiver of jurisdiction and transfer to criminal court in juvenile cases. Revises the appeals process for a juvenile certified to stand trial as an adult by authorizing an immediate appeal of such a certification. Under prior law, a defendant could only appeal a certification after conviction. Requires the Supreme Court to adopt rules accelerating the disposition of such an appeal. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1149 by Watson. Relating to the commitment of certain juveniles to local post-adjudication secure correctional facilities in certain counties and to the release under supervision of those juveniles. Amends

various statutes to allow juveniles committed to certain local secure post-adjudication facilities with a determinate sentence to be transferred to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to complete the sentence. Allows certain eligible juveniles with indeterminate sentences to transfer from local secure post-adjudication facilities to receive services from the Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments. Expands the jurisdiction of the Independent Ombudsman to include certain local secure post-adjudication facilities. *Effective 9/1/2015, except Section 11(b) takes effect 1/1/2019.*

SB 1630 by Whitmire. Relating to the commitment of juveniles in post-adjudication secure correctional facilities operated by the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and by local probation departments. Requires the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to develop a regionalization plan that would keep adjudicated youth within their home regions and to identify available capacity at post-adjudication facilities by August 31, 2016. The commitment of youth to TJJD would be limited to determinate sentenced youth unless the court determines that the person has behavioral health or other special needs that cannot be addressed locally. The regionalization plan must include mechanisms to divert an additional 180 youth from TJJD commitment over the next biennium. The bill also expands the duties of the Office of Independent Ombudsman to include oversight of local post-adjudication facilities and any other facilities where youth are placed by court order. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

LAND USE

HB 2033 by Raymond. Relating to authorizing counties to require the submission of digital maps in connection with the county plat approval process. Allows a commissioners court to require that a plat application submitted for approval also include a digital map that is compatible with other mapping systems used by the county. The digital map may be required only in a format widely used by common geographic information system software. Provides for an exemption from this requirement if the plat applicant provides a statement that the digital mapping technology necessary to submit a digital

map was not reasonably accessible. Applies to plat applications submitted under Chapters A, B, & C of Chapter 232, Local Government Code. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1436 by Zaffirini. Relating to the setback requirements for a junkyard or an automotive wrecking and salvage yard; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Prohibits a junkyard or an automotive wrecking or salvage yard from being located within 50 feet of the nearest property line of a residence. Prior law prohibited such establishments from being located within 50 feet of a residence but did not specify the measuring point for the setback requirement. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

LAW ENFORCEMENT

HB 229 by Guillen. Relating to the disposition of certain surplus motor vehicles and other law enforcement equipment by the Texas Facilities Commission. Allows the Texas Facilities Commission to transfer surplus motor vehicles and other law enforcement equipment from the Department of Public Safety to a county or city law enforcement agency in an economically disadvantaged area, at a price or for other consideration, if it will assist with securing the state's international border and combat transnational crime. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 473 by Giddings. Relating to a prohibition on the sale or transfer of certain law enforcement vehicles before removal of certain equipment and insignia. Prohibits the public sale or transfer of decommissioned law enforcement vehicles by a political subdivision without first removing any equipment or insignia that could mislead a reasonable person to believe that the vehicle is a law enforcement vehicle, including any police lights, spotlight, siren, emblems, outline of emblems or other emergency equipment. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 593 by Collier. Relating to canine encounter training for peace officers. Requires four hours of canine encounter and canine behavior training as part of the basic peace officer certification curriculum for officers licensed on or after January 1, 2016. Peace officers who did not take the training as part of basic certification have two years to complete it. Additionally, the training is required for

intermediate or advanced proficiency certifications. An officer employed by a county with a population of less than 125,000 is exempt from the bill's training requirements until January 1, 2017. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 872 by Raymond. Relating to the reactivation of a peace officer license; authorizing fees. Sets the requirements for the reactivation of a peace officer's license after a break in service. The applicant must have completed at least 10 years of full time service in good standing, meet current licensing standards, and complete supplemental training hours, in addition to paying required fees. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 910 by Phillips. Relating to the authority of a person who is licensed to carry a handgun to openly carry a holstered handgun; creating criminal offenses. Repeals the Government Code definition of "concealed handgun" and amends all concealed carry statutes by striking through the word "concealed", thereby amending the laws to allow carrying of handguns in shoulder or belt holsters in a non-concealed manner. Handgun education and proficiency courses and licenses to carry are still required. Amends Section 30.06 of the Penal Code to create a Class C misdemeanor for carrying a concealed handgun onto property without permission. Adds Section 30.07 to the Penal Code relating to trespass by a license holder with an openly carried handgun; requires signage and creates a Class C misdemeanor for violating. Prohibits an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education from adopting or enforcing any rule, regulation or other provision or take any other action, including posting notices under Sections 30.06 or 30.07, prohibiting or placing restrictions on the storage or transportation of a firearm or ammunition in a locked, privately owned vehicle. Adds Penal Code Section 46.035 (a-1) creating an offense for carrying and intentionally displaying the handgun in plain view of another person (1) on the premises of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, or (2) on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk, parking lot or garage of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education. *Effective 1/1/2016, except for certain sections.*

HB 1036 by Johnson. Relating to reporting requirements for certain injuries or deaths caused by peace officers and for certain injuries or deaths of peace officers. Mandates law enforcement agencies to report certain information to the attorney general within 30 days of an officer involved shooting if injury or death occur. Reports must include certain information, including details relating to age, gender, race, whether weapons were involved, whether the officer was on duty, and whether the officer responded with backup. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1190 by Guillen. Relating to the compensation of property owners whose property is damaged as a result of a pursuit involving a federal law enforcement agency. Allows compensation of property owners for property damaged as a result of federal law enforcement pursuits; compensation comes from the sale of abandoned vehicles. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

HB 1338 by Naishtat. Relating to training for peace officers and first responders on certain persons affected by trauma. Requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to establish a training program for peace officers and first responders relating to acquired and traumatic brain injuries, as well as a training program relating to veterans with combat-related traumatic stress disorders. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1417 by Elkins. Relating to peace officer identification cards. Allows a law enforcement agency to issue a duplicate, replacement identification card if an officer submits an affidavit stating the card was lost or stolen. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2135 by Miller, Doug. Relating to the purchasing of a firearm of an honorably retired or deceased peace officer. Extends current law by allowing family members of deceased peace officers to purchase the officer's service weapon. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2187 by Smith. Relating to the regulation of metal recycling entities; imposing an administrative penalty; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Increases regulations for metal recyclers by requiring additional identifying information from sellers before cash transactions may occur. Requires a seller to present a cash transaction card before receiving a payment by cash or debit card. Provides law enforcement an additional tool in identifying and arresting copper thieves. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2272 by Raney. Relating to surety bond requirements for reserve deputy sheriffs. Allows a sheriff to execute a blanket surety bond if more than one reserve deputy is appointed. Allows a county to self-insure against losses that would have been covered by the bond instead of a reserve deputy sheriff executing an individual bond or the sheriff executing a blanket surety bond. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

HB 2583 by Bell. Relating to access to criminal history record information by a county sheriff. Allows a sheriff to obtain criminal history record information maintained by the Department of Public Safety relating to an applicant for employment or membership with a fire department or emergency medical services provider in an unincorporated area, or a current employee or member of such entities. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2604 by Dale. Relating to a concealed handgun license application that is submitted by a peace officer or a member of the state military forces. Requires a peace officer or member of the Texas military forces who is applying for a handgun license under Section 411.1991 of the Government Code to submit their name, rank, a current copy of their peace officer license, and proof of employment to the Department of Public Safety. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2633 by Hernandez. Relating to the release of a motor vehicle accident report. Specifies certain persons who are entitled to receive a copy of a motor vehicle accident report upon payment of any required fee and requires a governmental entity to create a redacted accident report that may be requested by any person, among other provisions. *Effective 6/18/2015.*

HB 2680 by Bonnen, Greg. Relating to allocation of money from the law enforcement officer standards and education fund. Allows law enforcement officer training funds distributed by the comptroller to be used for continuing education for telecommunicators. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2739 by Capriglione. Relating to the use of a concealed handgun license as valid proof of personal identification. Allows a concealed handgun license to be valid proof of identification except in certain specified circumstances. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3211 by King, Phil. Relating to training requirements for peace officers appointed to supervisory positions. Requires a peace officer who has been or will be appointed to a supervisory position to receive training on supervision within the 12 months preceding the appointment or the 12 months following the appointment. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3212 by King, Phil. Relating to peace officer identification cards. Requires a law enforcement agency to issue an identification card, upon request, to a “qualified retired law enforcement officer” as defined in federal code if the agency was the last to employ the officer, or if the officer was employed for 20 years or more and is receiving retirement or pension benefits as a result of the employment. Requires a law enforcement agency to issue a duplicate identification card to a peace officer, honorably retired, or qualified retired officer if the original card is lost or stolen. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3668 by Workman. Relating to the definition of peace officer for purposes of intercepting or collecting information in relation to certain communications in an investigation conducted by an arson investigating unit. Adds a member of an arson investigating unit commissioned by a municipality, county or the state to the list of authorized peace officers who are allowed to intercept or collect information in certain communications under the Code of Criminal Procedure. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

HB 3791 by Geren. Relating to the provision of recordings of certain interactions with a peace officer relating to intoxication offenses. Entitles a person stopped or arrested for certain intoxication offenses to receive from a law enforcement agency any video that contains footage of: the stop, arrest, conduct of the person, or a procedure in which a specimen of the person’s breath or blood is taken. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 11 by Birdwell. Relating to the carrying of handguns on the campuses of and certain other locations associated with institutions of higher education; providing a criminal penalty. Authorizes a concealed carry license holder to carry a concealed handgun while on the campus of a public, private or independent institution of higher education. Private or independent campuses may prohibit the carrying of handguns. Institutions of higher education are

authorized to establish regulatory provisions relating to storage of handguns in dormitories or other residential facilities. The president or chief executive of a public institution of higher education is required to establish reasonable regulatory provisions for the carrying of concealed handguns on campus but may not establish provisions that generally prohibit concealed carry. The bill does not apply to a public junior college prior to August 1, 2017. *Effective 8/1/2016.*

SB 158 by West. Relating to a body worn camera program for certain law enforcement agencies in this state; creating a criminal offense; authorizing a fee. Requires the Office of the Governor to create a grant program for law enforcement agencies to defray the costs of implementing a body worn camera program and to equip officers with cameras if they perform traffic or highway patrol or respond to calls for assistance from the public. Requires a law enforcement agency that receives a grant or that otherwise operates a body worn camera program to adopt a policy for the use of such cameras, and sets out guidelines and other provisions that the policy must include. Additionally, the bill requires the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement to develop a training curriculum in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety, the Bill Blackwood Institute, and others. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 339 by Eltife. Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis and the regulation of related organizations and individuals; requiring a dispensing organization to obtain a license to dispense low-THC cannabis and any employee of a dispensing organization to obtain a registration; authorizing fees. Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to establish and maintain a secure online compassionate-use registry, issue licenses and regulate marijuana dispensaries growing low-THC cannabis which will be prescribed by doctors for persons with intractable seizures. Prohibits a municipality, county, or other political subdivision from enacting, adopting, or enforcing a rule, ordinance, order, resolution, or other regulation that prohibits the cultivation, production, dispensing, or possession of low-THC cannabis. Requires DPS, not later than December 1, 2015, to adopt rules to implement, administer, and enforce those provisions, including rules to establish the compassionate-use

registry and not later than September 1, 2017, to license at least three dispensing organizations, if at least three applicants have met the requirements for approval. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

SB 386 by Taylor, Van. Relating to school marshals for public junior colleges, notifying a parent or guardian whether an employee of a public junior college is appointed school marshal, and the confidentiality of information submitted to or collected by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement in connection with a certification for appointment as school marshal. Authorizes the governing board of a public junior college to appoint a school marshal who is an employee of the public junior college and certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. The school marshal may carry or possess a handgun on campus but only in the manner provided by written regulations adopted by the governing board; if the primary duty of the school marshal involves regular, direct contact with students, the handgun must be in a locked and secured safe within immediate reach when conducting the marshal's primary duty. Requires the governing board of a public junior college to provide a parent or guardian written notice, if requested, indicating whether any employee of the public junior college is currently appointed a school marshal. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1214 by Taylor, Van. Relating to the use of human remains for forensic science education, including the training of search and rescue animals. Authorizes the use of donated human remains for forensic science programs and law enforcement search and rescue training. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

MENTAL HEALTH

HB 1329 by Naishtat. Relating to the payment of costs incurred by the involuntary commitment of persons with mental illness. Clarifies that the county in which a person is originally detained for involuntary commitment with a mental illness is responsible for the costs, regardless of which governmental entity picks up the person and initiates the commitment process. Prevents counties from paying the costs incurred during involuntary commitment proceedings from fees collected under Section 51.704 of the Government Code which are to be used

for court-related purposes for the support of the judiciary. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1908 by Naishtat. Relating to the continuity of care for offenders with mental impairments. Requires that each offender with a severe and persistent mental illness is identified and qualified to receive continuity of care services to the extent resources are available. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2216 by Coleman. Relating to information required of an applicant for a driver's license. Prohibits an application for a driver's license from including an inquiry regarding the mental health of the applicant, other than a general inquiry as to whether the applicant has a mental condition that may affect the applicant's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 133 by Schwertner. Relating to mental health first aid training for school district employees and school resource officers. Expands the categories of school district employees who may receive mental health first aid training and authorizes certain grant funds for the Department of State Health Services to award to local mental health authorities for the training. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 239 by Schwertner. Relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals. Establishes a program to provide student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals who agree to practice in underserved areas. Texas has over two hundred counties designated as mental health professional shortage areas and the bill seeks to increase access to appropriate mental health care while expanding the mental health workforce in underserved areas. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1129 by Zaffirini. Relating to the transportation of a person with a mental illness. Requires a person under an emergency detention for mental health reasons to be restrained in such a way that the person can sit upright without undue difficulty. Ambulances transporting persons under emergency detention are exempt from this requirement. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 1507 by Garcia. Relating to the statewide coordination and oversight of forensic mental health services overseen by the Department of State Health

Services, including the appointment of a forensic director. Directs the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to appoint a forensic director to be responsible for statewide coordination, oversight, and delivery of forensic services, including input regarding the regional allocation of mental health beds for forensic patients and other patients with mental illness. Requires DSHS to convene the statewide mental health advisory committee, as established by HB 3793 in the 83rd Session, to develop and make recommendations to the agency regarding the allocation and number of state-funded beds in state hospitals and other inpatient facilities. The bill also requires the development of a training curriculum for judges and attorneys on treatment alternatives to help divert appropriate patients from inpatient hospitalization at state mental health hospitals. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

MISCELLANEOUS

HB 3439 by Riddle. Relating to the donation of property from a state agency to an assistance organization or a local governmental entity. Expands the entities to which the Texas Facilities Commission can donate surplus or salvage property to include a local governmental entity. Authorizes the commission to charge the local governmental entity that receives the donation an amount sufficient to cover the costs associated with the donation, not to exceed 10 percent of the item's market value. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 569 by Creighton. Relating to the presumption of abandonment of certain tangible personal property held by a county. Provides that tangible personal property that is found on county land or in a county park, facility, or right-of-way is presumed abandoned if, for longer than 120 days: the personal property is held by the county; the existence and location of the owner is unknown; and a claim to the property has not been asserted or act of ownership of the property has not been exercised. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

MOTOR VEHICLES

HB 75 by González, Mary. Relating to the exemption from vehicle registration for certain farm vehicles owned by a farmers' cooperative society or marketing

association. Exempts from vehicle registration farm vehicles owned by a farmers' cooperative society incorporated under Chapter 51 of the Agriculture Code or a marketing association organized under Chapter 52 of the Agriculture Code. *Effective 5/28/2015.*

HB 735 by Israel. Relating to the collection of information regarding the number of alternatively fueled vehicles registered in this state. Requires the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a program to collect information on the number of alternatively fueled vehicles registered in Texas. The department is required to submit an annual report to the legislature that includes the information collected on the registration of certain vehicles in this state. *Effective 9/1/2016.*

HB 2208 by Herrero. Relating to access to criminal history record information by a county tax assessor-collector. Entitles certain county tax assessor-collectors to obtain from the Texas Department of Public Safety criminal history record information relating to a person applying for a motor vehicle title service license. *Effective 5/29/2015.*

SB 272 by Hancock. Relating to making a voluntary contribution to the Special Olympics Texas fund when registering a motor vehicle or renewing a motor vehicle registration. Authorizes a person to make a voluntary contribution to the Special Olympics Texas fund when registering a motor vehicle or renewing a motor vehicle registration. Requires the county tax assessor-collector to send any contribution to the comptroller for deposit to the Special Olympics Texas fund before the 31st day after the date the contribution is made. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

SB 1451 by Ellis. Relating to the disputed payment by a credit card or debit card of a vehicle registration fee. Establishes a process for resolving the disputed payment by a credit or debit card of a vehicle registration fee submitted to a county tax assessor-collector. A county tax assessor-collector who receives a disputed credit or debit card payment for a registration fee is authorized to notify a sheriff, constable or highway patrol officer if attempts to contact the person fail to result in the collection of a payment. After receiving a formal complaint from the county tax assessor-collector, the sheriff,

constable or highway patrol officer is required to find the person who made the failed payment and demand immediate redemption of the payment. If the payment is still not received, the law enforcement officer is authorized to remove the license plates and registration insignia from the vehicle and return the license plates and registration insignia to the county tax assessor-collector. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1820 by Taylor, Van. Relating to the exemption of certain vehicles from towing regulations. Excludes certain truck-trailer combinations owned by licensed automobile dealers and certain car haulers from the definition of “tow truck” in the Occupations Code for the purposes of exempting them from towing regulations under the Texas Towing and Booting Act. *Effective 5/23/2015.*

OFFENSES

HB 511 by Moody. Relating to the prosecution of certain offenses committed against a person in custody. Expands the Penal Code definition of “correctional facility” for the purposes of the offense of violating the civil rights of a person in custody to include federal facilities housing individuals with immigration detainees; makes conforming amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 896 by Hernandez. Relating to creating a criminal offense regarding the breach of computer security. Expands the offense of breach of computer security to include a person accessing a computer owned by the government or a business with an intent to obtain or use a file or other proprietary information stored in the computer or system to defraud or harm another or alter or delete property. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1061 by Turner, Chris. Relating to the prosecution of the offense of interference with public duties. Creates a rebuttable presumption that a person commits the offense of interference with a peace officer’s public duties if the person intentionally disseminated certain personal information about the officer or an officer’s family member, including a home address or telephone number. Specifies that the presumption does not apply to information disseminated by certain news organizations. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1212 by Price. Relating to the prosecution and punishment of certain offenses under the Texas Controlled Substances Act and the regulation and scheduling of certain substances. Allows the Health Commissioner to designate a consumer commodity as an abusable synthetic substance if there is a threat to public health and to emergency schedule a substance as a controlled substance if it is determined the action is necessary to avoid an imminent hazard to public safety. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1424 by Lozano. Relating to increasing penalties for defendants convicted of the manufacture or delivery of certain controlled substances. Increases the penalty for manufacturing, delivering, or possessing with intent to deliver a controlled substance listed in a schedule by action of the commissioner of state health services, but not listed in a penalty group, from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony or felony of the third degree depending on the number of previous convictions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1481 by Murphy. Relating to prohibiting the operation of an unmanned aircraft over certain facilities; creating a criminal offense. Amends the Government Code to create a Class B misdemeanor offense for operating an unmanned aircraft over a critical infrastructure facility, allowing an unmanned aircraft to make contact with a critical infrastructure facility or allowing an unmanned aircraft to go within close enough distance of a critical infrastructure facility to interfere with operations, with certain exceptions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2645 by Blanco. Relating to the prosecution of certain offenses involving family violence and to the violation of certain court orders or conditions of bond in a family violence, sexual assault or abuse, or stalking case. Creates an offense for violating certain court orders or conditions of bond related to family violence, sexual assault or stalking by tampering with, attempting to remove or removing a global positioning monitoring system; a violation is a Class A misdemeanor or third degree felony depending on the circumstances. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 97 by Hinojosa. Relating to regulation of the sale, distribution, possession, use, and advertising of e-cigarettes, cigarettes, and tobacco products; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes to anyone

younger than the age of 18 and the possession or consumption of e-cigarettes by anyone younger than the age of 18. Creates a Class C misdemeanor and fine. *Effective 10/1/2015, except Section 41 takes effect 9/1/2015.*

SB 172 by Huffman. Relating to the addition of certain substances to Penalty Groups 1-A and 2 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act for criminal prosecution and other purposes. Adds certain synthetic substances and compounds, which have psychedelic effects similar to hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD, to the Texas Controlled Substances Act and allows prosecutors to pursue criminal convictions for the manufacture or delivery of the substance. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 173 by Huffman. Relating to the designation for criminal prosecution and other purposes of certain chemicals commonly referred to as synthetic cannabinoids as controlled substances and controlled substance analogues under the Texas Controlled Substances Act. Adds certain synthetic substances and compounds, adulterants and derivatives, commonly referred to as synthetic marijuana, to the Texas Controlled Substances Act and allows prosecutors to pursue criminal convictions for the manufacture, delivery or possession of the substance. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 183 by Huffman. Relating to the offenses of the violation of civil rights of and improper sexual activity with individuals in custody; imposing a criminal penalty. Clarifies that the offense of violating the civil rights of or improper sexual activity with a person in custody specifically includes employees or volunteers of juvenile facilities or the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; provides penalties and enhancements. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 344 by Huffman. Relating to the prosecution of the offense of online solicitation of a minor. Amends current law relating to the offense of online solicitation of a minor to address provisions ruled unconstitutional by the Court of Criminal Appeals. Provides that a minor means an individual who is younger than 17 years of age. Additionally, the bill revises the specific intent necessary to commit the offense, as well as the conduct that does not constitute a defense to prosecution. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 367 by Garcia. Relating to the unauthorized use of an alcoholic beverage permit or license; providing a criminal penalty. Creates a new criminal offense for the unlawful display or use of a permit or license issued by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). A violation is a Class B misdemeanor for the first offense and a Class A misdemeanor for subsequent offenses. Requires the county judge, TABC or administrator to refuse the issuance of certain permits or licenses to a person convicted of such an offense for a period of 5 years and provides for the cancellation of such permits or licenses after a conviction. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 461 by Perry. Relating to false or misleading packaging, labeling, or advertising of certain abusable synthetic substances; providing civil penalties; creating a criminal offense. Amends current law relating to false or misleading packaging, labeling, or advertising of certain abusable synthetic substances; creates criminal offenses for knowingly producing, distributing, selling, or offering for sale a mislabeled abusable synthetic substance. Gives law enforcement an additional measure to keep abusable, synthetic drugs off the streets by allowing local prosecuting attorneys, or the attorney general, to bring a civil action against businesses that sell mislabeled synthetic drugs. To be properly labeled, all products must comply with applicable state and federal laws. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 923 by Watson. Relating to the prosecution of the offense of obstruction or retaliation; creating a criminal offense. Expands the type of conduct that constitutes the offense of obstruction or retaliation to include the website posting of the residence address or telephone number of an individual the actor knows is a public servant or a member of the public servant's family or household with the intent to cause harm or a threat of harm in retaliation for the service of the individual as a public servant. Enhances the penalty for such conduct to a second degree felony if the actor's conduct results in bodily injury. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 970 by Perry. Relating to the failure to handle certain animals in accordance with rules of the Texas Animal Health Commission; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Creates a Class C misdemeanor to improperly handle or move

livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl when the person has been notified that the animal is restricted because of disease exposure or disease testing. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1828 by Zaffirini. Relating to the creation of the offense of cargo theft. Amends the Code of Criminal Procedure and Penal Code to establish the offense of cargo theft with penalties ranging from a state jail felony to a first degree felony based on the total value of the cargo involved in the offense. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

OPEN GOVERNMENT

HB 685 by Sheets. Relating to the production of public information under the public information law. Allows a public information officer of a political subdivision to refer a requestor of public information to the exact Internet location or uniform resource locator (URL) address on a website maintained by the political subdivision if the requested information is identifiable and readily available on that website. If the requestor prefers a manner other than an Internet location, the political subdivision must provide the requested information by inspection or duplication or by receipt through United States mail. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1311 by McClendon. Relating to the confidentiality of personal information concerning certain employees currently or formerly involved in the Texas juvenile justice system. Adds current or former employees of juvenile probation offices or juvenile justice facilities to the list of professions where personal identifying information is excepted from public information requests. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

HB 2134 by Burkett. Relating to allowing a governmental body to request clarification of a request for public information by electronic mail. Provides that a public information request sent by email may be considered to have been withdrawn if a request for clarification or discussion or additional information by email is sent to the same email address from which the original request was sent or to another email address provided by the requestor and a response is not received within a specified time period. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 3357 by Lucio III. Relating to permitted methods for certain political subdivisions to post notice of a meeting. Amends Sections 551.053 and 551.054 of the Government Code to authorize the governing body of a water district or other district or political subdivision that extends into four or more counties or into fewer than four counties to either provide notice of a meeting to the county clerk or post notice of the meeting on the district's or political subdivision's Internet website. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HCR 96 by Hunter. Requesting the speaker of the house of representatives and the lieutenant governor to create a joint interim committee to study the issue of advertising public notices. Requests the creation of a joint interim committee to study the issue of advertising public notices. In recent sessions, several bills have proposed authorizing the publication of public notices on the Internet. This committee would be tasked with reviewing the merits and cost-effectiveness of such proposals. *Filed with the Secretary of State 6/1/2015.*

PARKS

HB 158 by Larson. Relating to the allocation and use of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods. Statutorily dedicates funds from the sales tax on sporting goods to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the Texas Historical Commission, so that these funds cannot be used for any other legislative purpose. In addition, TPWD is required to use these funds only for acquiring, operating, maintaining, and making capital improvements to parks; assisting local parks; or funding state contributions for TPWD employee benefits. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1366 by Kolkhorst. Relating to the allocation to the Parks and Wildlife Department of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods. Grants the Legislature discretion on how best to spend funds for state and local parks by removing the statutory allocation percentages to each Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fund that receives sporting goods sales tax receipts. Prior to the passing of SB 1366, sporting goods sales tax revenue was allocated as follows: 74 percent to the state parks account for state park operations

and staff; 15 percent to the Texas recreation and parks account for local park grants to jurisdictions with populations under 500,000; 10 percent to the large county and municipality recreation and parks account for local parks grants to jurisdictions with populations of 500,000 or more; and 1 percent to the conservation and capital account for conservation and capital projects. Makes the language in the Parks and Wildlife Code consistent with the Tax Code, in order to avoid any misinterpretation.

Effective 9/1/2015.

PROBATE

HB 1438 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to probate matters, including guardianships and other matters related to incapacitated persons. Clarifies, enhances and streamlines requirements for financial and personal safeguards for persons under guardianships and other matters related to incapacitated persons.

Effective 9/1/2015.

HB 3070 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to the disposition of remains. Updates laws regarding the disposition of a person's remains, including making the executors or administrators of the decedent's estate among those who, listed by priority, have the right to control the disposition of the remains of a decedent who did not leave written directions. The bill also provides that a person exercising the right to control the disposition of the remains, other than a qualified executor or administrator, is liable for the reasonable cost of interment and may seek reimbursement from the decedent's estate. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 512 by Zaffirini. Relating to the promulgation of certain forms for use in probate matters. Requires the Supreme Court to promulgate certain forms and instructions written in plain language for use by individuals representing themselves in certain probate matters. Requires the clerk of a probate court to inform members of the general public of the availability of such a form and make the form available free of charge. Additionally, the bill requires a probate court to accept such a form unless it has been completed in a manner that causes a substantive defect that cannot be cured. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

PROPERTY TAX

HB 1261 by King, Susan. Relating to the comptroller's report on the effect of certain tax provisions. Requires the comptroller of public accounts, if actual data is not available when preparing the comptroller's report on the effect of certain tax provisions, to use available statistical data to estimate the effect of an exemption, discount, exclusion, special valuation, special accounting treatment, special rate, or special method of reporting relating to a tax. If the report states that the effect of a particular tax preference cannot be determined, the comptroller must include a complete explanation of why that conclusion was reached. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1933 by Darby. Relating to installment payments of ad valorem taxes. Intends to provide clarity, consistency and flexibility for both property owners and tax offices in the implementation and administration of installment plans for property taxes. Clarifies when each installment is due when the delinquency date is February 1 and when the delinquency date is a date other than February 1. Replaces the word "amount" with "installment" in order to clarify that any potential application of penalty and interest on a delinquent installment is assessed against each separate installment payment as opposed to the entire outstanding amount. This change clarifies the original intent of this language and reduces the potential amount of penalty and interest a property owner would pay. Monthly installment payments are not required to be equal providing flexibility to property owners and tax assessor-collectors to structure payments that balance the needs of property owners and the taxing units. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1953 by Bonnen, Dennis. Relating to the deadline for counties and municipalities to provide notice of a proposed property tax rate. Extends the deadline by which a county or municipality must provide notice of a proposed property tax rate and post that notice on the county's or municipality's website from September 1 to the 30th day after the first date that the county or municipality has received each applicable certified appraisal roll, provided that date is later than September 1. *Effective 1/1/2016; applies only to an ad valorem tax year that begins on or after the effective date of this bill.*

HB 3187 by Keffer. Relating to assessments for water and energy improvements in municipalities and counties; changing a fee. Makes changes to the Property Assessed Clean Energy Act, which provides for municipal and county water and energy improvement regions and the financing of qualified projects that decrease water and energy consumption and demand for property owners. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

HB 3951 by Huberty. Relating to the eligibility of persons to participate in an ad valorem tax sale of real property; creating a criminal offense. Facilitates the bidding and deed issuance process in conjunction with the current first Tuesday auction of delinquent real property and the online auction of delinquent real property authorized under current law. Permits the commissioners court to adopt a bidder registration process that clearly identifies both the bidder and the intended purchaser, if different from the bidder, and requires the bidder/purchaser to at least annually certify to the county tax assessor-collector that the person or entity owes no delinquent taxes to any of the specified entities in the county. Once the bidder satisfies these requirements, the county tax assessor-collector will issue that individual a written registration statement.

In counties where the commissioners court has adopted the bidder registration procedures, the officer conducting the sale is allowed to accept a written registration statement issued to the bidder by the county tax assessor-collector. In other counties, the current certification procedure would be unchanged. Specifies that the mandatory registration procedure does not apply in a county with a population of 250,000 or more in which the commissioners court has not adopted the new bidder registration procedure. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

SB 1 by Nelson/SJR 1 by Nelson. Relating to certain restrictions on the imposition of ad valorem taxes and to the duty of the state to reimburse certain political subdivisions for certain revenue loss; making conforming changes. Requires a school district to exempt \$25,000 of the value of a residence homestead from taxation. Requires a provisional tax bill to be sent that includes a statement detailing how much will be saved on that tax bill due to the passage of this bill. A tax bill sent in accordance with this bill is considered a provisional tax bill until the

canvass of votes on the constitutional amendment proposed by SJR 1. If the amendment is approved by voters, the tax bill is considered to be a final tax bill for the 2015 tax year. If the amendment is not approved, a supplemental tax bill must be sent. SJR 1 also makes any law that imposes a transfer tax on a transaction that conveys a fee simple title to real property unconstitutional. *Effective on the date on which SJR 1 takes effect, except for certain sections. If SJR 1 is not approved by voters, this Act has no effect. Constitutional Amendment Election Date 11/3/2015.*

SB 1452 by Bettencourt. Relating to the power of a commissioners court to authorize ad valorem tax sales of real property to be conducted by means of online auctions. Authorizes the commissioners court of a county to authorize the officer charged with selling real property seized under a tax warrant or ordered sold pursuant to foreclosure of a tax lien to conduct a public auction using online bidding and sale. *Effective 5/15/2015.*

SB 1760 by Creighton. Relating to the transparent and equitable application of ad valorem tax procedures. Amends Chapter 26 of the Tax Code, regarding property tax assessment, to provide that, for taxing units other than school districts, at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body must vote in favor to adopt a tax rate that exceeds the effective tax rate. For a school district, a vote setting a tax rate that exceeds the sum of the effective maintenance and operations tax rate and the current debt rate must be a record vote, and at least 60 percent of the members of the governing body must vote in favor of the ordinance, resolution or order.

Permits a court to give preference to testimony regarding excessive or unequal property appraisal of an appraisal district employee who is authorized to appraise real estate under Section 1103.201 of the Occupations Code. Modifies the interest rate on a refund to a taxpayer after a court determination that lowers the taxpayer's tax bill from 2 percent plus the prime rate (capped at 8 percent) to an annual rate of 9.5 percent.

Provides that the newspaper and internet tax rate notice for cities and counties proposing a tax rate that exceeds the lower of the effective tax rate or the rollback tax rate must be provided not later than the later of September 1 or the 30th day after

the date the taxing unit received each applicable certified appraisal roll, rather than not later than September 1. *Effective 1/1/2016 except Section 9 takes effect 1/1/2020.*

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

HB 275 by Ashby. Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of farm products. Specifies that an egg is a farm product for purposes of the property tax exemption for farm products. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

HB 992 by Bonnen, Dennis. Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of the total appraised value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran. Extends the homestead exemption in existing law that applies to the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran who died on or after January 1, 2010, to the surviving spouse of a totally disabled veteran who died before January 1, 2010, if they would have qualified for the full exemption on the homestead's entire value if it had been available to totally disabled veterans at that time. *Effective 1/1/2016, contingent on voter approval of HJR 75.*

HB 1463 by Raymond. Relating to the procedure for canceling an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homestead of an individual who is 65 years of age or older. Prohibits a chief appraiser from canceling a residence homestead property tax exemption received by an individual who is 65 years of age or older without first sending written notice of the cancellation by certified mail to the individual receiving the exemption along with a response form on which the individual may indicate whether the individual is qualified to receive the exemption. The chief appraiser may cancel the exemption after a specified period of time without receiving a response, but only after making a reasonable effort to locate the individual and determine whether the individual is qualified to receive the exemption. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1464 by Raymond. Relating to the procedure for determining that certain land is no longer eligible for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as agricultural or open-space land. Requires a chief appraiser, before determining that land is no longer eligible for certain tax appraisal methods, to provide notice to an individual who is 65 years of age or

older who owns land designated for agricultural use or agricultural land appraised as open-space land that the chief appraiser believes that the land may have been diverted to a nonagricultural use or that a change in use of the land may have occurred, respectively. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HJR 75 by Bonnen, Dennis. Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect. Amends the state constitution to authorize the legislature to provide for a property tax exemption of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran who died before the law authorizing a residence homestead exemption for such a veteran took effect. *Election Date 11/3/2015.*

SB 833 by Campbell. Relating to the continuation of a residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation while the owner is temporarily absent because of military service. Extends the homestead exemption provided to Texas military families who are stationed outside of the country to also include those stationed outside of the state. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

PUBLIC FINANCE

HB 114 by Flynn. Relating to the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions. Prohibits counties, municipalities, special districts, and other political subdivisions from issuing capital appreciation bonds that are secured by ad valorem taxes except in specified circumstances. A governing body of a political subdivision that issues a capital appreciation bond must determine in writing whether any personal or financial relationship exists between the members of the governing body and any professional associated with the bond issuance and post certain financial information on their website. The bond proceeds unspent after the completion of the project may only be used as identified on the political subdivision's website unless another use is approved by the voters. The total amount of capital

appreciation bonds may not exceed 25 percent of the political subdivision's total outstanding bonded indebtedness at the time of the issuance. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

PUBLIC HEALTH

HB 819 by Sheffield. Relating to the definition of a public health nuisance; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty. Provides that a collection of water that is a breeding area for mosquitoes that can transmit diseases, other than in certain specified locations, qualifies as a public health nuisance, regardless of whether the mosquitoes are *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes. *Effective 6/9/2015.*

HB 839 by Naishtat. Relating to the reinstatement of eligibility of certain children released from a juvenile facility for benefits under the medical assistance and child health plan programs. Requires the Health and Human Services Commission to reinstate eligibility of certain children released from a juvenile facility for benefits under the medical assistance and child health plan programs. Requires the agency to request a waiver or authorization from a federal agency if necessary. *Effective 6/18/2015.*

HB 1740 by Thompson, Senfronia. Relating to the administration of rabies vaccine under a local rabies control program. Provides that a veterinarian who is employed by a county and administers or supervises the administration of a rabies vaccine as part of a local rabies control program established by the county is not required to establish a veterinarian-patient relationship before administering or supervising the administration of the vaccine. *Effective 5/21/2015.*

HB 2646 by Giddings. Relating to the disclosure of information regarding communicable diseases to first responders and certain entities. Allows the Department of State Health Services to provide medical or epidemiological information, including information about a person who has been exposed to a person with a communicable disease to: governmental entities that provide first responders who need the information to respond to the situation; and a local health department or health authority for a designated monitoring period. Gives the governmental entity or local health authority

the discretion to determine what the minimum amount of information is that is needed for this purpose. Requires the governmental entity or local health authority to remove the person's address from any computer-aided dispatch service after the monitoring period expires. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2950 by Klick. Relating to the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response. Amends the Health and Safety Code to create the Task Force on Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response as an advisory panel to the governor and to provide for Health and Human Services Commission contracts or agreements to assist in the establishment of infectious disease emergency preparedness facilities at health care-related institutions in Texas. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 202 by Nelson. Relating to the transfer of certain occupational regulatory programs and the deregulation of certain activities and occupations. Discontinues some of the regulatory programs at the Department of State Health Services, although the agency is not discontinued in this Sunset bill. Some occupational licensing programs are transferred to other agencies in an effort to strengthen the agency's core public health functions. *Effective 9/1/2015, except Part 2 of Article 1 takes effect 9/1/2017.*

SB 219 by Schwertner. Relating to the provision of health and human services in this state, including the powers and duties of the Health and Human Services Commission and other state agencies, and the licensing of certain health professionals; clarifying certain statutory provisions; authorizing the imposition of fees. This is the Sunset bill for the Health and Human Services Commission which seeks to clarify and update the health and human services statutes to accurately reflect the mandates of HB 2292 (78R, 2003) in which twelve state health agencies were consolidated into the five current agencies. *Effective 4/2/2015.*

PURCHASING

HB 23 by Davis, Sarah. Relating to disclosure of certain relationships with local government officers and vendors; creating criminal offenses. Makes several amendments to Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code regarding the disclosure of

certain relationships with local government officers. Applies the chapter to a vendor who is defined as a person who enters or seeks to enter into a contract with a local governmental entity, including a vendor's agent and an officer or employee of a state agency when that individual is acting in a private capacity to enter into a contract. Applies the chapter to a local government officer, which includes a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity, as well as an agent of a local governmental entity who exercises discretion in the planning, recommending, selecting, or contracting of a vendor.

Requires a local government officer to file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if the vendor has given to the local government officer or a family member of the local government officer one or more gifts, which includes lodging, transportation, and entertainment that have an aggregate value of more than \$100, and other circumstances are met. A local government officer is also required to file a conflicts disclosure statement if the vendor has a family relationship (within the third degree by consanguinity or the second degree by affinity) with the local government officer and other circumstances are met. Additionally, a vendor is required to file a conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and a family relationship with a local government officer of that entity.

Adds enforcement provisions for the failure to file a conflicts disclosure statement or a conflict of interest questionnaire as required. An offense is a Class C misdemeanor if the contract amount is less than \$1 million; a Class B misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million; or a Class A misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$5 million. Additionally, a governing body of a local governmental entity is authorized to declare a contract void if a vendor has failed to file a required conflict of interest questionnaire, among several other provisions. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1295 by Capriglione. Relating to the disclosure of research, research sponsors, and interested parties by persons contracting with governmental entities and state agencies. Prohibits a governmental entity, including a county, from entering into a contract with a business entity that requires an action or vote by the

governing body before the contract may be signed or has a value of at least \$1 million unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity. An interested party is defined as a person who has a controlling interest in a business entity with whom a governmental entity contracts or who actively participates in facilitating or negotiating the terms of the contract. The required disclosure of interested parties must be submitted on a form prescribed by the Texas Ethics Commission. Additionally, the governmental entity must submit a copy of the disclosure to the Texas Ethics Commission not later than the 30th day after the date the governmental entity receives a disclosure. Applies to contracts entered into on or after January 1, 2016. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2049 by Darby. Relating to indemnification and duties of engineers and architects under certain governmental contracts. Amends the Local Government Code to provide that a contract for engineering or architectural services to which a governmental agency is a party is void and unenforceable if it contains a covenant to indemnify or hold harmless the governmental agency against liability for damage, to the extent the damage is caused by or results from an act of negligence, intentional tort, intellectual property infringement, or failure to pay a subcontractor or supplier committed by the indemnitor or the indemnitor's agent, consultant under contract, or another entity over which the indemnitor exercises control.

Adds a new provision that states that the contract cannot require the engineer or architect to defend a party, including a third party, against a claim based wholly or partly on the negligence of, fault of, or breach of contract by the governmental agency, the agency's agent, the agency's employee, or other entity, excluding the engineer or architect or that person's agent, employee, or sub-consultant, over which the governmental agency exercises control. Authorizes a covenant or promise to provide for the reimbursement of a government agency's reasonable attorney's fees in proportion to the engineer's or architect's liability.

Permits the governmental agency to require that the engineer or architect name the governmental agency as an additional insured under the engineer's

or architect's general liability insurance policy and provide any defense provided by the policy. Provides certain acceptable "standard of care" provisions that can be included in contracts. Other standard of care provisions are void. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2475 by Geren. Relating to the establishment of the center for alternative finance and procurement within the Texas Facilities Commission and to public and private partnerships; authorizing a fee. Creates within the Texas Facilities Commission a center for alternative finance and procurement, relating to public-private partnerships. The center will consult with governmental entities regarding best practices for procurement and the financing of qualifying projects and assist governmental entities in matters relating to public-private partnerships, including the receipt of proposals, negotiation of interim and comprehensive agreements, and management of qualifying projects. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2634 by Kuempel. Relating to the construction manager-at-risk used by a governmental entity. Expands the prohibition against a governmental entity's architect or engineer serving as the construction manager-at-risk for a project to include any entity related to the governmental entity's architect or engineer. Such a related entity may include a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other entity that is a subsidiary, parent corporation, or partner. This applies only to contracts entered into on or after the effective date. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1281 by Zaffirini. Relating to the authority of a local government to participate in a cooperative purchasing program with local governments of this state or another state. Authorizes Texas local governments participating in a cooperative purchasing agreement to partner with local governments of Texas or another state and cooperative organizations of Texas or another state to secure a better price for a contract for goods or services. *Effective 5/29/2015.*

RECORDS

HB 263 by Miles. Relating to the sealing of certain juvenile records. Requires the juvenile court to order the sealing of certain juvenile records and requires

the court to give the prosecuting attorney reasonable notice before a person's records become eligible for sealing. Authorizes, rather than requires, the court to hold a hearing before sealing certain records if the prosecuting attorney requests a hearing. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2063 by Oliveira. Relating to the recording and effective date of certain documents relating to nonjudicial foreclosure sales. Provides that the appointment or authorization of a trustee or substitute trustee made in a notice of sale is effective as of the date of the notice if the notice meets certain requirements. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 4003 by Laubenberg. Relating to the redaction of personally identifiable information of victims from juvenile court records. Mandates the redaction of a victim's personally identifiable information from a juvenile record if the victim was younger than the age of 18; does not apply to information that is necessary for an agency to provide services to a victim, necessary for law enforcement purposes, or information shared within the statewide juvenile case management system. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 584 by Uresti. Relating to the indexing of correction instruments in a county index to real property records. Allows for the use of a "correction instrument" to correct errors or ambiguity in a document recorded in the county clerk's office relating to the transfer of real property. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1707 by Huffman. Relating to the sealing of certain juvenile records. Requires a court to give the prosecuting attorney for the juvenile court reasonable notice before a person's records become eligible for sealing and authorizes the court to hold a hearing before sealing the person's records if the prosecuting attorney requests a hearing. Removes statutory provisions relating to an application made by a person who is eligible to seal juvenile records for the sealing of the records. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

STATE BUDGET

HB 1 by Otto. General Appropriations Bill. Reflects the conference committee report for the state budget and appropriates \$209.4 billion for the next two fiscal years (2016-17). The governor vetoed

more than \$233 million in discretionary spending, but the overall cuts totaled close to \$295 million. Appropriations for county-related state funded programs are shown in the chart beginning on page 49. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 7 by Darby. Relating to certain fiscal matters affecting governmental entities; reducing or affecting the amounts or rates of certain taxes, assessments, surcharges, and fees. Takes steps towards reducing the state's reliance on general revenue dedicated funds and increasing state budget transparency. Implements certain recommendations in the 2015 Legislative Budget Board policy report, "Further Reduced Reliance on General Revenue - Dedicated Accounts for Certification of the State Budget." Abolishes the state's regional trauma account and directs those funds to the trauma facility and emergency medical services account. Reduces the surcharges by half for the offenses of driving without a valid license and driving without insurance relating to the Driver Responsibility Program under certain circumstances. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

TRANSPARENCY

HB 283 by Fallon. Relating to the requirement that certain governmental bodies make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet. Requires certain political subdivisions, including a county with a population of 125,000 or more, to make a video and audio recording of each regularly scheduled open meeting and post an archived copy of the recording on the Internet. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

HB 1378 by Flynn. Relating to the fiscal transparency and accountability of political subdivisions. Requires a political subdivision to annually compile and report certain debt information. Requires a political subdivision to ensure that the report is posted on the subdivision's website and made available for inspection. As an alternative, the political subdivision may instead provide the information to the Comptroller for posting on the Comptroller's website. If the political subdivision has a website, it must link to the information on the Comptroller's website. The bill also prohibits, except under certain

circumstances, a governing body of certain political subdivisions from authorizing a certificate to pay a contractual obligation if an issuance of bonds for the same purpose failed to be approved by voters within the preceding three years. *Effective 1/1/2016.*

SB 1237 by Taylor, Van. Relating to Internet broadcasts of open meetings held by the policy board of certain metropolitan planning organizations. Requires a metropolitan planning organization serving one or more counties with a population of 350,000 or more to broadcast over the Internet and archive video and audio of each open meeting held by the policy board. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

TRANSPORTATION

HB 20 by Simmons. Relating to the operations of and transportation planning and expenditures by the Texas Department of Transportation and planning organizations. Requires the Texas Transportation Commission to develop and implement a performance-based planning and programming process giving the Legislature direction toward attaining the goals and objectives established for the Commission. It also requires the local transportation organization to develop a 10-year plan for the use of funding allocated to the region. For areas that are not within a metropolitan planning organization, the department district is required to develop the plan with input from municipal and county officials. Additionally, the Commission is required to develop and implement performance metrics, measurement and periodic reporting schedules. *Effective 6/3/2015.*

HB 122 by Pickett. Relating to the Texas Mobility Fund. Prohibits the Texas Transportation Commission from issuing obligations under the Texas Mobility Fund after January 1, 2015. Allows the fund to be used to repay transportation bonds that have already been issued. The bill also prohibits excess money in the fund from being used on toll roads. *Effective 6/10/2015.*

HB 565 by Burkett. Relating to powers of private toll project entities. Prevents a private turnpike or toll project from using eminent domain and requires the Texas Transportation Commission to hold a public meeting concerning a proposed private turnpike or toll project in the region in which the project will

be located before the Commission may approve the project. *Effective 6/20/2015.*

HB 790 by Burkett. Relating to a study on the implementation and effectiveness of sound mitigation measures on certain highways. Requires the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to conduct a study assessing the implementation and effectiveness of sound mitigation measures on highways that are part of the state highway system and toll roads or turnpikes under the jurisdiction of a toll project entity. Requires the Institute to report the results of the study and any recommendations to state leadership no later than November 1, 2016. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

HB 1252 by Pickett. Relating to uniform weighing procedures requirements for motor vehicle weight enforcement officers. Requires the Department of Public Safety to establish by rule uniform weighing procedures for weight enforcement officers and authorizes the department to revoke the authority of the weight enforcement officers of a sheriff or constable's office that fails to comply with those rules. The bill also provides a defense to prosecution for an offense of operating an overweight vehicle if the officer failed to follow the weighing procedures. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1394 by Burns. Relating to the composition, governance, and authority of a regional tollway authority that has or proposes to have projects located in counties that are not part of the authority. Provides that a county that is not part of a regional toll authority becomes part of the authority when a turnpike project collects at a minimum 4 percent of all tolls within the county and the population of that county is at least 4 percent of the aggregate population of all the counties of the authority. Additionally, when the authority enters into a primary construction contract for its first project in a county that is not part of the toll authority, the authority is required to create an advisory committee to advise the board. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1709 by Harless. Relating to the closing, abandoning, and vacating of a public road by a county; authorizing the imposition of a fee. Allows a county to recoup administrative costs and reimbursement for the market value of any property interest conveyed to the owner as a result of the

county closing, abandoning, and vacating a public road. Requires the county to notify appropriate public utilities or common carriers of the proposal. *Effective 6/16/2015.*

HB 1949 by Springer. Relating to the annexation of certain roads and areas adjacent to those roads. Requires a municipality that proposes to annex any portion of a county road, regardless of whether the road is paved, or territory that abuts a county road, to also annex the adjacent right-of-way on both sides of the road, clarifying responsibilities for maintenance of the road area. Provides that if the annexed road is a gravel road, the county retains control of granting access to the road and its right-of-way from property that is not located in the boundaries of the annexing municipality and is adjacent to the road and right-of-way. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 2521 by Coleman. Relating to the allocation and use of payments received under oil and gas leases of land owned by the state for a county road. Transfers from the state to a county the revenue derived from oil and gas leases owned by the county. Beginning September 1, 2017, the bill dedicates payments received from leases of the state's mineral interest from land under county roads to the new County Road Oil and Gas Fund, held outside the state treasury. Funds from the account will be paid to the county at least twice annually by the Comptroller for only road maintenance purposes. Prior to 1960, counties used revenue from county road right-of-way (ROW) oil and gas leases for constitutional purposes. Based on AG Opinion WW-870, revenue from county ROW leases is currently deposited into the State General Fund. The bill seeks to return that revenue to the county of origin. *Effective 9/1/2017.*

HB 2612 by Pickett. Relating to a report to the legislature regarding the elimination of toll roads. Requires the Texas Department of Transportation to submit a report to the Legislature by September 1, 2016 that lists the amount of debt service on bonds issued for each toll project in the state, identifies bonds that would be appropriate for accelerated or complete lump-sum payment of debt service, and proposes a plan to eliminate all toll roads. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 562 by Nichols. Relating to annual permits to move certain equipment; authorizing a fee. Authorizes the Texas Department of Transportation to issue an annual permit allowing a vehicle operating on a state highway to exceed length limits provided by law to a maximum of 110 feet and height limits to a maximum of 14 feet. The permit would cost \$960, with half of that amount deposited to the state's General Revenue Fund and the remainder to the State Highway Fund and the Department of Motor Vehicles at 90 percent and 10 percent, respectively. *Effective 5/15/2015.*

SB 971 by Perry. Relating to requirements for certain farm vehicles when operating on a highway. Expands the definition of "implement of husbandry" in the Transportation Code to include a towed vehicle that transports to the field and spreads fertilizer or agriculture chemicals and a vehicle designed to deliver feed to livestock for the purposes of providing a width limitation exception for these vehicles in certain circumstances. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1171 by Nichols. Relating to the operation of certain oversize or overweight vehicles transporting timber, timber products, or forestry equipment on certain public roadways. Amends the Transportation Code to allow a vehicle operating under a permit to transport timber to operate under the conditions of that permit over certain roads for which the Texas Department of Transportation or a commissioners court have set a maximum weight limit. Exempts certain vehicles transporting equipment used in the harvesting and production of timber from width limitations under certain conditions and reduces the fee for an annual timber permit from \$1,500 to \$900. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 1338 by Perry. Relating to an exemption from length limitations for certain vehicles or combinations of vehicles used to transport harvest machines. Amends the Transportation Code to exempt certain vehicles transporting harvest machines from vehicle length limitations. *Effective 6/18/2015.*

SJR 5 by Nichols. Proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating a portion of the revenue derived from the state sales and use tax and the tax imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle to the state highway fund. Dedicating revenues from

portions of the state sales tax and motor vehicle sales tax to road infrastructure. The constitutional amendment, if approved by voters, would direct up to \$2.5 billion of the revenue derived from the general sales tax that exceeds the first \$28 billion collected to the State Highway Fund beginning in fiscal year 2018. It would also direct an amount equal to 35 percent of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax that exceeds the first \$5 billion collected to the same fund beginning in fiscal year 2020. Furthermore, the resolution limits the use of the money to maintain, construct or acquire right-of-way for public roads other than toll roads and for the payment of debt. *Election Date 11/3/2015.*

SJR 17 by Perry. Proposing a constitutional amendment relating to private road work by certain counties. Raises the population threshold and authorizes a county with a population of 7,500 or less to construct and maintain private roads if it charges a reasonable fee for the work. *Election Date 11/3/2015.*

VETERANS

HB 19 by King, Susan. Relating to a preventive services program and mental health programs for veterans and military families. Requires the Texas Veterans Commission and Department of State Health Services to coordinate to administer the mental health program for veterans, provide training to volunteer coordinators and peers as part of the program, and develop an initiative to encourage community collaborations to synchronize resources available for veterans and military service members. Directs the Department of Family and Protective Services to establish a pilot program aimed at prevention services for veterans and military families at risk of family violence, abuse, and neglect. *Effective 6/4/2015.*

HB 867 by Hernandez. Relating to the establishment and operation of the Texas Women Veterans Program. Establishes a permanent program to assist Texas women veterans who are transitioning into the civilian workforce through increased public awareness of the gender-specific needs of women veterans. Requires the program to provide guidance and direction to women veterans who apply for grants, benefits, or services, through conferences, seminars and training

workshops with federal, state, county, municipal and private agencies. *Effective 6/4/2015.*

HB 906 by Paddie. Relating to the qualifications for appointment as a veterans county service officer. Authorizes the appointment of the spouse of a retired veteran who served a minimum of 20 years on active duty as a veterans county service officer or assistant veterans county service officer by a commissioners court of a county that maintains and operates a veterans county service office. *Effective 6/17/2015.*

SB 805 by Campbell. Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference. Allows direct hiring of veterans by agencies through the Texas Workforce Commission's automated job matching system, specifies which agencies must offer the veteran's employment preference, requires agencies to interview veterans, and ensures agencies with more than 500 full-time employees designate a Veterans Liaison. Allows private sector employers to establish veteran hiring preferences. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

SB 1304 by Menendez. Relating to the creation of a women veterans mental health initiative within the mental health intervention program for veterans. Requires the Department of State Health Services to develop a women veterans mental health initiative as part of the mental health intervention program for veterans to address the unique mental health concerns ranging from military sexual trauma to consolidating dual roles as soldiers and family caregivers. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 1305 by Menendez. Relating to the creation of a rural veterans mental health initiative within the mental health intervention program for veterans. Requires the Department of State Health Services to develop a rural veterans mental health initiative as part of the mental health intervention program for veterans to serve the approximately 30 percent of Texas veterans living in rural, underserved areas with limited or no access to mental health services. *Effective 6/19/2015.*

SB 1474 by Garcia. Relating to the redesignation of veterans court programs as veterans treatment court programs and the eligibility for participation in and administration of those programs. Renames veterans courts programs as veterans treatment court programs. Expands eligibility for such programs to

include certain victims of military sexual trauma and defendants whose participation in such programs is likely to achieve the objective of ensuring public safety through rehabilitation. Additionally, the bill authorizes a veterans treatment court program to transfer responsibility for supervising the defendant to another program located in the county where the defendant works or resides under certain circumstances. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

VITAL STATISTICS

SB 983 by Bettencourt. Relating to restrictions on the assessment of the fee charged for issuance of certain birth records. Prohibits the state registrar, local registrar, or a county clerk from charging a fee to an applicant requesting a birth certificate for the purposes of obtaining an election identification certificate. Entitles the local registrar or county clerk to payment from the Department of State Health Services of all or a portion of the fee that they would otherwise be entitled to retain for issuing the birth record. *Effective 5/27/2015.*

SB 1485 by Garcia. Relating to the availability of death records of unidentified persons. Establishes that a death record of an unidentified person is public information and available to the public after the first anniversary of the date of death. *Effective 6/1/2015.*

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

HB 1094 by Geren. Relating to workers' compensation death benefit eligibility for certain spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty. Allows the surviving spouse of a first responder to continue receiving worker's compensation death benefits after remarriage. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

HB 1388 by Bohac. Relating to certain diseases or illnesses suffered by firefighters and emergency medical technicians. Requires a workers compensation carrier to describe in detail the evidence reviewed before determining that a cause not associated with the employment caused the disease or illness, and requires the plain language notice state why the carrier determined that the presumption does not apply and describe the evidence the carrier reviewed. *Effective 5/29/2015.*

HB 2771 by Martinez, "Mando". Relating to employment activities of certain emergency response personnel for purposes of the Texas Workers' Compensation Act. For the purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act, the travel of a firefighter or emergency medical personnel en route to an emergency call is now considered to be within the course and scope of that person's employment.

Effective 9/1/2015.

SB 653 by Eltife. Relating to increasing the amount of burial benefits required to be paid by an insurance carrier under the workers' compensation system. Increases the workers' compensation burial benefit from \$6,000 to \$10,000. *Effective 9/1/2015.*

2015 LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT

TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT-HB 1

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

By Articles, All Funds (In Millions)	Conference Committee Report (CCR) on HB 1	House's Version (Mark-up)	Senate's Version (Mark-up)
Article I - General Government	\$6,385.6	\$5,117.3	\$6,158.8
Article II - Health & Human Services	\$77,168.3	\$79,111.2	\$77,359.9
Article III - Agencies of Education	\$78,360.3	\$77,024.6	\$78,799.2
Article IV - The Judiciary	\$796.8	\$793.0	\$779.4
Article V - Public Safety & Criminal Justice	\$12,390.9	\$11,893.0	\$11,998.9
Article VI - Natural Resources	\$4,354.4	\$4,086.2	\$4,259.0
Article VII - Business & Economic Development	\$27,744.9	\$29,115.1	\$29,807.0
Article VIII - Regulatory	\$920.4	\$915.1	\$899.7
Article IX - General Provisions	\$924.0	\$1,284.1	\$939.3
Article X - The Legislature	\$385.5	\$385.5	\$385.5
Total for All Articles	\$209,431.1	\$209,725.1	\$211,386.7

Source:

Source: Legislative Budget Board

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

PROGRAMS AFFECTING COUNTIES

Texas Association of Counties, County Information Program (CIP)

Article I – General Government

Comptroller of Public Accounts – Fiscal Programs:

Programs	Descriptions						
Lateral Road Funds Districts: Distributions to Counties for Road Repair and Maintenance – Strategy: A.1.5(CPA, Fiscal Programs)	Funds distributed to counties for road expenses, including construction and maintenance. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budgets are the same amounts, \$14.6 million. No changes on CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: LBB Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments to FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000	\$7,529,119	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000	\$7,529,119	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000	\$7,300,000	

Texas Association of Counties, Legislative/County Information Program, prepared by Paul Emerson,
TAC State Financial Analyst, Paule@county.org

**Highlighted in red are the changes that occurred during the Conference Committee Report on HB 1*

NOTE:

Figures shown in the first four columns represent the appropriated amounts in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) during that particular fiscal year. Due to the availability of funds within each biennium, these amounts may increase or decrease. For the current biennium (FY 2014-15), any changes made to the appropriation amounts are reflected within the “note section”. This data collected from the 2016-17 Legislative Budget Estimates reports.

EXPLANATION: Legislative Budget Estimates Report, 2016 – 17 (Biennium):

To help compare the amount recommended by the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the amount requested by the agency, the LBB produces a document entitled Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE). This document sets forth all the information contained in the proposed appropriations bill except for riders. The LBE includes amounts expended by the agency beginning in fiscal year 2013, followed by estimated amounts for fiscal years 2014-15, which is the current budget year. LBEs also shows the agency’s legislative appropriations request for the upcoming biennium (2016-17).

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Comptroller of Public Accounts:

Programs	Descriptions						
Gross Weight/Axle Fee: Distributions to Counties per Transportation Code section 621.353 - Strategy: A.1.10 (CPA, Fiscal Programs)	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, which is \$5 million more than the current biennium for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) is \$14.5 million per year for FY 2014-15						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
	Senate	2012	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	
Mixed Beverage Tax Reimbursements – Strategy: A.1.2 (CPA, Fiscal Programs)	Reimbursements to counties and incorporated municipalities from mixed beverage tax collections at a rate of 10.7143 percent, per Rider 15. HB 1/SB 2 will add \$101.2 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) shows \$178.6 million for FY 2014 and \$187 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$119,714,000	\$126,305,000	\$149,456,000	\$157,840,000	\$199,087,000	\$209,440,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$119,714,964	\$126,305,843	\$149,456,000	\$157,840,000	\$199,087,000	\$209,440,000	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015

Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015

CSHB 1 March 2015

SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015

HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015

House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Comptroller of Public Accounts:

Programs	Descriptions						
Grants Programs Local Continuing Education Grants A.1.7 (CPA, Fiscal Programs)	Local continuing education grants for law enforcement officers - known as the LEOSE program. HB 1/SB 2 proposed amounts are the same. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments to FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$0	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$0	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$6,000,000	
State Energy Conservation Office – Goal B: Energy Office	Providing revolving loans to state agencies and local governments – including school districts – to retrofit buildings with new technology and equipment to reduce energy and water consumption. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same - \$51.8 million for FY 2016-17, which is \$6.9 million less than FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/ Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amount - \$51.8 million.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – shows \$22.3 million in FY 2014 and \$26.9 million in FY 2015.						

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Commission on State Emergency Communications:

Programs	Descriptions						
9-1-1 Services –Goal A	Providing grants and assistance to local governments through Regional Planning Commissions as they develop, and implementing regional plans and maintenance for 9-1-1 services. HB 1/SB 2 proposed \$131.1 million, which is \$1.4 million more than the current budget FY 2014-15. Rider 5 allocates \$20 million for the biennium to the Regional Planning Commissions. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$49,658,985	\$50,395,129	\$69,523,363	\$60,227,686	\$68,696,868	\$62,431,813
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$49,658,985	\$50,395,129	\$69,523,363	\$60,227,686	\$68,696,868	\$62,431,813

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Office of the Governor (Trusteed Programs):

Programs	Descriptions						
Disaster Funds – Strategy A.1.1	Providing grants for disaster funding to state and local agencies. HB 1 proposed budget amount is \$24.8 million, which is \$38.5 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. SB 2 proposed budget amount is \$30 million, which is \$5.2 million more than HB 1. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the House's version.</i>						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$39,000,000	\$0	\$33,710,514	\$29,623,134	\$12,400,000	\$12,400,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$39,000,000	\$0	\$33,710,514	\$29,623,134	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000	
Criminal Justice – Strategy B.1.1	Providing criminal justice grants to state and local entities, non-profit organizations and independent school districts for a variety of criminal justice related projects. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$198.4 million, which is \$4.7 million more than the current budget. CSHB 1 added \$5 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$36 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 added more money to the program: \$124,654,639 in FY 2016 and \$112,162,064 in FY 2017.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$135.8 million in FY 2014 and \$127.6 million in FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$71,426,890	\$70,426,889	\$99,113,789	\$94,621,214	\$106,454,639 \$101,454,639	\$96,962,064
Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	\$71,226,890	\$70,426,889	\$99,113,789	\$94,621,214	\$119,994,804 \$101,454,639	\$114,502,229 \$96,962,064	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
 Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
 CSHB 1 March 2015
 SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Office of the Governor (Trusted Programs):

Programs	Descriptions						
County Essential Services Grants – Strategy B.1.2	Providing grants that fund local governments with unanticipated and extraordinary criminal justice related expenditures. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$2.3 million, which is the same as the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$1.79 million for FY 2014 and \$1.67 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$0	\$0	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$0	\$0	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333	\$1,170,333	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government							
Office of the Governor (Trusteed Programs):							
Programs	Descriptions						
Economic Development and Tourism – (Strategy C.1.1)	Providing loans to local economic development corporations that assist local regions and communities with economic growth and development through job creation and capital investment. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$103.1 million, which is \$25.5 million less than the current budget for FY2014-15. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note of Interest: This particular program for the 2016-17 biennium is no longer a single strategy – it is now split into two separate programs and strategies – Economic Development (C.1.1) and Tourism (C.1.2). Therefore, the 2016-17 figures will look distorted and are greatly less than the previous biennium. No changes in CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB1. Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$49.3 million for FY 2014 and \$50.9 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$43,646,016	\$23,340,541	\$72,876,128	\$55,792,322	\$19,056,309	\$14,056,309
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$43,646,016	\$23,340,541	\$72,876,128	\$55,790,322	\$19,056,309	\$14,056,309
Drug Court Grants – (Rider 13)	Funding for counties to develop and maintain a drug court. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same as the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes in CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Historical Commission:

Programs	Descriptions						
Courthouse – Strategy A.1.3	Providing grants to counties for the renovation and rehabilitation of historic courthouses. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are only for staff to administer the Courthouse Preservation program. CSHB 1 adds \$320,000, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$10.1 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 added more money to the program: \$10,589,516 each year.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$6.3 million for FY 2014 and \$783,540 for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$20,463,276	\$463,276	\$4,677,856	\$461,151	\$589,516 \$429,516	\$589,516 \$429,516
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$20,463,276	\$463,276	\$4,677,856	\$461,151	\$5,509,516 \$429,516	\$5,509,516 \$429,516
Development Assistance Programs – Strategy A.2.1	Providing grants to cities and counties that promote economic development through historic preservation. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$4.5 million, which is \$2.3 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. Both CSHB 1 and Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$80,000 per year. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$3.6 million for FY 2014 and \$4.6 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$3,314,248	\$3,175,077	\$3,495,578	\$3,495,578	\$2,421,737 \$2,341,737	\$2,238,640 \$2,158,640
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$4,047,577	\$4,047,577	\$3,314,248	\$3,175,077	\$2,421,737 \$2,341,737	\$2,238,640 \$2,158,640

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
 Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
 CSHB 1 March 2015
 SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Library and Archives Commission:

Programs	Descriptions						
Aid to Local Libraries – Strategy A.1.2	Provides funding for Loan Star Libraries grants for public library service enhancements, including the Texas Reads grants for literacy programs and Library System Negotiated Grants for regional library system initiatives. HB 1/ SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$4.9 million, which is \$810,355 more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 added more money to the program: \$2,471,097 each year.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$3.1 million for FY 2014 and \$2.7 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$7,937,497	\$1,782,600	\$3,815,081	\$299,611	\$2,459,541	\$2,465,506
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$7,937,497	\$1,782,600	\$3,815,081	\$299,611	\$2,459,541	\$2,465,506

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article I – General Government

Secretary of State:

Programs	Descriptions						
Election/Voter Registration Section – Strategy B.1.5	The Election/Voter Registration section manages funds for the primary election financing program and reimburses counties for postage for voter registration application. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$6 million. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR adopted the same amounts.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$15,480,319	\$675,929	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000	

Article II – Health & Human Services

Department of Family and Protective Services:

Programs	Descriptions						
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Programs - Goal C	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amount are \$90.9 million. This amount is roughly \$2 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$22.3 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 appropriates additional \$8.4 million more than CSHB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$54,593,556 in FY 2016 and \$63,152,787 in FY 2017.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$35.2 million for FY 2014 and \$45.5 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$30,997,700	\$30,997,701	\$44,042,522	\$44,822,364	\$53,846,302 \$45,476,644	\$59,404,517 \$45,476,644
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$30,977,700	\$30,997,701	\$44,042,522	\$44,822,364	\$56,303,511 \$45,476,644	\$65,399,154 \$45,476,644	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
 Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
 CSHB 1 March 2015
 SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services

Department of State Health Services:

Programs	Descriptions						
Mental Health SVCS Adults – Strategy B.2.1	HB 1 proposed budget amount is \$597.8 million, which is \$67.2 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. SB 2 proposed budget amount is \$612.3 million, which is \$14.5 million more than the HB 1 proposed budget. CSHB 1 adds \$42.3 million. Senate CS for HB 1 totals \$648.9 million, which is \$8.8 million more than the CSHB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated more money: \$318,957,302 in FY 2016 and \$344,962,725 in FY 2017.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$343.8 million for FY 2014 and \$286.3 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$270,615,444	\$282,513,627	\$331,040,750	\$333,958,331	\$318,728,894	\$321,426,245
						\$298,960,538	\$298,868,438
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$270,615,444	\$282,513,627	\$331,040,750	\$333,958,331	\$309,984,135	\$339,015,636	
					\$304,857,512	\$307,449,685	
Mental Health SVCS Children - Strategy B.2.2	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$185.2 million, which is \$15.7 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$12 million, while Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$13 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated more money: \$97,660,082 in FY 2016 and \$106,990,586 in FY 2017.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$96.6 million for FY 2014 and \$96.7 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$75,537,904	\$77,928,014	\$90,787,682	\$110,189,122	\$98,609,445	\$98,659,658
						\$92,654,585	\$92,608,914
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$75,537,904	\$77,928,014	\$90,787,682	\$110,189,122	\$95,009,445	\$103,251,664	
					\$92,654,585	\$92,608,914	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

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- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services

Department of State Health Services:

Programs	Descriptions						
Community Mental Health Crisis SVCS – Strategy B.2.3	HB 1 proposed budget amount is \$253.4 million. This amount is \$32.2 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. SB 2 proposed budget amount is \$240 million, which is \$12.9 million less than HB 1 proposed budget. No changes to CSHB 1. Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$4.2 million more than the CSHB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$127,656,512 in FY 2016 and \$127,656,510 in FY 2017.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$106.7 million for FY 2014 and \$115.2 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$82,494,196	\$82,495,654	\$106,249,880	\$114,932,744	\$126,703,396	\$126,703,394
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$82,494,196	\$82,495,654	\$106,249,880	\$114,932,744	\$128,936,195 \$120,268,312	\$103,939,744 \$83,939,744	
North-Star Behavioral Health - Strategy B.2.4	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$233.8 million. This amount is \$7.2 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$14.6 million, while Senate CS for HB 1 shows a \$69.8 million reduction. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$128,398,238 in FY 2016 and \$45,666,302 in FY 2017.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$112.8 million for FY 2014 and \$119.2 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$107,538,940	\$117,686,025	\$113,398,422	\$113,194,896	\$123,387,662 \$116,279,238	\$125,045,408 \$117,563,086
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$107,538,940	\$117,686,025	\$113,398,422	\$113,194,896	\$120,828,035 \$116,279,238	\$43,165,177 \$117,563,086	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

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- CSHB 1 March 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services							
Department of State Health Services:							
Programs	Descriptions						
Indigent Health Care UTMB) Health <i>- Strategy B.3.2</i>	HB 1/SB 1 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$9.8 million. This amount is the same as the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$5,750,000	\$5,750,000	\$5,411,953	\$4,397,812	\$4,904,883	\$4,904,882
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$5,750,000	\$5,750,000	\$5,411,953	\$4,397,812	\$4,904,883	\$4,904,882	

Revised on: July 2015

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- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
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- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services							
Department of State Health Services:							
Programs	Descriptions						
County Indigent Health Care <i>-Strategy B.3.3</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$4.4 million. This amount is \$20,424 more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$2.1 million for FY 2014 and \$2.1 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$2,201,880	\$2,201,879	\$2,176,232	\$2,176,233	\$2,186,446	\$2,186,443
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$2,201,880	\$2,201,879	\$2,176,232	\$2,176,233	\$2,186,446	\$2,186,443	

Revised on: July 2015

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- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services

Department of State Health Services:

Programs	Descriptions						
EMS and Trauma Care System - Strategy B.3.1	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$133.2 million. This amount is \$303.7 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. Probably a technical change to both bills. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$174,557,112 per year.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$227.2 million for FY 2014 and \$206.6 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$68,903,513	\$68,903,514	\$228,399,265	\$208,520,264	\$66,633,643 \$66,615,408	\$66,633,639
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$86,647,702	\$86,647,901	\$68,903,513	\$68,903,514	\$70,649,265 \$68,903,514 \$70,770,264	\$68,903,513 \$70,770,264
Mental Health State Hospitals - Strategy C.1.3	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$837.1 million. This is \$9.2 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$27.9 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$18.4 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$434,737,229 in FY 2016 and \$437,902,640 in FY 2017.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$433.6 million for FY 2014 and \$419.7 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$394,061,469	\$389,339,514	\$412,826,736	\$415,164,733	\$430,952,809 \$419,743,061	\$434,115,588 \$417,441,960
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$391,061,469	\$389,339,514	\$421,826,736	\$415,164,733	\$427,141,305 \$419,743,061 \$428,418,149	\$428,418,149 \$417,441,960

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
 Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
 CSHB 1 March 2015
 SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article II – Health & Human Services

Department of State Health Services:

Programs	Descriptions						
Mental Health Community Hospitals <i>-Strategy C.2.1</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$159.9 million. This is \$6.8 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$60 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds around \$50 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the Senate version: \$99,971,621 in FY 2016 and \$109,971,620 in FY 2017.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$53,703,096	\$53,703,096	\$76,890,052	\$76,250,921	\$99,971,621 \$79,971,621	\$119,971,620 \$79,971,620
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$353,703,096	\$53,703,096	\$76,890,052	\$76,250,921	\$99,971,621 \$79,971,621	\$109,971,620 \$79,971,620

Revised on: July 2015

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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article III – Higher Education

Texas A&M Forest Service:

Programs	Descriptions						
Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program - VFDAP (Wildfire and Emergency Program) - Strategy B.1.2	HB 1 /SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$29.5 million. This is \$60.6 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. Both committee substitutes add the same amount - \$935,500. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$14.7 million for FY 2014 and \$14.7 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$146,798,063	\$25,798,063	\$45,005,351	\$45,038,351	\$14,742,256	\$14,742,256
						\$15,210,006	\$15,210,006
Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
	\$146,798,063	\$25,798,063	\$45,005,351	\$45,038,351	\$14,742,256	\$14,742,256	
					\$15,210,006	\$15,210,006	

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article IV – Judiciary

Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council:

Programs	Descriptions						
Indigent Defense Commission <i>-Strategy D.1.1</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$67 million, which is \$12.0 million less than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$11.4 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 shows a \$2.8 million decrease. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$35,527,573 in FY 2016 and \$35,609,376 in FY 2017.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$51.7 million for FY 2014 and \$33.2 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$29,774,951	\$32,512,893	\$48,449,904	\$30,546,228	\$39,161,079 \$33,520,990	\$39,242,881 \$33,520,989
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$29,774,951	\$32,512,893	\$48,449,904	\$30,546,228	\$32,109,298 \$33,520,990	\$32,096,816 \$33,520,989

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

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- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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Article IV Judiciary							
Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Department:							
Programs	Descriptions						
Assistant Prosecutor Longevity Reimbursement to Counties <i>Gov. Code 41.255(d) Strategy D.1.1</i>	These funds are used to supplement the pay of assistant district attorneys that have at least four years of lifetime services credit as an assistant prosecutor. HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$8.76 million, which is \$681,700 more than the current budget in FY 2014-15. <i>No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments to FY 2014-15.						
Juror Pay (Judiciary Section, Comptroller's Dept.) -Strategy D.1.7	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$21.8 million. This amount is the same as the current budget FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments to FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$9,181,700	\$9,181,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$9,181,700	\$9,181,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700	\$10,881,700

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article IV Judiciary

Court of Criminal Appeals:

Programs	Descriptions
Judicial Education Goal B	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$17.3 million, which is \$1.147 million less than the current budget for FY2014-15. Funds from the GR dedicated Judicial & Court Personnel Training Fund No. 540 are partially allocated among the various riders below. CSHB 1 adds \$2.5 million, while Senate CS HB 1 is slightly less (\$200,000) than CSHB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>
Judicial and Court Personnel Training <i>Govt. Code 74.025 (Rider 3.a.4)</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$850,000 per year. The amount budgeted per fiscal year is designated for the Court of Criminal Appeals to contract with training entities providing for the training and continuing legal education of the clerks and other court personnel of the appellate courts, district courts, county courts at law, county courts, justice courts, and municipal courts. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>
Judicial Education <i>(Rider 3 a.1)</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$403,750 per year. The amount budgeted per fiscal year is for the continuing legal education of judges of county courts performing judicial functions. Both bills (CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1) add \$94,758. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>
Judicial Education – Types of Legal Education <i>(Rider 3.a .3)</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$1.105 million per year. The amount budgeted is to contract with statewide professional associations of prosecuting attorneys to provide continuing legal education courses, programs, and technical assistance projects for prosecutors and prosecutor office personnel. Both bills (CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1) add \$516,000. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
 Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
 CSHB 1 March 2015
 SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
 House/Senate Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE), 2016-17

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Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice:

Programs	Descriptions						
Basic Supervision <i>Strategy A.1.1</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$229.6 million. This amount is \$6.4 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$15.1 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$3.1 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the House's version.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$110,355,121	\$109,969,834	\$110,159,693	\$113,135,151	\$120,609,076 \$114,988,756	\$124,113,045 \$114,660,876
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$110,355,121	\$109,969,834	\$110,159,693	\$113,135,151	\$114,553,942 \$114,988,756	\$118,173,646 \$114,660,876

Revised on: July 2015

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- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice							
Department of Criminal Justice:							
Programs	Descriptions						
Prison Diversions (Treatment Alternatives, Community Corrections) – Goal A	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$604.4 million. This amount is \$5.6 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$20.5 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$16.7 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$310,627,833 in FY 2016 and \$315,349,490 in FY 2017.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$297.7 million for FY 2014 and \$301.1 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$277,236,527	\$279,251,242	\$297,711,932	\$301,087,389	\$310,127,833 \$302,384,929	\$314,849,490 \$302,057,048
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$277,236,527	\$279,251,242	\$297,771,932	\$301,087,389	\$308,135,640 \$302,384,929	\$312,973,032 \$302,057,048	
Academic/ Vocational Training – Strategy C.2.2	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same \$3.8 million. This amount is the same as the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – no adjustments for FY 2014-15.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$1,363,883	\$1,363,883	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$1,363,883	\$1,363,883	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044	\$1,919,044	

Revised on: July 2015

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- CSHB 1 March 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice							
Department of Criminal Justice:							
Programs	Descriptions						
In-Prison Treatment - Strategy C.2.5	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$62.5 million, which is \$7.2 million less than the current budget FY 2042-13. Both bills (CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1) add \$2.9 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$34,943,615	\$34,943,615	\$34,834,274	\$34,834,274	\$32,710,606	\$32,706,605
						\$31,246,606	\$31,246,605
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$34,943,615	\$34,943,615	\$34,834,274	\$34,943,615	\$32,710,606	\$32,706,605
						\$31,246,606	\$31,246,605

Revised on: July 2015

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- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Department of Criminal Justice:

Programs	Descriptions						
Operate Parole System – Goal F	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$351.4 million. This amount is \$19.9 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. CSHB 1 adds \$11 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$14.8 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$186,083,170 in FY 2016 and \$186,905,697 in FY 2017.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$174.9 million for FY 2014 and \$177 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$149,530,590	\$156,058,081	\$165,131,533	\$166,393,286	\$181,480,255 \$175,969,577	\$180,936,666 \$175,433,121
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$149,530,590	\$156,058,081	\$165,131,533	\$166,393,286	\$182,297,034 \$175,969,577	\$183,883,562 \$175,433,121

Department of Public Safety:

Programs	Descriptions
Border Security	Senate Committee Subst. for HB 1: Border security funding is provided across several agencies totaling \$811 million in General Revenue-Related Funds for the 2016-17 biennium. Of this amount, \$753 million is appropriated to the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Combined with border related federal funds at DPS and General Revenue Funds appropriated to the Trusteed Programs within the Office of the Governor, the Park and Wildlife Department, and other agencies, the all funds total for border security funding in the bill is \$850.6 million for the FY 2016-17 biennium. CSHB 1 appropriates roughly \$500 million.

Commission on Jail Standards:

Programs	Descriptions
Standards – Goal A	Effective Jail Standards: HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$1.278 million. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i> Note: Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments are roughly the same \$1.25 million for FY 2014-15.

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

- Conference Committee Report on HB 1, May 26, 2015
- Senate Committee Substitute for HB 1, April 2015
- CSHB 1 March 2015
- SB 2 (Senate Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
- HB 1 (House Introduced State Budget), Jan. 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Juvenile Justice Department (JJD):

Programs	Descriptions						
Juvenile Justice Department – Strategy A.I.6	Funding for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) totals \$638.9 million in All Funds, which represents an All Funds reduction of \$10.4 million, or 1.6 percent. Reductions are primarily the result of an agency estimated Federal Funds reduction of \$1.2 million and an Other Funds reductions of \$9.5 million attributed primarily to a reduction in General Obligation bond proceeds. In Rider 3, CSHB 1 adds \$1.5 million per year. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$6,250,000 per year to the Alternative Education Program.</i>						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$11,476,023	\$11,534,404	\$8,570,701	\$8,614,302	\$6,250,000	\$6,250,000
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$11,476,023	\$11,534,404	\$8,570,701	\$8,614,302	\$6,250,000	\$6,250,000	

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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article V – Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC) and Juvenile Justice Department (JJD):

Programs	Descriptions						
Harris County Leadership Academy (formerly known as Harris County Boot Camp) Rider 29	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are zeros. Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$1 million per year. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the Senate's version.</i>						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000 \$0	\$1,000,000 \$0	

Article VI – Natural Resources

Department of Agriculture:

Programs	Descriptions						
Texans Feeding Texans (Home Delivered Meal Grant Program) – Strategy D.2.1	Funding counties' Meal on Wheels programs and various other nonprofit organizations that provide daily meals to the elderly and disabled. No significant reduction to this program, approximately \$9 million per fiscal year. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

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Article VI – Natural Resources

Commission on Environmental Quality:

Programs	Descriptions
Air Quality Assessment and Planning – Rider 24 (from Strategy A.1.1)	Provides funding for the Low Income Vehicle Repair, Replacement and Retrofit (LIRAP) for air quality grants to local governments - HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$14.1 million. No changes to CSHB 1. Senate rider 24 adds \$43.5 million per year. <i>CCCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>
Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP) Grants & Administration – Rider 20	Provides financial incentives to eligible individuals, businesses or local governments to reduce emissions from polluting vehicles and equipment - HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$155.3 million. This amount is \$86,679 more than the current budget for FY2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1. Senate rider 20 adds \$118.1 million per year. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>

Revised on: July 2015

Sources:

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 CSHB 1 March 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article VI – Natural Resources

Parks and Wildlife Department:

Programs	Descriptions						
Local Park, Boating Access and Other Grants – Strategy B.2.1	HB 1 proposed budget amount is \$16.4 million, which is \$42.6 million less than SB 2. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$17,379,159 in FY 2016 and \$14,590,763 in FY 2017.</i>						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$434,480	\$446,980	\$8,184,480	\$8,184,480	\$8,207,983	\$8,207,983
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$434,480	\$446,980	\$8,184,480	\$8,184,480	\$29,138,256	\$29,851,978	

Soil and Water Conservation Board:

Programs	Descriptions						
Flood Control Dam Grant Program (Rider 8)	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are \$14.8 million, which is the same for the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						

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- CSHB 1 March 2015
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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article VII – Business and Economic Development							
Department of Motor Vehicles:							
Programs	Descriptions						
Automobile Burglary and Theft Grants – Strategy B.2.1	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$29.8 million, which is \$15,331 more than the current budget FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1/Senate CS for HB 1. <i>CCR on HB 1 adopted the same amounts.</i>						
	<u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$14.8 million for FY 2014 and \$14.9 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$14,911,870	\$14,911,870	\$14,904,341	\$14,904,340	\$14,912,006	\$14,912,006
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$14,911,870	\$14,911,870	\$14,904,341	\$14,904,340	\$14,912,006	\$14,912,006	

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General Appropriations Act (2016-17 Biennium)

Article VII – Business and Economic Development							
Department of Transportation:							
Programs	Descriptions						
Planning, Design, and Management <i>- Strategy A.1.1</i>	HB 1/SB 2 proposed budget amounts are the same, \$792.3 million, which is \$74.5 million more than the current budget for FY 2014-15. No changes to CSHB 1, while the Senate CS for HB 1 adds \$30.5 million. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$412,424,035 in FY 2016 and \$394,825,111 in FY 2017.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$366.4 million for FY 2014 and \$373.2 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$308,072,136	\$298,493,553	\$358,442,421	\$359,259,513	\$397,424,035	\$394,825,111
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$308,072,136	\$298,493,553	\$358,442,421	\$359,259,513	\$397,424,035 \$412,051,590	\$394,825,111 \$410,717,909	
Right of Way Acquisition – <i>- Strategy A.1.3</i>	HB 1 proposed budget amount is \$884.7 million, which is \$231.8 million less than SB 2 proposed budget amount. CSHB 1 adds \$54.6 million, while the Senate CS for HB 1 shows a \$46.6 million reduction. <i>CCR on HB 1 allocated \$464,063,462 in FY 2016 and \$389,962,982 in FY 2017.</i> <u>Note:</u> Legislative Budget Estimates (LBE) – adjustments: \$554 million for FY 2014 and \$565.7 million for FY 2015.						
	House	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
		\$589,889,339	\$418,715,132	\$512,445,837	\$235,055,686	\$470,241,722 \$493,413,462	\$414,499,602 \$445,962,982
	Senate	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	\$589,889,339	\$418,715,132	\$512,445,837	\$235,055,686	\$587,961,722 \$573,561,642	\$528,529,602 \$496,298,000	

Revised on: July 2015

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- CSHB 1 March 2015
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2015 LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS REPORT

TEXAS ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

INDEX OF ADOPTED BILLS BY BILL NUMBER

INDEX OF ADOPTED BILLS BY BILL NUMBER

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