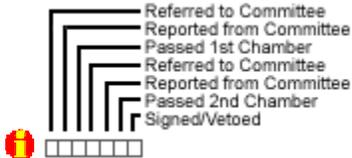




BILLS FILED 2/7/2013 - 2/13/2013

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[HB 13](#)



[Callegari, Bill\(R\)](#)

Relating to the State Pension Review Board and public retirement systems.

Companions: [SB 13](#) Duncan, Robert(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

Remarks: MJV-Requires the State Pension Review Board to post on its website the most recent annual financial report for each public retirement system along with the contact information for the administrator of the system. The public retirement system must also post the report and contact information on their website.

-The board's website must include a list of any systems that have not submitted their reports.

-Requires each public retirement system to annually report to the board their investment returns and assumptions for future years.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions

[HB 14](#)



[Pitts, Jim\(R\)](#)

Relating to the fiscal transparency and accountability of certain entities responsible for public money.

Companions: [SB 14](#) Williams, Tommy(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks: MJV-Requires the comptroller to list all counties on the web with their sales and use tax rate along with their property tax rate.

-Imposes new requirements on the Attorney General in reviewing public securities. Prohibits approval of a security until the AG has received

written notice that the bond review board has the information it needs from the AG.

-Requires the bond finance office to publish an annual report on local debt statistics.

-Requires a ballot to authorize a political subdivision to issue bonds to include specific financial details as both total amounts and per capita amounts. Requires a sample ballot to be posted on the political subdivision's website as soon as it is finalized.

-Requires a political subdivision to prepare an annual financial report that includes financial information for each fund, total receipts of the fund, disbursements of the fund, debt obligation information (both total and per capita), and any other information required by law.

-Requires the annual report to be made available for inspection and posted on the political subdivision's website with contact office for the main office of the political subdivision. Requires a political subdivision to maintain a website to ensure compliance.

-Prohibits authorizing a certificate of obligation if a bond proposition for the same purpose was defeated at an election during the preceding three years. Prohibits issuing a certificate unless notice is published in a newspaper at least 45 days before passing the order (currently 30 days) and requires posting on the internet for 45 days. The notice must include the amount of the certificate, current debt outstanding, estimated interest rate, maturity date of the certificate, and detailed information on the process to petition for an election (requires 5% of the total voters in the last gubernatorial general election).

-Imposes similar requirements on school districts, junior college districts, and special districts.

-Repeals a provision requiring submission of the annual financial statement to a newspaper in the county.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 1059

Bonnen, Greg(R)

Relating to installment payments of the ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of certain individuals.

Remarks: WLJ - Adds a second deadline to pay taxes in installments. A disabled or over-65 homeowner or the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran can still pay in four equal installments after the February 1

delinquency date if the first installment is paid no later than March 1, accompanied with a notice that the remaining payment will be made in three equal installments. If the person fails to make a payment, including the first payment, before the required deadlines, the unpaid amount incurs delinquent penalties and interest.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1060](#)

[Bonnen, Greg\(R\)](#)

Relating to the use by a property owner of a common or contract carrier to send a payment, report, application, statement, or other document or paper to a taxing unit or taxing official.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows a tax payment to be considered mailed on time if delivered by an alternative method to the USPS, such as FedEx or UPS. The item must have a receipt or proof indicating the date earlier than or on the specified due date and within the specified period when sent by an alternative carrier. Or, the property owner furnishes proof it was delivered within the time limit with the carrier.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1063](#)

[Hernandez Luna, Ana\(D\)](#)

Relating to the creation of DNA records for the DNA database system.

Remarks: WLJ-Requires a defendant to pay to submit a DNA test as follows:

\$34 fee to be placed on deferred adjudication community supervision for a felony such as rape/kidnapping.

court costs for misdemeanors, public lewdness and indecent exposure;

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1065](#)

[Hernandez Luna, Ana\(D\)](#)

Relating to the right of an employee who is a victim of a crime to time off from work to attend court proceedings related to that crime.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires a county to permit an employee to take time off to attend court proceedings when a victim or guardian of a victim in crimes such as kidnapping, sexual assault, aggravated robbery, injury to a child or disabled person. They must provide 24 hours notice prior to being absent and may be required to use existing leave time. Pay may not be affected (for 8 hrs or less) if there is no vacation or leave time available. Documentation can be requested. Counties must post signs indicating their rights under this bill.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1066](#)

[Zerwas, John\(R\)](#)

Relating to a review process for managed care organizations participating in the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires DSHS to create an annual review process for Star Plus Medicaid. Particularly reviewing the determining factor on enrollment.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1067](#)

[Moody, Joe\(D\)](#)

Relating to certain waivers by a defendant regarding a community supervision revocation hearing.

Remarks: MJV-Allows an inmate in prison to request revocation of community supervision in writing before a notary public (currently before a court of record).

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1068](#)

[Moody, Joe\(D\)](#)

Relating to a study by the Legislative Budget Board of the feasibility of preparing an impact statement regarding the effects of certain proposed legislation on a political subdivision.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires LBB to study and report on the impact of bills and resolutions regarding increases and decreases on distributions of funding and liabilities to counties.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1069](#)

[McClendon, Ruth Jones\(D\)](#)

Relating to the classification of certain misdemeanor and felony theft offenses.

Remarks: WLJ - raises the value of property for misdemeanor theft. Class C misdemeanor, from \$50 to \$100, Class B from \$500 to \$1,000, Class A from \$1,500 to 3,000.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1070](#)

[Allen, Alma\(D\)](#)

Relating to the expunction of certain alcohol- and drug-related offenses following successful treatment and rehabilitation.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows a court to expunge a persons recored for alcohol or drug crimes if they fulfill the terms of incarceration, parole, successfully completes a 6 month in house rehab program and maintain a drug and alcohol free lifestyle for two years following substance abuse cours, and has not bee arrested for a felony again.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

- [HB 1074](#) [Howard, Donna\(D\)](#) Relating to the contents of and public access to personal financial statements and the creation of a select interim committee to undertake a comprehensive review of personal financial disclosures.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Requires all sources of earned and unearned income to be reported under the financial disclosure laws, applicable to legislators, county commissioners and judges, office candidates and appointed officers of major state agencies. Currently filers are required to report occupational income, but not unearned income such as pensions or retirement plans. Adds filers requirement to list the source and type of income for a spouse and dependent child.
- Last Action:** 2- 7-13 H Filed
- [HB 1076](#) [Toth, Steve\(R\)](#) Relating to certain firearms, firearm accessories and firearm ammunition within the State of Texas.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Prohibits a county, or any representative of the county to enforce any federal law that regulates firearms, accessories, or ammunition.
- Last Action:** 2- 7-13 H Filed
- [HB 1082](#) [Gooden, Lance\(R\)](#) Relating to the prosecution and punishment of the offense of intoxication assault.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Creates a new felony for bodily injury due to an accident caused by intoxication while operating an aircraft, watercraft or amusement ride. Increases serious bodily injury to a 3rd degree felony.
- Last Action:** 2- 7-13 H Filed
- [HB 1083](#) [Dukes, Dawwna\(D\)](#) Relating to the venue for prosecution of certain computer crimes.
- Companions:** [SB 222](#) Watson, Kirk(D) (Identical)
1-29-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice
- Remarks:** WLJ - Allows computer crimes to be prosecuted in the county in which the victim lives.
- Last Action:** 2- 7-13 H Filed
- [HB 1091](#) [Martinez, Armando\(D\)](#) Relating to firefighters and emergency medical technicians who bring certain claims for benefits or compensation.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Amends disability eligibility for a fire fighter or EMT to include the findings of a physical examination that reveals evidence of disease or illness that occurs within 5 years of leaving

employment.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1094](#)

[Keffer, Jim\(R\)](#)

Relating to authorizing assessments for water and energy improvements in districts designated by municipalities and counties.

Companions: [SB 385](#) Carona, John(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate
Intergovernmental Relations

Remarks: MJV-Expands a city only program to allow a county to create water and energy improvement districts. The local government can create one or more districts and impose an assessment on property owner(s), by crating a lien on their property, to repay the local government or a third party through their property tax for the costs of financing a project.

-A lien imposed under the program has the same priority status as any other property tax lien.

-A local govenment can issue bonds payable with the assessments imposed on owners.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1096](#)

[Canales, Terry\(D\)](#)

Relating to the electronic recording and admissibility of certain custodial interrogations.

Companions: [SB 87](#) Ellis, Rodney(D) (Identical)
1-28-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate Criminal
Justice

Remarks: MJV-Requires a law enforcement agency to record all custodial interrogatons for suspects of murder, kidnapping, human trafficking and sex crimes.

-Makes any oral or written statement inadmissible unless a recording of the interrogation was made. It may be admitted as evidence if the law enforcement agency can show good cause why the recording was not made.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

[HB 1099](#)

[Murphy, Jim\(R\)](#)

Relating to the filing deadline for candidates for nomination by a political party.

Remarks: WLJ - Amends the date an application for nomination by a convention must be filed from January 2 to the regular deadline for candidates to file applications for a place on the primary ballot.

Last Action: 2- 7-13 H Filed

officer to determine if the person has a mental illness. If they have not committed an offense the officer shall call the local mental health authority, may provide assistance to the person, and may take the person under custody under emergency detention. If the person did commit a misdemeanor, the officer has the option to issue a citation in lieu of arresting the person or take the person into custody under emergency detention. Adds mental health training to law enforcement training.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1110](#)

[Nevarez, Poncho\(D\)](#)

Relating to installment payments of the ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of certain individuals.

Remarks: MJV-Allows a person or spouse with an over 65, disabled, or disabled veteran's homestead exemptions to pay their taxes in installment payments even if their first payment is filed late, as long as it is paid within 30 days after the delinquency date. The 6% penalty and interest still apply to the late portion.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1112](#)

[Guillen, Ryan\(D\)](#)

Relating to state assistance for certain county health care expenditures.

Remarks: MJV-Requires the state to reimburse a county for the entire amount of health care services provided to indigent residents for the remainder of the year after the county reaches the 8% expenditure level (currently 90%).

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1114](#)

[Raney, John\(R\)](#)

Relating to restoring the jurisdiction of the constitutional county court in Brazos County.

Remarks: MJV-Repeals the specific provision giving the county court of Brazos County the general jurisdiction of a probate court and juvenile jurisdiction but no other civil or criminal jurisdiction.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1115](#)

[Raney, John\(R\)](#)

Relating to the eligibility for grants for natural gas fueling stations under the Texas natural gas vehicle grant program.

Remarks: MJV-Expands the eligible counties where natural gas fueling stations may qualify for TERP funds to stations along the state highway system in counties contained wholly or partly in the triangular area formed by the interstate highways

connecting Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth.

-Repeals a duplicate section (two slightly different bills passed last session).

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1117](#)

[Davis, Yvonne\(D\)](#)

Relating to certain duties of employers voluntarily participating in the federal E-Verify program and of the Texas Workforce Commission in regard to the E-Verify program; providing civil penalties.

Remarks: MJV-Establishes requirements for employers (includes local government) who voluntarily participate in the E-verify program. The requirements ensure that the E-Verify program is used to verify employment eligibility; to keep information on employees confidential, and provide the proper notices for employees. Creates civil penalties for wilful and knowing violations by an employer.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1118](#)

[Davis, Yvonne\(D\)](#)

Relating to documents filed with certain courts.

Remarks: MJV - Requires the use and storage of paper records in the proceedings before a district court.

-Electronic filings would have to be sent to the appropriate court as a paper document.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1123](#)

[Herrero, Abel\(D\)](#)

Relating to discount programs for certain veterans provided by toll project entities.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires a toll project to establish a discount program for disabled veterans, surviving spouse of a veteran and a medal of honor winner. (Current law allows a toll project to do so)

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1124](#)

[Workman, Paul\(R\)](#)

Relating to the creation of regional emergency communications districts; authorizing the issuance of bonds; authorizing a fee.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows a regional emergency communications district to be created (Bexar and Travis).

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1125](#)

[Lavender, George\(R\)](#)

Relating to the rights of an accused person in and the written waiver of extradition proceedings.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows a justice of the peace, in border counties, to oversee an extradition hearing, where there is a waiver.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1127](#)

[Smith, Wayne\(R\)](#)

Relating to the regulation of game rooms in certain counties; providing penalties; authorizing fee.

Companions: [SB 433](#) Patrick, Dan(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate
Intergovernmental Relations

Remarks: WLJ - Allows Harris County to license and regulate game rooms in the County.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1129](#)

[White, James\(R\)](#)

Relating to allowing military voters on active duty overseas to cast a ballot electronically.

Remarks: MJV-Expands the ways in which a military voter (or family) on active duty overseas may return their mailed ballot to include e-mail. Expands to all overseas military and not just those receiving hostile fire pay or imminent danger pay. srm

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1130](#)

[Gonzalez, Mary\(D\)](#)

Relating to development regulations for certain unincorporated areas located near the Tornillo-Guadalupe Port of Entry; providing a penalty.

Companions: [SB 461](#) Rodriguez, Jose(D) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate
Intergovernmental Relations

Remarks: MJV-Allows El Paso County to exercise land use regulation authority in a specified area of the county where the Tornillo-Guadalupe Port of Entry will be located.

-The Commissioners court may divide the area into districts with unique regulations appropriate for each district. The court will appoint a commission to determine the boundaries and appropriate regulations for each district.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1134](#)

[Darby, Drew\(R\)](#)

Relating to performance and payment security for certain comprehensive development agreements.

Remarks: MJV-Requires performance and payment bonds in a Comprehensive Development Agreement between a Regional Transportation Authority and a private entity to be issued by a corporate surety

authorized to issue bond in the state. In large contracts in excess of \$250 million an authority may set the security at or above \$250 million if determined to be in the authority's best interest (current language requires the authority to set the amount of the bonds or alternative forms of security). The same provisions are required for TxDOT in an agreement with a private entity.

Last Action: 2- 8-13 H Filed

[HB 1145](#)

[Kolkhorst, Lois\(R\)](#)

Relating to the provision and delivery of certain health and human services in this state, including the provision of those services through the Medicaid program.

Companions: [SB 8](#) Nelson, Jane(R) (Identical)
2-19-13 S Meeting set for 9:00
A.M., Senate Chamber, Senate
Health and Human Services

Remarks: Addresses Medicaid fraud and abuse:

- Appoints the Office of Inspector General to detect, investigate and prevent fraud, waste and abuse across all of health and human services programs;
- prohibits a provider from participating in Medicaid once a court finds the provider liable for Medicaid fraud;
- Prohibits providers who have been excluded or debarred from another state or federal health care program for fraud or injury from participating in Medicaid;
- Prohibits solicitation of Medicaid clients;
- Places the Medical Transportation Program into a managed care setting; and
- Directs the Health and Human Services Commission to reduce inappropriate use of ambulances for non-emergency transports.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1147](#)

[Gonzalez, Naomi\(D\)](#)

Relating to the collection of information regarding trafficking of persons.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires law enforcement, district attorneys and county attorneys to cooperate and assist the task force on human trafficking in collecting data on human trafficking.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1159](#)

[Kolkhorst, Lois\(R\)](#)

Relating to a utilization review process for managed care organizations participating in the STAR + PLUS Medicaid managed care program.

Companions: [SB 348](#) Schwertner, Charles (Identical)

(R)
2- 5-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate Health and
Human Services

Remarks: WLJ - Creates an annual review process of Star+
Medaid.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1163](#) [Moody, Joe\(D\)](#) Relating to the prosecution of and punishment for
the offense of tampering with a witness.

Remarks: MJV-Creates an 2nd degree felony offense for a
public servant knowingly and intentionally
tampering with a witness. Makes it a first deggree
felony if the witness is part of the prosecution of a
criminal case punishable as a first degree or
capital felony.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1164](#) [Thompson, Ed\(R\)](#) Relating to the territory that may be included in a
single county election precinct.

Remarks: MJV-Removes the requirement for county election
precincts to not include more than one ward within
a city of more than 10,000.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1168](#) [Flynn, Dan\(R\)](#) Relating to the exemption of dedicated cemetery
property from drainage fees.

Remarks: Adds drainage fees to the list of fees that
cemetaries are exempt from. srm

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1173](#) [Anchia, Rafael\(D\)](#) Relating to a credit against the ad valorem taxes
imposed on property on which certain water
conservation systems have been installed.

Remarks: MJV-Creates a property tax credit for water
harvesting systems capable of holding 400+
gallons if the credit is adopted by the governing
body of the taxing unit.

-The credit is good in the first year only and is
limited to \$2,500 for a drip irrigation system or
\$5,000 for a rainwater harvesting system.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1174](#) [Fallon, Pat\(R\)](#) Relating to the penalties for illegally passing a
stopped school bus.

Remarks: MJV-Increases range of the misdemeanor fine for

illegally passing a stopped school bus from \$200-\$1000 to \$500-\$1250. A subsequent offense is \$1000-\$2000.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1181](#) [Sheets, Kenneth\(R\)](#) Relating to the preparation of certain election forms.

Remarks: MJV-Requires each election precinct served by the early voting clerk in a county of more than one million to include on any signature roster, poll list or combination form a statement that clearly indicates the person has voted an early voting ballot in person or has been sent an early voting ballote to be voted by mail.

Last Action: 2-11-13 H Filed

[HB 1189](#) [Larson, Lyle\(R\)](#) Relating to interstate cooperation to address regional water issues.

Remarks: MJV-Reworks the multi-state water resources planning commission as the Southwestern States Water Commission.

-Replaces seven governor appointed commissioners with six appointed by the Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker (two each).

-Requires the commission to study water needs of the region, alternative technologies for augmenting water supplies, funding for water supply projects, and legislation that may be needed.

-Repeals a provision that the commissioners are "officers" under the meaning in the state constitution.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1191](#) [Burkett, Cindy\(R\)](#) Relating to certain information about housing for persons with mental illness provided through the Texas Information and Referral Network Internet site.

Remarks: WLJ - Creates a website with public and private housing options for persons with mental illness.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1192](#) [Moody, Joe\(D\)](#) Relating to the qualifications for appointment as a medical examiner.

Remarks: MJV - Allows commissioners court to appoint as medical examiner a physician licensed in another state, who has applied for a license to practice

medicine in Texas (current requirement is licensed in Texas).

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1196](#)

[Clardy, Travis\(R\)](#)

Relating to county participation in a program for improvement of collection of court costs, fees, and fines imposed in criminal cases.

Companions: [SB 387](#) Nichols, Robert(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

Remarks: MJV-Excludes a county of 50,000 to 55,000 that contains a state hospital from the court cost collection improvement program.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1197](#)

[Raymond, Richard\(D\)](#)

Relating to electioneering on the premises of certain privately owned polling places.

Remarks: MJV-Requires, if a polling place is located in a building owned by a private business, that the business provide notice if electioneering will be prohibited on the premises outside the area where electioneering is normally allowed.

-Expands the current offense for electioneering within 100 feet of the door of a polling place to include electioneering in a building on private premises where electioneering is prohibited.

-Repeals a duplicative reference.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1198](#)

[Raymond, Richard\(D\)](#)

Relating to authorizing an optional county fee for vehicle registration in certain counties.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows Webb County to impose an additional vehicle registration fee up to \$10, to be credited to the county road and bridge fund.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1200](#)

[Taylor, Van\(R\)](#)

Relating to access to certain facilities by search and rescue dogs and their handlers.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires all public buildings and public transportation to allow search and rescue dogs and handlers to be admitted. Restricts extra charges and security deposits for the dog. Adds a misdemeanor fine of \$300 to \$1,000.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

- [HB 1205](#) [Parker, Tan\(R\)](#) Relating to the offense of failure to report abuse or neglect of a child.
- Companions:** [SB 384](#) Carona, John(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice
- Remarks:** WLJ - Creates a state jail felony for intentionally concealing and failing to report abuse or neglect of a child.
- Last Action:** 2-12-13 H Filed
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- [HB 1206](#) [Parker, Tan\(R\)](#) Relating to the duties of a law enforcement agency regarding certain children who are reported to be missing.
- Remarks:** WLJ - requires a law enforcement agency to report suspicion of child abuse or neglect to protective services, in the investigation of a missing child.
- Last Action:** 2-12-13 H Filed
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- [HB 1208](#) [Parker, Tan\(R\)](#) Relating to liability for interest if land appraised for ad valorem tax purposes as agricultural or open-space land is sold or diverted to a different use.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Provides that on or after September 1, 2013 and before January 1, 2024, the sale or change of use for agricultural land appraisal or the change of use for open-space land appraisal does not include any interest on the rollback tax bill. If the rollback taxes become delinquent, then delinquent tax interest does apply.
- Last Action:** 2-12-13 H Filed
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- [HB 1211](#) [Craddick, Tom\(R\)](#) Relating to the authority of the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.
- Companions:** [SB 543](#) Seliger, Kel(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Filed
- Remarks:** MJV-Allows the Board of Directors for the Midland County Hospital District to commission peace officers.
- Last Action:** 2-12-13 H Filed
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- [HB 1212](#) [Canales, Terry\(D\)](#) Relating to the tax rate for contributions under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act applicable to wages paid to certain honorably discharged veterans.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Allows an employer of a veteran to pay unemployment taxes on the veterans wages of 3/4 the rate applicable to other employees.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1216](#) [Craddick, Tom\(R\)](#) Relating to the penalty for the offense of reckless driving.

Remarks: WLJ - Increases the penalty for a reckless driving misdemeanor fine up to \$1,000 and confinement in county jail for no more than 90 days.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1217](#) [Menendez, Jose\(D\)](#) Relating to the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation to which certain disabled veterans and the surviving spouses and children of certain veterans are entitled.

Companions: [SB 465](#) Van de Putte, Leticia (D) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks: WLJ - Increases the homestead ad valorem exemption amount for disabled veterans, based on the disability rating as follows: \$5000 to \$10000; \$7500 to \$15,000; \$10,000 to \$20,000; \$12,000 to \$25,000. Increases the exemption amount for a disabled veteran, over the age of 65 from \$12,000 to \$24,000. Increases the surviving spouse exemption from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The exemption for minor children is increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1224](#) [Hilderbran, Harvey\(R\)](#) Relating to continuing education requirements and a registration exemption for county tax assessor-collectors.

Companions: [SB 546](#) Williams, Tommy(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Requires a county assessor collector to complete 20 hours of continuing education within 90 days of taking office and must meet the same requirement annually.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1226](#) [Smithee, John\(R\)](#) Relating to self-insurance funds established by governmental units.

Companions: [SB 531](#) Duncan, Robert(R) (Identical)
2-12-13 S Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Permits a county to purchase re-insurance (to reimburse the entity for large losses) and clarifies that self-insurance meets the requirements of purchasing an insurance product.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1236](#)

[Price, Four\(R\)](#)

Relating to prohibiting deferred adjudication community supervision for defendants charged with felony offenses committed against children or elderly or disabled individuals.

Remarks: WLJ - Prohibits a judge from granting deferred adjudication for a felony offense if the victim was a child, elderly or disabled.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1239](#)

[Giddings, Helen\(D\)](#)

Relating to fees charged by certain entities administering alternative dispute resolution systems for counties.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows a fee to be collected, up to \$25, for dispute resolution services in a county other than Galveston/Jefferson in the amount set by commissioners court.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HB 1242](#)

[Geren, Charlie\(R\)](#)

Relating to the authority of a judge to impose a period of confinement in a county jail for a violation of a condition of community supervision.

Remarks: MJV-Requires a judge to warn a defendant who has violated a condition of probation (other than a new offense) that they could be required to serve time in jail or have probation revoked for such violations.

-Allows a judge to sentence a defendant to 3 days in jail; 7 days for a second violation; 14 days for a third violation; or 21 days for a subsequent violation.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1243](#)

[Hughes, Bryan\(R\)](#)

Relating to the use of direct recording electronic voting machines.

Remarks:

MJV-Prohibits using an electronic voting machine unless it is approved by a nationally recognized test lab; meets or exceeds the standards adopted by the FEC, EAC, or National Institute of Standards and Technology; and creates a paper record.

-Grandfathers existing machines if: a voter has the option of casting a paper ballot; a permanent record of each ballot is created when cast; the system is subject to parallel monitoring; and the election entity submits a technical security plan for the system to the secretary of state.

-Requires an election authority with DREs to provide the secretary of state, upon request, with the source code of the DRE, all documents related to federal qualification; and complete documentation of all hardware, software and firmware components regarding the development process.

-Requires an election entity using DRE machines to submit a security plan to the Secretary of state.

-Requires an election entity using DREs to send the secretary of state: any changes or modifications to the system; a training plan for election officers; and a communications plan.

-Prohibits a component of a DRE machine from using wireless or wired internet connections.

-Prohibits provisional voting on a DRE machine. Requires a disability access device to be connected to a DRE before it is used for voting.

-Requires posting warnings in each language used in the election about the penalties for tampering with a machine in each polling place with a DRE machine.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1245](#)

[Turner, Sylvester\(D\)](#)

Relating to the allocation of money in the judicial and court personnel training fund.

Remarks: WLJ - Adds the personnel of criminal defense attorneys who represent indigent defendants to those who can receive continuing legal education, technical assistance paid for from the judicial and court personnel training fund.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1250](#)

[Frank, James\(R\)](#)

Relating to the initial use of certain properties acquired for a public use.

Remarks: Requires that private property purchased or acquired through eminent domain be used initially for the public use for which was intended. srm

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1252](#)

[Zedler, Bill\(R\)](#)

Relating to the administration of elections; creating an offense.

Remarks: 1)Requires counties to have a reporting system compatible with statewide system management of election administration. 2)Alternate presiding election judge can't be removed w/o approval from election official (not presiding judge or

appointed peace officer) & must have documentation for reason of removal. 3)Amends possession of recording devices by watchers from can't have possession of to will not use if it violates voter privacy. 4)protects identity of watcher. makes it class B misdemeanor to disclose identity w/o watcher's permission. srm

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1253](#)

[Zedler, Bill\(R\)](#)

Relating to voter registration; creating on offense.

Companions: [HB 927](#) Miller, Rick(R) (Identical)
2- 4-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Creates a state jail felony for a non US citizen who submits or attempts to submit a voter registration application. -Requires a deputy voter registrar to be a resident and a registered voter for the six months prior to appointment (currently must meet qualifications to vote).

-Terminates the appointment of a volunteer deputy registrar for submitting an incomplete or late registration application or for apparent evidence of forgery on a registration application.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1255](#)

[Riddle, Debbie\(R\)](#)

Relating to the acceptance of private donations by a district clerk to fund promotion of effective jury service.

Remarks: MJV-Allows a district clerk in a county of more than 1.2 million to accept a grant or donation to promote effective jury service.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1257](#)

[Stephenson, Phil\(R\)](#)

Relating to restrictions on the use of commercial social networking sites by sex offenders; imposing criminal penalty.

Remarks: Requires sex offenders to indicate they are a sex offender on social media sites in a place that is visible by all viewers. Applies to those not otherwise prohibited from using social media sites. No indication who tracks this.srm

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1258](#)

[Zedler, Bill\(R\)](#)

Relating to the punishment for the offense of attempting to evade arrest or detention through the use of a vehicle.

Remarks: MJV-Requires a sentence for fleeing the police in a vehicle to be served after a sentence for another charge is completed if the vehicle chase meets

certain standards for recklessness.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1266](#)

[Guillen, Ryan\(D\)](#)

Relating to the creation of the Adult and Juvenile Administrative Segregation Task Force.

Remarks: WLJ - Creates a taskforce to look at segregation and seclusion policies in facilities in the state.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1268](#)

[Harper-Brown, Linda\(R\)](#)

Relating to the peace officers authorized to operate an authorized emergency service vehicle used to conduct a police escort.

Companions: [SB 545](#) Hancock, Kelly(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Adds to the definition, "police escort" airport security personnel commissioned as peace officers by the political subdivision.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1274](#)

[Crownover, Myra\(R\)](#)

Relating to the authority of certain transportation authorities to create a local government corporation.

Companions: [SB 276](#) Watson, Kirk(D) (Identical)
2-20-13 S Meeting set for 8:00
a.m., E1.016, Senate
Transportation

Remarks: MJV-Adds a rapid transportation authority and a coordinated county transportation authority to the definition of "local government" for the purpose of creating an LGC to operate under the Texas Transportation Corporation Act.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1275](#)

[Smith, Wayne\(R\)](#)

Relating to certain fees associated with the installation and monitoring of an ethyl alcohol testing device as a condition of bond.

Remarks: MJV-Allows a magistrate that imposes a requirement that a defendant install a breathalyzer in their home or vehicle to pay a monthly fee of up to \$10 to an agency designated by the magistrate for monitoring. The exact amount of the fee is set by the county auditor or by commissioners court if the county has no auditor.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1279](#)

[Lozano, Jose\(R\)](#)

Relating to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue in certain municipalities and counties.

Remarks: MJV-Inserts a bracket to allow Bee County to use its HOT tax for projects to maintain and improve critical infrastructure in the county.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1282](#) [Turner, Sylvester\(D\)](#) Relating to the copying of certain records and files relating to a child who is a party to a juvenile proceeding.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows any record and file related to a child who is a party to a proceeding to be inspected or copied by an authorized agent. (Judge, probation officer attorney)

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1283](#) [Lozano, Jose\(R\)](#) Relating to the tax exemption for permanent hotel residents in certain municipalities and counties.

Remarks: MJV-Bracket to allow Bee County to exempt permanent hotel residents from the HOT.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1287](#) [Hilderbran, Harvey\(R\)](#) Relating to the contents of an application by certain persons for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the person's residence homestead.

Remarks: MJV-Provides a way for a participant in the state address confidentiality program or nursing home resident to claim a homestead exemption without a driver's license or ID number. Allows a chief appraiser to waive the requirement for a policeman, state or federal judge, or a active duty military person (or spouse) if they have opted into a program allowing them to be issued driver's licenses with an address other than their home.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1290](#) [Phillips, Larry\(R\)](#) Relating to the authority for local governments to jointly administer transportation reinvestment zones.

Remarks: MJV-Allows two or more local governments that have adjacent transportation reinvestment zones to agree to joint administration of the zones.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[HB 1293](#) [Bell, Cecil\(R\)](#) Relating to the authority of a county to regulate the connection of electric service in the unincorporated area of the county.

Remarks: MJV-Allows commissioners court to prohibit connecting a structure to electric service for the first time in the unincorporated area without a certificate from the county. The county may not

charge a fee to issue the certificate.

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

[HB 1295](#) [Fletcher, Allen\(R\)](#) Relating to the release of a motor vehicle accident report; authorizing a fee.

Remarks: WLJ - Authorizes the release of an accident report to an "authorized agent" who is contracted with the governmental entity. Allows a copy up to \$8, and a transaction fee up to \$6.

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

[HB 1303](#) [Miller, Rick\(R\)](#) Relating to identification for poll watchers.

Remarks: States that poll watchers will be provided with ID issued by SOS to display during watcher's hours of service. srm

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

[HB 1304](#) [Sheets, Kenneth\(R\)](#) Relating to the intentional display of a handgun.

Remarks: Changes offense to read intentional display instead of failure to conceal unless it's in the use of force (no longer deadly force). srm

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

[HB 1327](#) [Lewis, Tryon\(R\)](#) Relating to increases in the records management and preservation fee and records archive fee imposed by a county clerk.

Remarks: Increases Records Mgmt & Preservation Fee to \$10 max and Records Archive Fee to \$10 max. srm

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

[HB 1329](#) [Marquez, Marisa\(D\)](#) Relating to the administration of oaths and issuance of subpoenas in an arbitration proceeding involving county firefighters or police officers; creating an offense.

Remarks: Allows and arbitration board to administer oaths and issue subpoenas to appear in arbitrations involving county public employee. If person fails to appear after issue of subpoena, creates misdemeanor offense w/ up to \$1000 fine and/or up to 30 days in county jail. This supersedes any conflicting provision in collective bargaining agreement. srm

Last Action: 2-14-13 H Filed

- [HB 1334](#) [Marquez, Marisa\(D\)](#) Relating to the composition of the El Paso County juvenile board.
- Companions:** [SB 331](#) Rodriguez, Jose(D) (Identical)
2- 5-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence
- Remarks:** Adds member of commissioners court appointed by county judge or person not on court but appointed by judge and approved by court to serve on juvenile board of El Paso Co. as option instead of county judge. srm
- Last Action:** 2-14-13 H Filed
- [HB 1359](#) [Alonzo, Roberto\(D\)](#) Relating to the date on which certain criminal defendants are eligible to file a petition for an order of nondisclosure.
- Remarks:** Reduces the amount of time for a person to request disclosure for deferred adjudication. Now 1 yr (formerly 2) after discharge for misdemeanor and 3 yrs (formerly 5) for felony. srm
- Last Action:** 2-15-13 H Filed
- [HB 1360](#) [Ritter, Allan\(R\)](#) Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property leased to and used by certain schools.
- Remarks:** Allows for property tax exemption if property is leased to a qualifying school and rent is reduced by an amount equal to tax exemption. srm
- Last Action:** 2-15-13 H Filed
- [HJR 81](#) [Craddick, Tom\(R\)](#) Proposing a constitutional amendment designating the sheriff as the chief law enforcement officer of the county.
- Remarks:** MJV-Designates the sheriff as the chief law enforcement officer of the county.
- Last Action:** 2-12-13 H Filed
- [HJR 82](#) [Menendez, Jose\(D\)](#) Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature under certain limitations to specify the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation to which certain disabled veterans and the surviving spouses.
- Companions:** [SJR 30](#) Van de Putte, Leticia (D) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance
- Remarks:** WLJ - Removes from the constitution the percentage and dollar amount specifics for ad valorem tax exemptions for disabled vets. Instead

it authorizes the legislature to specify it.

Last Action: 2-12-13 H Filed

[HJR 83](#)

[Hughes, Bryan\(R\)](#)

Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring certain tax bills to be approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the legislature.

Companions: [SJR 27](#) Birdwell, Brian(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 S Introduced and referred
to committee on Senate Finance

Remarks: MJV-Requires a 2/3 record vote in each house to pass a bill that imposes a new tax or increases the rate of an existing state tax.

-Exempts bills that amend the computation of a state tax, a change in administration or enforcement, or a change in applicability of a state tax.

-Stipulates that a "State tax" does not include a local tax, a fine, penalty, or interest charge, service charge, filing fee, license or registration fee, or application fee.

Last Action: 2-13-13 H Filed

[SB 13](#)

[Duncan, Robert\(R\)](#)

Relating to the State Pension Review Board and public retirement systems; authorizing fee.

Companions: [HB 13](#) Callegari, Bill(R) (Identical)
2-11-13 H Introduced and referred
to committee on House Pensions

Remarks: MJV-Requires the State Pension Review Board to post on its website the most recent annual financial report for each public retirement system along with the contact information for the administrator of the system. The public retirement system must also post the report and contact information on their website.

-The board's website must include a list of any systems that have not submitted their reports.

-Requires each public retirement system to annually report to the board their investment returns and assumptions for future years.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

[SB 14](#)

[Williams, Tommy\(R\)](#)

Relating to the fiscal transparency and accountability of certain entities responsible for public money.

Companions: [HB 14](#) Pitts, Jim(R) (Identical)

2-11-13 H Introduced and referred
to committee on House
Appropriations

Remarks: MJV-Requires the comptroller to list all counties on the web with their sales and use tax rate and their property tax rate.

-Imposes new requirements on the Attorney General in reviewing public securities. Prohibits approval of a security until the AG has received written notice that the bond review board has the information it needs from the AG.

-Requires the bond finance office to publish an annual report on local debt statistics.

-Requires a ballot to authorize a political subdivision to issue bonds to include specific financial details as both total amounts and per capita amounts. Requires a sample ballot to be posted on the political subdivision's website as soon as it is finalized.

-Requires a political subdivision to prepare an annual financial report that includes financial information for each fund, total receipts of the fund, disbursements of the fund, debt obligation information (both total and per capita), and any other information required by law.

-Requires the annual report to be made available for inspection and posted on the political subdivision's website with contact office for the main office of the political subdivision. Requires a political subdivision to maintain a website to ensure compliance.

-Prohibits authorizing a certificate of obligation if a bond proposition for the same purpose was defeated at an election during the preceding three years. Prohibits issuing a certificate unless notice is published in a newspaper at least 45 days before passing the order (currently 30 days) and requires posting on the internet for 45 days. The notice must include the amount of the certificate, current debt outstanding, estimated interest rate, maturity date of the certificate, and detailed information on the process to petition for an election (requires 5% of the total voters in the last gubernatorial general election).

-Imposes similar requirements on school districts, junior college districts, and special districts.

-Repeals a provision requiring submission of the annual financial statement to a newspaper in the county.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 417](#)



[Ellis, Rodney\(D\)](#)

Relating to public access to personal financial statements filed by candidates for and holders of state office and state chairs of political parties.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires ethics reports for legislators be posted online. Repeals the requirement to file a request to review the report.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

[SB 419](#)



[Zaffirini, Judith\(D\)](#)

Relating to the creation of a central database for and health and human services agency investigations of alleged abuse, neglect, and exploitation violations and rights violations at certain facilities operated in this state.

Remarks: WLJ - creates a central database to track reports and investigations into alleged abuse, neglect and exploitation violations committed by employees of a state operated facility, facility that provides medicaid services, facility that reports to HHS. If an employee is found to have committed reportable conduct the department must contact the licensing agency.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

[SB 421](#)



[Zaffirini, Judith\(D\)](#)

Relating to the Texas System of Care and the development of local mental health systems of care for certain children.

Remarks: WLJ - Creates the Texas System of Care Consortium whose responsibility is to develop local mental health systems of care for juveniles with mental health issues. Repeals the Mental Health Services for youth Grants.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

[SB 429](#)



[Nelson, Jane\(R\)](#)

Relating to the dismissal or nonsuit of a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires a court to consider child support, visitation orders and what is in the best interest of the child before approving or dismissing a parent-child relationship suit. Requires the county to provide an order for child support and visitation and any other order for the best interests of a child, prior to asking a court to dismiss a suit to terminate a parent-child relationship.

Last Action: 2-19-13 S Meeting set for 9:00 A.M., Senate

Chamber, Senate Health and Human Services

[SB 432](#)

[Patrick, Dan\(R\)](#)

Relating to the eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits of individuals who serve on the appraisal review board of an appraisal district.

Companions: [HB 982](#) Elkins, Gary(R) (Identical)
2- 5-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Prohibits work as an appraisal review board member from qualifying for unemployment compensation.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Economic Development

[SB 433](#)

[Patrick, Dan\(R\)](#)

Relating to the regulation of game rooms in certain counties; providing penalties; authorizing a fee.

Companions: [HB 1127](#) Smith, Wayne(R) (Identical)
2- 8-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Allows Harris County to license and regulate game rooms in the County.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

[SB 438](#)

[Birdwell, Brian\(R\)](#)

Relating to an interlocal contract between a governmental entity and a purchasing cooperative to purchase roofing materials or services.

Companions: [HB 123](#) Anderson, Doc(R) (Identical)
2- 6-13 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Government Efficiency and Reform

Remarks: MJV-Prohibits using an interlocal contract between a governmental entity and a purchasing coop to purchase roofing materials or services from a person who provided consulting services to the coop on the contract, or a person who is an agent, subsidiary, or parent company of such a consultant or a relative of the consultant.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

[SB 449](#)

[Hinojosa, Chuy\(D\)](#)

Relating to prohibition on the issuance of capital appreciation bonds by local governments.

Remarks: MJV-Prohibits local governments from using Capital Appreciation Bonds (CAB).

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

[SB 452](#)

[Patrick, Dan\(R\)](#)

Relating to the date of the primary election and

related procedures.

Remarks: MJV-Moves the general primary election date from March to February. Moves the runoff primary election date from May to April. Moves the presidential primary election date from March to February.

-Requires a candidate's application for a place on the ballot to include a statement that the candidate is aware of the resign-to-run provision for county offices.

-Moves the deadline for an application for a place on the general primary election ballot to November and makes corresponding adjustments to requirements for the secretary of state and the parties and for making nominations by parties. See also SJR 28, which extends resign to run by 30 days.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

[SB 456](#)

[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to building code standards for new residential construction in the unincorporated area of a county.

Companions: [HB 761](#) Marquez, Marisa(D) (Identical)
1-28-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Stipulates that the county building codes provision does not apply to building a new home on land appraised for agricultural use or open-space land; if it is not within 1000 feet of a platted subdivision; will be the primary residence of the builder; and is the first residential construction on the property or an addition to an existing single family home.

-Allows a county to require a certificate of compliance in order to connect utility services.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

[SB 457](#)

[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to the confidentiality of certain autopsy records.

Companions: [HB 688](#) Marquez, Marisa(D) (Identical)
1-24-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Clarifies that a governmental body may withhold an autopsy photograph or x-ray from public disclosure without requesting an AG opinion.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Open Government

[SB 458](#)[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to certain motor vehicle records excepted from disclosure under the Public Information Act.

Companions: [HB 987](#) Marquez, Marisa(D) (Identical)
2- 5-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Adds motor vehicle title or registration information to the motor vehicle records information a governmental body may redact without obtaining an attorney general opinion.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Open Government

[SB 461](#)[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to development regulations for certain unincorporated areas located near the Tornillo-Guadalupe Port of Entry; providing a penalty.

Companions: [HB 1130](#) Gonzalez, Mary(D) (Identical)
2- 8-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Allows El Paso County to exercise land use regulation authority in a specified area of the county where the Tornillo-Guadalupe Port of Entry will be located.

-The Commissioners court may divide the area into districts with unique regulations appropriate for each district. The court will appoint a commission to determine the boundaries and appropriate regulations for each district.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

[SB 462](#)[Huffman, Joan\(R\)](#)

Relating to specialty court programs in this state.

Remarks:

- Prohibits specialty courts that fail to register with the CJD ineligible from receiving state or federal grant money;
- Creates outcome and evidence-based best practices to serve as guidance for courts;
- Requires the collection of standardized performance data; and
- Consolidates numerous existing specialty court statutes in one place.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

[SB 464](#)[Deuell, Bob\(R\)](#)

Relating to the dismissal of complaints against property tax professionals.

Companions: [HB 1042](#) Flynn, Dan(R) (Identical)
2- 6-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Amends the terms to dismiss a complaint

against a property tax assessor. Allows the department to dismiss a complaint, wholly or in part, if there is no credible allegation of a violation without a hearing. Terms of dismissal includes a challenge for not waiving penalties or interest; based on the appraised value; the appraisal methodology; or the denial of an exemption. Also dismissal without a hearing is allowed if the subject of the complaint is not resolved in the complainants favor by the review board, the county, an arbitrator, or a court.

A county can't dismiss without a hearing for a metter referred by the comptroller, a registrants failure to comply with the registration certifications, or a chief appraisers failure to comple a training program.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 465](#)



[Van de Putte, Leticia\(D\)](#)

Relating to the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation to which certain disabled veterans and the surviving spouses and children of certain veterans are entitled.

Companions: [HB 1217](#) [Menendez, Jose\(D\)](#) (Identical)
2-12-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Increases the homestead ad valorem exeption amount for disabled veterans, based on the disability rating as follows: \$5000 to \$10000; \$7500 to \$15,000; \$10,000 to \$20,000; \$12,000 to \$25,000. Increases the exemption amount for a disabled veteran, over the age of 65 from \$12,000 to \$24,000. Increases the surviving spouse exemption from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The exemption for minor children is increased from \$2,000 to \$10,000.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 467](#)



[Hegar, Glenn\(R\)](#)

Relating to the regulatory analysis of rules proposed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Remarks:

WLJ- Requires the TCEQ to include the following when proposing a rule change:

- identify what they are trying to fix;
- the environmental effects due to the change, including the projected level of reduction of pollutants;
- costs to state, local gov. public, and businesses
- If it affects small business they must produce another analysis indicating what costs small businesses will face from the

rule change;

- Allows anyone that provides public testimony to challenge the validity of a rule change based on compliance with the procedural requirements.
- If a court finds the procedure is not followed, the rule change is invalid

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources

[SB 471](#)



[Ellis, Rodney\(D\)](#)

Relating to technological efficiencies in the recording of certain open meetings.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows alternate recording of an open meeting to count towards the (currently specifies tape) open meetings act requirement. (Project)

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Open Government

[SB 473](#)



[Carona, John\(R\)](#)

Relating to the regulation of temporary common worker employers.

Remarks: MJV-Repeals a state program for regulation of temporary common worker employers (organizations that provide a job center arrangement for day laborers) and replaces it with permissive authority for cities or counties to regulate them. The city or county may collect a fee for issuing a license. A person who violates a city or county regulation commits a Class A misdemeanor.

Last Action: 2-19-13 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016, Senate Business and Commerce

[SB 476](#)



[Hinojosa, Chuy\(D\)](#)

Relating to installment agreements for the payment of delinquent ad valorem taxes.

Remarks: MJV-Requires a collector for a taxing unit to enter into an installment payment agreement with an owner of a residence homestead with delinquent taxes if they have not done so in the previous two years. Exempts property that is a residence homestead from penalties normally accrued in an installment plan.

-Requires property tax lenders to provide notice that a property owner should contact their taxing unit regarding an installment agreement if they have delinquent taxes. Requires the collector for a taxing unit to provide the same notice in sending a notice of delinquency.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

[SB 477](#)[Hinojosa, Chuy\(D\)](#)

Relating to an optional procedure for the issuance of a permit by a certain regional mobility authority for the movement of oversize or overweight vehicles.

Companions: [HB 474](#) Munoz, Sergio(D) (Identical)
2-13-13 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

Remarks: MJV-Permits TxDOT to authorize an RMA in Hidalgo County to issue permits for overweight or oversize vehicles to carry cargo on certain roads. Fees (max of \$80 per trip) may only be used for construction and maintenance of those roads and administrative costs.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation

[SB 486](#)[Taylor, Larry\(R\)](#)

Relating to the calculation of ad valorem taxes on the residence homestead of a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of the veteran for the tax year in which the veteran or spouse qualifies or ceases to qualif

Companions: [HB 1008](#) Bonnen, Dennis(R) (Identical)
2- 6-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Makes a 100% tax exemption for the residence homestead of a 100% disabled veteran or their surviving spouse apply to the entire year in which the homeowner qualifies for the exemption (current law pro-rates the exemption).

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 520](#)[Paxton, Ken\(R\)](#)

Relating to allowing persons acquiring a new residence homestead to receive an ad valorm tax exemption on the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired.

Remarks: WLJ- provides that homestead exemptions apply on January 1 of the year in which a homeowner acquires the home and applies for the entire tax year.

Last Action: 2-12-13 S Filed

[SB 526](#)[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to a prohibition on certain law enforcement inquiries regarding the nationality or immigration status of a victim of or witness to a criminal offense.

Remarks: WLJ - Prohibits a peace officer from enquiring about a witness' immigration status.

Last Action: 2-12-13 S Filed

[SB 527](#)[Rodriguez, Jose\(D\)](#)

Relating to the detention by local law enforcement agencies of certain persons subject to federal

immigration detainees.

Remarks: WLJ-Prohibits law enforcement from detaining a defendant on an immigration detainer once they have posted bail or the charges are dismissed, unless the charge is for murder, indecency w/ a child, kidnapping, sexual assault, or robbery.

May not detain a defendant as a witness.

Last Action: 2-12-13 S Filed

[SB 531](#)

[Duncan, Robert\(R\)](#)

Relating to self-insurance funds established by governmental units.

Companions: [HB 1226](#) Smithee, John(R) (Identical)
2-12-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Permits a county to purchase re-insurance (to reimburse the entity for large losses) and clarifies that self-insurance meets the requirements of purchasing an insurance product.

Last Action: 2-12-13 S Filed

[SB 536](#)

[Hinojosa, Chuy\(D\)](#)

Relating to regulation of greenhouse gas emissions by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Companions: [HB 788](#) Smith, Wayne(R) (Identical)
1-29-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV - Requires the TCEQ to oversee regulation of greenhouse gases including issuing permits and regulations. The regulations are to cease if the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions are no longer required by the EPA.

Last Action: 2-12-13 S Filed

[SB 543](#)

[Seliqer, Kel\(R\)](#)

Relating to the authority of the Midland County Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, to employ and commission peace officers.

Companions: [HB 1211](#) Craddick, Tom(R) (Identical)
2-12-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Allows the Board of Directors for the Midland County Hospital District to commission peace officers.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 545](#)

[Hancock, Kelly\(R\)](#)

Relating to the peace officers authorized to operate an authorized emergency service vehicle used to conduct a police escort.

Companions: [HB 1268](#) Harper-Brown, Linda(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 H Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Adds to the denifition, "police escort" airport security personnel commissioned as peace officers by the political subdivision.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 549](#) [Williams, Tommy\(R\)](#) Relating to penalties for engaging in organized criminal activity.

Remarks: MJV-Enhances the felony penalties for organized criminal activity and directing gang activities.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 550](#) [Uresti, Carlos\(D\)](#) Relating to the determination that a voter is deceased.

Remarks: MJV-Requires the Secretary of State, in making a determination that a voter is deceased, to identify the following information: full name, date of birth, and driver's license, social security number, or ID number if they have one.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 552](#) [Uresti, Carlos\(D\)](#) Relating to an application filed with a county commissioners court to revise a subdivision plat.

Remarks: MJV-If commissioners court of a border county determines that a re-plat application does not affect a public interest, the normal published notice of a hearing is not required. The court must provide written notice to the owners of lots within 200 feet of the plat.

-Commissioners court (border county) may assess a fee to cover costs of processing the application, including publishing notice.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 553](#) [Uresti, Carlos\(D\)](#) Relating to certain high school students serving as early voting clerks in an election.

Remarks: MJV-Allows a school to adopt a policy to allow a student an excused absence for serving as a student early voting clerk. Provides that a student early voting clerk may work in an election.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 554](#) [Campbell, Donna\(R\)](#) Relating to the penalty for theft of an official ballot or official carrier envelope for an election.

Remarks: MJV-Increases the offense of theft of an official ballot or official carrier envelope for an election from a state jail felony to a third degree felony.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Filed

[SB 568](#)

[Watson, Kirk\(D\)](#)

Relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedures.

Remarks: Requires 2 voter registrars at each polling place while open. Allows for voters to register at polling place. Creates a state jail felony for offenses in this section (rather than misdemeanor) if they've registered at polling place. srm

Last Action: 2-14-13 S Filed

[SJR 27](#)

[Birdwell, Brian\(R\)](#)

Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring certain tax bills to be approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the legislature.

Companions: [HJR 83](#) Hughes, Bryan(R) (Identical)
2-13-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Requires a 2/3 record vote in each house to pass a bill that imposes a new tax or increases the rate of an existing state tax.

-Exempts bills that amend the computation of a state tax, a change in administration or enforcement, or a change in applicability of a state tax.

-Stipulates that a "State tax" does not include a local tax, a fine, penalty, or interest charge, service charge, filing fee, license or registration fee, or application fee.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SJR 28](#)

[Patrick, Dan\(R\)](#)

Proposing a constitution amendment to change the length of the unexpired term that causes the automatic resignation of certain elected county or district officeholders if they become candidates for another office.

Remarks: MJV-Changes the time period for the county officers resign-to-run safe harbor from 1 one year and 30 days to 1 year and 60 days.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

[SJR 30](#)

[Van de Putte, Leticia\(D\)](#)

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature under certain limitations to specify the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation to which certain disabled veterans and the surviving spouses.

Companions: [HJR 82](#) Menendez, Jose(D) (Identical)

2-12-13 H Filed

Remarks: MJV-Constitutional Amendment-takes specific language giving disabled veterans specific homestead exemptions (dollar amounts based on specific disability above 10%) to allow the legislature to determine the establish the amounts. Makes a conforming repeal.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SJR 32](#)[Paxton, Ken\(R\)](#)

Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize a political subdivision other than a school district to establish a limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes that the political subdivision may impose.

Remarks: MJV-Expands the optional tax freeze for residence homesteads of persons who are disable or 65 or older (an election must be called if petitioned by 5% of the registered voters) to include all political subdivisions other than a school district.

Last Action: 2-13-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

	All	Track
Total Bills:	134	0

- End of Report -