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Commissioner
Kevin Burns
Wise County

Chair-Elect
Judge
Sarah Eckhardt
Travis County

Immediate Past Chair
Commissioner
Bobbie Mitchell
Denton County

Vice-Chairmen
Comm. Kevin Wolff
Bexar County
Judge Matt Sebesta
Brazoria County
Judge Eddie Treviño
Cameron County
Comm. Andy Meyers
Fort Bend County
Comm. Robin Donnelly
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Judge Glen Whitley
Tarrant County

Executive Director
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Member Counties
Bell · Bexar
Brazoria · Brazos
Cameron · Chambers
Collin · Comal
Dallas · Denton
Ector · El Paso
Fort Bend · Galveston
Grayson · Harris
Hays · Hidalgo
Jefferson · Johnson
Kaufman · Lubbock
McLennan · Midland
Montgomery · Nueces
Potter · Randall
Rockwall · San Patricio
Smith · Tarrant
Travis · Webb
Williamson · Wise

500 West 13th Street
Austin, TX 78701

512.476.6174

www.cuc.org

Policy Committee Meeting
Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol
701 East 11th Street Austin, Texas 78701

January 9, 2019

AGENDA

- 9:30 AM Convene.
1. Welcome, Introductions.
 2. Overview of Policy Committee Procedures. [John Dahill] [pg. 2]
 3. Consider the minutes from the December 13, 2018 meeting. [pg. 3]
 4. Administrative items. [Veronikah Sanford]
 - a. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Travis County Building 700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas.
 - b. Discuss 2019 Policy Committee meeting dates. [pg. 5]
 5. Policy Director's Report. [Adam Haynes]
 - a. Legislative Dates of Interest [pg. 7]
 6. Review Policy Platform [Adam Haynes] [pg. 8]
 7. Review bills of interest to date [Adam Haynes] [pg. 13]
 8. State Budget Update [Windy Johnson]
 9. New business.

11:30 AM Adjourn.



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To: Urban Counties Policy Committee

From: John Dahill, Executive Director

Re: **Process for CUC Policy Formulation**

Article VII (Legislative Positions) of the Urban Counties Bylaws provides:

- (1) Legislative positions of Texas Conference and Urban Counties shall be developed and adopted by the Standing Committee on Policy.
- (2) Legislative positions adopted by the Standing Committee on Policy shall be reported to all members of the corporation during the next regular or special meeting of the corporation.
- (3) Legislative positions adopted by the Standing Committee on Policy may be modified during any regular or special meeting of the corporation by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting.

Policy Committee Meeting
DoubleTree Suites | 303 W. 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701

December 13, 2018

Minutes

Members Present

Commissioner Tim Brown, Bell County
Commissioner Kevin Wolff, Bexar County (Proxy Melissa Shannon)
Judge Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County
Commissioner Alex Dominguez, Cameron County
Judge Eddie Trevino Jr., Cameron County
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Collin County
Commissioner David Stout, El Paso County
Judge Robert Hebert, Fort Bend County
Commissioner Andy Meyers, Fort Bend County
Commissioner Ken Clark, Galveston County
Judge Bill Magers, Grayson County
Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County
Commissioner Brent Weaver, Jefferson County
Judge Bruce Wood, Kaufman County
Commissioner Bill McCay, Lubbock County (Proxy Commissioner Mark Heinrich)
Judge Mike Bradford, Midland County
Commissioner Robin Donnelly Midland County
Judge Craig Doyal, Montgomery County
Judge Glenn Whitley, Tarrant County (Proxy Mr. GK Maenius)
Commissioner Margaret Gomez, Travis County
Commissioner Valerie Covey, Williamson County
Commissioner Kevin Burns, Wise County

Others Present

Judge-Elect David Blackburn, Bell County
David Garcia, Cameron County
Charles Reed, Dallas County
Claudia Russell, El Paso County
Ender Reed, Harris County
Donna Warndorf, Harris County
Judge-Elect Hal Richards, Kaufman County
Craig Pardue, Midland County
Chandler Merritt, Tarrant County
Russell Schaffner, Tarrant County
Gregg Knaupe, Travis County
Deece Eckstein, Travis County
John Dahill, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Adam Haynes, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Windy Johnson, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Gabriela Villareal, Texas Conference of Urban Counties
Veronikah Sanford, Texas Conference of Urban Counties

Judge Emmett called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM

The Committee discussed agenda item 2, attendance record. On a motion by Judge Loyd Neal and a second by Judge Bob Hebert, the attendance record was approved as presented.

The Committee considered agenda item 3, the minutes of the May 24, 2018 meeting. On a motion by Judge Bob Hebert and second by Commissioner Kevin Burns, the minutes were approved as presented.

The Committee discussed agenda item 4. a) and 4. b), the next meeting date and meeting schedule for 2019.

The Committee discussed agenda item 5, Policy Director's Report.

The Committee discussed agenda item 6, Policy Platform Redesign.

1. On a motion by Judge Bill Magers, and a second by, Commissioner Susan Fletcher, the Policy Platform Redesign change below was approved.

Urban Counties believe permissive authority provides better policy options while ~~unfunded~~ State-mandates, revenue restrictions, and one-size-fits-all directives undermine voter self-determination and local responsibility.

2. On a motion by Mr. GK Maenius, and a second by Judge Bob Hebert, the Policy Platform Redesign change below was approved.

Urban Counties believes that funds collected for a purpose should be used for that purpose and supports ending the reliance ~~and utilization of~~ on dedicated revenues to balance the State budget.

The Committee discussed agenda item 7, State Budget Update.

The Committee discussed agenda item 8, Policy Committee Elections in January.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Judge Ed Emmett
Vice Chairman of Policy

Date

January 2019

<i>January 8, 2019</i>	<i>86th Legislature Convenes</i>		
January 9-11, 2019	Annual Education & Policy Conference		Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol
January 9, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol
January 10, 2019	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Membership Luncheon	Sheraton Hotel at the Capitol

February 2019

February 13, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
February 13, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin

March 2019

<i>March 8, 2019</i>	<i>60 Day Filing Deadline</i>		
March 13, 2019	10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
March 13, 2019	12:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin

April 2019

April 17, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
April 17, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin

May 2019

May 8, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
May 8, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
<i>May 27, 2019</i>	<i>Last Day of the 86th Legislature</i>		

June 2019

June 6, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
June 6, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
June 6, 2019	2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Round Table	700 Lavaca, Austin
<i>June 16, 2019</i>	<i>Veto Deadline</i>		

August 2019

August 1, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
August 1, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
August 1, 2019	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Round Table	700 Lavaca, Austin

October 2019

October 9-11, 2019	12:00 PM – 12:00 PM	TIHCA Annual Conference	Hotel Galvez & Spa Galveston
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November 2019

November 7, 2019	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Policy Committee Meeting	700 Lavaca, Austin
November 7, 2019	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Membership Luncheon	700 Lavaca, Austin
November 7, 2019	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Round Table	700 Lavaca, Austin

January 2020

January 15-17, 2020	Education & Policy Conference	Hotel Paso Del Norte, El Paso
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Regular Session

- **Tuesday, January 8, 2019 (1st day)**
86th Legislature convenes
([Sec. 5\(a\), Article III, Texas Constitution](#); [Sec. 301.001, Government Code](#))
- **Upon the convening of the 86th Legislature**
The comptroller of public accounts delivers the Biennial Revenue Estimate to the governor and the 86th Legislature
([Sec. 49a, Article III, Texas Constitution](#); [Sec. 403.121, Government Code](#))
- **Monday, January 14, 2019**
LBB budget estimates delivered to the governor and the 86th Legislature
([Sec. 322.008\(c\), Government Code](#))
- **Tuesday, January 15, 2019**
Inauguration of the governor and lieutenant governor
([Sec. Sec. 4, Article IV, Texas Constitution](#))
LBB general appropriations bill delivered to the governor and the 86th Legislature
([Sec. 322.008\(d\), Government Code](#))
- **Before the governor's State of the State address to the 86th Legislature**
The governor delivers the governor's budget to the 86th Legislature
([Sec. 401.046, Government Code](#))
- **Friday, March 8, 2019 (60th day)**
Deadline for the unrestricted filing of bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and emergency matters submitted by the governor
([Sec. 5\(b\), Article III, Texas Constitution](#); [House Rule 8, Sec. 8](#); [Senate Rule 7.07\(b\)](#); [Senate Rule 10.01](#) subjects joint resolutions to the rules governing proceedings on bills)
- **Monday, May 27, 2019 (140th day)**
Last day of 86th Legislature (sine die)
([Sec. 24\(b\), Art. III, Texas Constitution](#))

Interim

- **Sunday, June 16, 2019**
(20th day following final adjournment of 86th Legislature, Regular Session)
Last day the governor may sign or veto bills passed during the regular session
([Sec. 14, Art. IV, Texas Constitution](#))
- **Monday, August 26, 2019**
(91st day following final adjournment of 86th Legislature, Regular Session)
Date that bills without specific effective dates, other than bills with immediate effect, become law
([Sec. 39, Art. III, Texas Constitution](#))

Principles of the Urban Counties Policy Platform

1. Urban Counties believe local government is more responsive and accountable to the citizens and communities and should be utilized for service delivery whenever practical.
2. Urban Counties believe permissive authority provides better policy options while state mandates, revenue restrictions, and one-size-fits-all directives undermine voter self-determination and local responsibility.
3. Urban Counties believe the State increases local property taxes when it imposes obligations on local governments without providing adequate funding.
4. Urban Counties believe State funds collected for specific programs should be allocated based upon population, number of clients, or some other appropriate measure of the need for that program or service.
5. Urban Counties believes that funds collected for a purpose should be used for that purpose and support ending the reliance on dedicated revenues to balance the State budget.

1 Taxation

1. Support the significant reduction of property tax rates by measures to reduce the cost of government and by replacing property tax revenue with revenue from other sources.
2. Require sales price disclosure on transfer of real property.
3. Oppose any expansion of the pollution control property tax exemption that would include property used to produce goods or services.
4. Oppose expansion of tax exemptions for property owned by a taxpayer to include leased property other than property leased to a charter school for one or more grades from kindergarten through grade 12.
5. Support allowing local taxing units to set a residence homestead exemption as a percentage, a flat-dollar level, or a percentage with a minimum or maximum individual value.
6. Support reforms to process for equity appeals of appraisals.
7. Oppose the repeal of the penalty when land that was previously appraised as agricultural property is converted to another use.
8. Oppose all new property tax exemptions, expansion of existing exemptions, or any other narrowing of tax base unless approved by the Urban Counties.
9. Support a significant increase in the school homestead exemption and ensure adjustments are made in state funding to schools to account for the exemption.
10. Support property tax transparency and information proposals from SB 669 85(R), as passed by the House during the regular session, including:
 - a. Removing projected tax assessment information from the central appraisal district (CAD) notice of assessed value;

- b. Requiring proposed tax rates and hearing information be provided to the CAD where they would be made available to taxpayers online; and
 - c. Renaming the “effective” tax rate as the “no-new-taxes” tax rate.
11. Support allowing school districts to increase their tax rate to a previously approved level after a decrease rather than having to hold a second increase ratification election;
 12. Support using a portion of the Economic Stabilization Fund to lower school tax rates;
 13. Support protections for innocent and unwitting taxpayers that acquire property subject to governmental errors in previous tax years from having to pay back taxes due to those errors; and
 14. Support mandatory price disclosure of real property sales.

2 Crime and Courts

1. Support full state funding for all mandatory JJAEP placements in an amount adequate for year-round programs.
2. Support an increase in state funding for indigent defense purposes.
3. Support additional state funding for juvenile probation departments if the age of criminal responsibility is raised to 18.
4. Support sufficient State funding for local juvenile probation departments to pay for the full costs of keeping in local programs, or in regional detention facilities, all children diverted from State facilities through a restructuring of the State Juvenile Justice Department.
5. Support state payment to counties for costs of detaining in county jails technical parole violators and new-offense violators held solely for parole revocation purposes.
6. Oppose changes in court costs in criminal cases that are expected to have a negative fiscal impact to counties.
7. Support changes to pre-trial release to require the use of locally verified evaluation tools to determine a criminal defendant’s risk of flight or danger to the community. Promote: (1) establishing pretrial risk assessments; (2) the elimination of bond schedules; (3) greater discretion for magistrates regarding pre-trial release; and (4) rebuttable presumptions in favor of personal bond.
8. Maintain current fee structure for the district court records and archives fee, the county court records management and preservation fee, and the records archive fee through 2029.
9. Support granting counties authority to judicially designate as uncollectible certain fees and costs of court.

3 Transportation

1. Oppose eliminating tolling options unless state funding for highways is increased sufficiently to replace lost toll revenue.

2. Support enhanced funding for freight transportation infrastructure projects to address economic growth and an ever-increasing population.
3. Support current weight requirements for vehicles operating on county roads, except for localized proposals supported by the local commissioners court.
4. Support changes to the administrative fees retained by counties to register vehicles only if the new fees are reasonably expected to recoup county costs for providing those services.
5. Oppose the establishment of uniform limits on the fees charged by authorized private deputies for title services.

4 Health and Human Services

1. Support increased funding for mental health and substance abuse services state-wide.
2. Expand capacity of both forensic and civil beds in the state hospital system.
3. Support the continuation of the 1115 Medicaid Transformation Waiver.
4. Support state action related to state participation in the funding of indigent health care to maximize access to available federal funds.
5. Not oppose the repeal of the Drivers Responsibility Program. If repealed, seek replacement funding for trauma care.
6. Support continued federal funding to local communities for refugee healthcare.

5 Environment

1. Support full funding for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan, LIRAP, and LIP programs and maintain the integrity of the TERP, LIRAP, and LIP programs.
2. Support local administration of the LIRAP and LIP programs to ensure funds collected in the county are used in the county.
3. Use the TERP funds only for programs that will assist nonattainment and near nonattainment areas in meeting EPA Ozone standards.

6 Development and Infrastructure

1. In the absence of market value transparency, oppose efforts to require local governments to pay an opposing party's attorney fees and court costs in eminent domain proceedings.
2. Oppose changes to the criteria governments must meet to show "actual progress" on projects to prevent real property acquired through eminent domain to be subject to repurchase if the changes would require significant expenditures for development labor and materials to show actual progress.

7 Public Safety and Emergency Management

1. Support giving all counties the option to adopt a fire code and rules necessary to administer and enforce the fire code.

2. Oppose creation of a new fireworks season unless commissioners courts are granted discretion over the sale of fireworks in that county for the new season.
3. Protect county authority to restrict or ban the sale and use of fireworks during drought conditions and when included in a local disaster declaration.
4. Support the current role of local emergency management authorities and the county judge in responding to potential and actual emergencies and disasters.
5. Support efforts to maintain the long-established prohibition of guns in any portion of a building used by court participants.
6. Support additional funding for DPS crime labs provided it does not negatively impact existing local crime labs.

8 Elections

1. Support the creation of an online voter registration system.

9 Governance and Finance

1. Confirm commissioners court authority over the county budget and contracting.
2. No unfunded mandates.
3. Oppose arbitrary limits on local government that are more restrictive than limits on state government, so long as:
 - a. Commissioners Courts remain limited in their ability to manage county business and control county budgets; and
 - b. There is no constitutional protection against unfunded mandates.
4. Support local control over compensation and benefits paid by the county.
5. Establish that any increase in the fees to be paid to attorneys appointed to represent indigent criminal defendants may not take effect until the adoption of the next county budget and require at least 90-day notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.
6. Support full state funding for representation of indigent parties in child welfare cases.
7. Support financial transparency requirements that permit the use of existing reports and other documents and that minimize the need to express the same information in different manners or formats.
8. Oppose mandates to produce financial reports that are duplicative of reports already required of counties.
9. Oppose collective bargaining for peace officers unless supported by the commissioners court of the counties affected by the legislation.
10. Support legislation that permits counties to post public notices electronically in lieu of print publication.
11. Oppose requirements to include on bond propositions information other than the total amount of bonds to be issued if approved and the proposed uses of the bonds.

12. Establish that the earliest effective date for any increase in salary budgets outside the control of commissioners court shall be the first day of the next county fiscal year following 90 days notice of the proposed increase to be provided to the commissioners court.
13. Support continued federal funding for local communities to help cover operational costs for holding undocumented criminal aliens in the criminal justice system and the costs to house them.
14. Oppose restrictions on the ability of local governments to effectively and efficiently communicate with the legislature and other state and federal entities.
15. Support proposals to permit public access to public information on the personal devices of public officers and employees that include reasonable provisions to guard against frivolous and abusive lawsuits against public officers and employees.

Other Issues

Items in this list are legislative positions regarding initiatives of member counties or other groups or organizations.



Bill Research Report

01-07-2019 - 13:05:14

Select All

Deselect All

-
- HB 22 Romero, Ramon(D) Relating to the use of direct recording electronic voting machines.
- Companions:** SB 1144 Hall, Bob(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)
- Remarks:** WLJ - Requires all election machines to provide a paper receipt by 2021. Prohibits DRE machines that does not provide an auditable voting system.
- Last Action:** 11-12-18 H Filed
- HB 42 White, James(R) Relating to allocating a portion of oil and gas production tax revenue to the counties from which the oil and gas originated and to the use of that revenue.
- Remarks:** WLJ - Sets aside 2% of Gas production tax and Oil production taxes to a trust fund for counties to be disbursed in proportion to amount produced in that county to be used only for maintenance and construction of county roads impacted by oil/gas activities.
- Last Action:** 11-12-18 H Filed
- HB 54 Zerwas, John(R) Relating to the system for protesting or appealing certain ad valorem tax determinations.
- Remarks:** aph - Similar to SB 67. aph - Comprehensive changes for the method of property tax appraisals. Broadens the powers of the CPA to manage training and review of individual appraisers and central system for equalizing appraisal system.
- Last Action:** 11-12-18 H Filed
- HB 62 Zerwas, John(R) Relating to certain meetings of a commissioners court during a disaster or emergency.
- Remarks:** MGV - Authorizes a commissioners court to hold open or closed meeting solely to deliberate about disaster or emergency conditions during a disaster or emergency. Prohibits votes or final actions on a matter during a meeting.
- Last Action:** 11-12-18 H Filed

 HB 81 Canales, Terry(D) Relating to the disclosure under the public information law of certain information related to parades, concerts, or other entertainment events open to the general public that are paid for with public funds.

Remarks: WLJ - Prohibits a governmental body from including a nondisclosure agreement for a contract or agreement for a governmentally funded parade, concert or other entertainment event open to the general public and paid for with public funds.

Last Action: 11-12-18 H Filed

 HB 192 Reynolds, Ron(D) Relating to electronic voter registration.

Companions: [HB 1955](#) Reynolds, Ron(D) (Refiled from 85R Session)

Remarks: WLJ - SOS to create online voter registration.

Last Action: 11-12-18 H Filed

 HB 274 Davis, Sarah(R) Relating to the creation of the disaster reinvestment and infrastructure planning revolving fund and the permissible uses of that fund.

Remarks: MGV - Creates disaster reinvestment and infrastructure planning revolving fund outside of state treasury, to be administered by TWDB, for assistance with financing infrastructure projects with money from the legislature, federal sources.

Last Action: 11-12-18 H Filed

 HB 281 Middleton, Mayes (F)(R) Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public money for lobbying activities.

Remarks: WLJ-Requires the secretary of state to allow a voter to complete a registration application on their website. The SOS will forward the application to the appropriate county registrar.

Last Action: 1- 2-19 H Filed

 HB 291 Springer, Drew(R) Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to issue a building construction permit or final certificate of occupancy for a building or facility required to meet certain accessibility standards.

Remarks: MGV -Prohibits a public official of a political subdivision from accepting an application for a building construction permit unless the applicant submits verification that the plans have been submitted to the TDLR as required. Currently, the official must verify the building has been registered with TDLR.

Creates an administrative penalty (amount calculated by multiplying the population by one cent) on a political subdivision that issues a building construction permit or final certificate of occupancy in violation of procedures for submitting plans or building inspections.

Adds to building inspection procedures a prohibition on issuing a final certificate of occupancy unless the owner

provides a report indicating the building has been inspected and is in compliance.

Last Action: 11-12-18 H Filed

 [HB 322](#) [Geren, Charlie\(R\)](#) Relating to the establishment of a limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that taxing units may impose on the residence homesteads of individuals who are disabled or elderly and their surviving spouses.

Remarks: A true property tax freeze. Expands exemptions for property taxes from just school districts to all taxing entities for 65 and older.

Last Action: 11-13-18 H Filed

 [HB 344](#) [Dutton, Harold\(D\)](#) Relating to the age of criminal responsibility and to certain substantive and procedural matters related to that age.

Remarks: JBD - Raises the age of criminal responsibility from 17 to 18.

Last Action: 11-13-18 H Filed

 [HB 358](#) [Lang, Mike\(R\)](#) Relating to holding elections on uniform election dates.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires all elections be held on the uniform election dates.

Last Action: 11-15-18 H Filed

 [HB 360](#) [Murphy, Jim\(R\)](#) Relating to the extension of the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.

Companions: [HB 499](#) [Button, Angie\(R\)](#) (Identical)
12-10-18 H Filed
[SB 118](#) [West, Royce\(D\)](#) (Identical)
11-12-18 S Filed

Remarks: WLJ - Extends the expiration of the property redevelopment and tax abatement act from 2019 to 2029.

Last Action: 11-15-18 H Filed

 [HB 362](#) [Israel, Celia\(D\)](#) Relating to the creation of a fund to assist local governments with the acquisition of voting system equipment.

Remarks: WLJ - Creates a GR funded grant for counties/cities to apply to replace voting system equipment for up to 50% of the actual cost. Eligibility criteria shall include number of voters, the age and condition of current equipment, need in both rural and urban areas and whether the governing body has adopted a long term plan to address needs.

Last Action: 11-15-18 H Filed

 [HB 377](#) [Lang, Mike\(R\)](#) Relating to requiring a voter to be affiliated with a political party to vote in that party's primary election or otherwise participate in that party's affairs.

Remarks: WLJ - Closes primary elections to registered party members only.

Last Action: 11-15-18 H Filed

 **HB 380** Geren, Charlie(R) Relating to the authority of a district court to hear and determine certain ad valorem tax appeals.

Companions: [HB 2653](#) Geren, Charlie(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)

Remarks: WLJ - The bill adds that the owner may appeal to district court the decision that the ARB lacks jurisdiction to determine a protest or a motion filed by an owner because the owner failed to comply with a statutory requirement. If the court determines that the ARB did have jurisdiction, the owner is entitled to the final determination of the protest, even on grounds not previously raised by the owner. If the property owner failed to exhaust the owner's administrative remedies, the court may remand the action to the ARB with instructions to allow the owner to cure the owner's failure, in lieu of dismissing the appeal.

Last Action: 11-16-18 H Filed

 **HB 383** Bohac, Dwayne(R) Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Companions: [HB 376](#) Metcalf, Will(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)
[HB 586](#) Bohac, Dwayne(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)

Remarks: aph - Lowers the property tax cap increase from current 10% to 5% annually.

Last Action: 11-16-18 H Filed

 **HB 430** Shaheen, Matt(R) Relating to certain information included with ballot propositions for elections to authorize state and local general obligation bonds.

Remarks: JBD - For both state and local elections authorizing issuance of debt, ballot would be required to include information on amount of outstanding debt and cost of new debt.

Last Action: 11-30-18 H Filed

 **HB 433** Shaheen, Matt(R) Relating to the disclosure of public money spent by certain political subdivisions for lobbying activities in a comprehensive annual financial report.

Remarks: aph - Requires all political subdivisions to file an annual report on the amount of money spent directly or indirectly on attempting to influence the outcome of any pending legislation. Does not dictate a form or terms of the report and does not apply to other state agencies.

Last Action: 11-30-18 H Filed

 **HB 440** Murphy, Jim(R) Relating to general obligation bonds issued by political

subdivisions.

Remarks: JBD - Would require internet posting of sample ballot for bond proposition if county has website. Maturity date of general obligation bonds for improvements or personal property cannot exceed 120% of expected average economic life of the improvements/property. Unspent bond proceeds can be used for other purposes only after an election approving the new use.

Last Action: 11-30-18 H Filed

 HB 465 White, James(R)

Relating to the administrative, civil, and criminal consequences, including fines, fees, and costs, imposed on persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of certain criminal offenses.

Remarks: JBD - New provision requires court to make determination of ability to pay fines and fees in criminal case based only on the defendant's present ability to pay unless otherwise expressly stated in another provision. Will permit defendant's to notify court of "difficulty paying" fines and fees, and that triggers an obligation for the court to hold a hearing to determine if requiring payment imposes an "undue hardship" on the defendant. Courts may require alternatives to payments (such as community service), or may waive fines and fees.

Last Action: 12- 5-18 H Filed

 HB 490 Shine, Hugh(R)

Relating to the administration of the ad valorem tax system.

Remarks: aph - Reforms property tax appraisal system to allow Comptroller to appoint an advisory board to review boards. - sets a 'no new revenue' rate calculation; - reforms the tax calculation date and notice procedures; and - establishes a new database requirement for tax information to be listed to be easier tracked by tax payers.

Last Action: 12- 7-18 H Filed

 HB 492 Shine, Hugh(R)

Relating to a temporary local option exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain property damaged by a disaster.

Remarks: MGV - Creates option for taxing units to adopt a temporary exemption for a portion of appraised value of tangible personal property used for production of income or improvements to real property damaged by a disaster if the property is at least 15% damaged by the disaster, as determined by the chief appraiser. Establishes four level of damages correlating to an exemption between 15% for a slightly damaged property to 100% for a total loss.

Last Action: 12- 7-18 H Filed

 HB 499 Button, Angie(R)

Relating to the extension of the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.

Companions: HB 360 Murphy, Jim(R) (Identical)
11-15-18 H Filed
SB 118 West, Royce(D) (Identical)

Remarks: aph - Extends Chapter 312 Eco Development agreements until 2029.

Last Action: 12-10-18 H Filed

 HB 581 White, James(R) Relating to the sale of fireworks on and before the Labor Day holiday.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows the sale of fireworks five days before and up to Labor Day if permitted by commissioners court.

Last Action: 12-20-18 H Filed

 HB 582 White, James(R) Relating to the sale of fireworks on and before the Juneteenth holiday.

Remarks: WLJ - Permits fireworks sales five days before Juneteenth with commissioners court approval. Clarifies Texas A&M Forestry is the determinant of drought conditions.

Last Action: 12-20-18 H Filed

 HB 583 White, James(R) Relating to monuments and memorials for Texas heroes and other persons and events of historical significance.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires the Historical Commission approval to move a historical memorial from state or university property.

Requires the Historical Commission to approve the form, dimensions, substance and inscriptions for a county to erect or display a monument or memorial on county grounds. Requires Historical Commission approve the removal, relocation or alteration of a monument on county property. Creates a fine between \$50-\$1000 and jail of 3-365 days.

Last Action: 12-20-18 H Filed

 HJR 13 White, James(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to allocate a portion of oil and gas production tax revenue to the counties from which the oil and gas originated.

Remarks: aph - Authorizes txlege to appropriate parts of O&G production taxes to counties where the production occurs for roads and bridge maintenance. Does not set a min or max or guidelines for how much to allocate.

Last Action: 11-12-18 H Filed

 HJR 30 Burns, DeWayne(R) Proposing a constitutional amendment to restrict the power of the legislature to mandate requirements on a municipality or county.

Companions: HJR 73 Burns, DeWayne(R) (Refiled from 85R Session)

Remarks: WLJ - Constitutional Amendment, no unfunded mandates to a county or city.

Last Action: 11-16-18 H Filed

  SB 40 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to locations, terms, sessions, and procedures for conducting court proceedings.

Remarks: JBD - In disaster, would permit Presiding administrative judge to designate alternate location for conducting court that is outside of the county. No requirement to consult with commissioners court.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 67 Nelson, Jane(R) Relating to the administration of the ad valorem tax system.

Remarks: aph - Comprehensive changes for the method of property tax appraisals. Broadens the powers of the CPA to manage training and review of individual appraisers and central system for equalizing appraisal system.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 70 Nelson, Jane(R) Relating to a single local use tax rate as an alternative to combined local use tax rates for computing the amount of local use taxes remote sellers are required to collect and to the allocation of tax revenue collected at that rate.

Remarks: aph - Establishes a system of setting up a single sales tax rate for goods sold on the internet. This is a response to USSC case South Dakota v Wayfair. Would combine all local sales taxes into one rate for certain sellers to remit the combined rate for internet sales.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 82 Hall, Bob(R) Relating to expenditures for lobbying activities made by a recipient of state funds.

Remarks: WLJ - Prohibits local governments from hiring lobbyists.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 87 Hall, Bob(R) Relating to the repeal of the driver responsibility program and the vehicle safety inspection program for certain vehicles.

Remarks: aph - Repeals the driver responsibility program and makes the vehicle safety inspection program voluntary for drivers. Takes the fees associated with those programs, plus the fees associated with emissions control inspections, and directs those fees to increase the amount of money available to trauma facilities and emergency medical services account.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 118 West, Royce(D) Relating to the extension of the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.

Companions: HB 360 Murphy, Jim(R) (Identical)
11-15-18 H Filed
HB 499 Button, Angie(R) (Identical)

Remarks: WLJ - Extends the expiration of the property redevelopment and tax abatement act from 2019 to 2029.

Last Action: 11-12-18 S Filed

  SB 174 Perry, Charles(R)

Relating to certain duties of a sheriff regarding a county jail prisoner's health benefits coverage information.

Remarks: WLJ - Requires TDCJ to adopt process for a Sheriff to collect health benefit information for an inmate upon intake and requires the Sheriff to collect the benefit information in a jail capable of confining 800 or more prisoners. If the inmate requires health care the Sheriff may provide the information to the provider/facility for payment.

Last Action: 11-13-18 S Filed

  SB 191 Miles, Borris(D)

Relating to the repeal of the driver responsibility program and the amount and allocation of state traffic fine funds.

Remarks: WLJ - Repeals the Drivers Responsibility Program. Increases the state traffic fine from \$30 to \$50, with 50% deposited to GR and 50% to trauma fund). On 9/1/2022 the state fine is lowered to \$40 and 100% deposited to trauma fund.

Last Action: 11-14-18 S Filed

  SB 202 Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to the reappraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of property damaged in a disaster.

Remarks: aph - Mandates reappraisals of property located in areas where FEMA estimates at least 5% damage because of a natural disaster.

Last Action: 11-16-18 S Filed

  SB 216 Rodriguez, Jose(D)

Relating to the requirement that a veterans county service office report to the commissioners court or the county's chief administrator.

Remarks: WLJ - Allows the VCSO to report to the County Administrator instead of directly to the Commissioners Court.

Last Action: 12- 7-18 S Filed

  SB 300 Miles, Borris(D)

Relating to indefinite quantity contracts for the provision of certain services to declared disaster areas following a natural disaster.

Remarks: MGV - Requires the GLO to annually enter into an indefinite quantity contracts for services after declared natural disasters includes services for information management, construction, and other services deemed necessary to construct, repair, or rebuild property or infrastructure.

Last Action: 1- 4-19 S Filed

	All	Track
Total Bills:	40	40

Track(s): ▼
Position: ▼



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