

All Bills Passed Summary

Moak, Casey & Associates tracked over 1,100 of the 8,074 bills filed during the 81st Legislative Session. Of those tracked, 121 were passed by both the House and Senate (1,724 bills passed overall). During the 80th Legislative Session, MCA tracked 907 bills, of which 152 passed. The following are brief summaries of all of the tracked bills that passed both the House and Senate this session. The Governor has until Sunday, June 21st to veto any bills.

HB 3 Eissler

Relating to public school accountability, curriculum, and promotion requirements.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

HB 8 Otto

Relating to certain studies and reviews of appraisal districts conducted by the comptroller of public accounts.

Remarks: Enrolled: Enables the comptroller of public accounts to conduct the study of school district property values every other year, rather than every year. H.B. 8 also requires a ratio study in each appraisal district every two years, rather than annually, and requires a review of each appraisal district at least once every two years. If a school district or appraisal district is out of compliance with state standards, an annual property value study will continue for that entity. The bill prohibits a request for an appraisal district performance audit by the comptroller during a year in which an appraisal district review is being conducted. [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HB 130 Patrick, Diane

Relating to an enhanced quality full-day prekindergarten program provided by public school districts in conjunction with community providers.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

HB 136 Villarreal

Relating to providing notification to parents of eligible children of the availability of prekindergarten classes.

Remarks: Enrolled: The agency shall develop joint strategies with other state agencies regarding methods to increase community awareness of prekindergarten programs through programs that provide information relating to public assistance programs. Each school district shall report annually to the agency the strategies implemented by the school district to increase community awareness of prekindergarten programs offered by the district. The district shall report the information on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The agency shall conduct a study to identify effective methods to communicate to the parent of an eligible child the availability of prekindergarten classes. The study must include research on providing information regarding prekindergarten classes through public, private, and nonprofit institutions that provide assistance and support to families with children eligible for prekindergarten classes. The agency shall make recommendations to school districts and report to the legislature based on the study regarding the most effective methods to increase communication regarding the availability of prekindergarten classes.

The agency may develop outreach materials for use by school districts to increase community awareness of pre-k programs. Also creates a section regarding the notification of pre-kindergarten programs to the community.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 171 Olivo

Relating to consideration of mitigating factors in determining appropriated disciplinary action to be taken against a public school student.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires consideration of the following factors when making decisions concerning suspension, removal to a DAEP, or expulsion and placement in a juvenile justice alternative education program, regardless of whether the decision concerns a mandatory or discretionary action: self-defense, intent or lack of intent at the time the student engaged in the conduct, a student's disciplinary history, or a disability that substantially impairs the student's capacity to appreciate the wrongfulness of the student's conduct.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 192 Alonzo

Relating to the purposes for which a student's absence from school must be excused.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds appearing at a governmental office to complete paperwork required in connection with the student's application for United States citizenship or taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony to list of excused absences. The bill also excuses absences for students diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when they must attend health care appointments related to the disorder.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 200 Heflin

Relating to continuing education requirements for public school principals.

Remarks: Enrolled: Repeals the following language: "Continuing education for principals must be based on an individual assessment of the knowledge, skills, and proficiencies necessary to perform successfully as a principal, as identified in Section 21.046. An individualized professional growth plan shall be developed as a result of the assessment and shall be used exclusively for professional growth purposes. The assessment results and the growth plan may only be released with the approval of the principal assessed. Except as provided by Section 21.059, each certified principal shall participate in the assessment process and professional growth activities at least once every five years."

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 281 Anchia

Relating to grants for school-based health centers and reports submitted by those centers.

Remarks: Enrolled: The commissioner of state health services, by rules adopted in accordance with this section, shall establish procedures for awarding grants. The rules must provide that: (1) grants are awarded an annual basis through a competitive process to: school districts; and local health departments, hospitals, health care systems, universities, or nonprofit organizations that have contracted with school districts to establish and operate school-based health centers; subject to the availability of federal or state appropriated funds, each grant is for a term of five years. The Department of State health Services is required to issue a biennial report to the legislature about the services delivered by the centers during the preceding two years.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 339 Phillips

Relating to driver education and driver's licensing requirements.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill requires school districts to consider offering a driver education and traffic safety course each year. The bill allows districts to charge students for taking the course and sets out specific course requirements and instructor certification requirements.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 401 Raymond

Relating to the authority of certain political subdivisions to change the date of their general elections.

Remarks: Enrolled: Amends the Election Code to allow governing bodies of political subdivisions (other than counties) to change the date on which they hold general elections, if they currently do not hold them on the November uniform election date, may, not later than December 31, 2010, change the date on which it hold its general election for officers to the November uniform election date. The bill also specifies that the elections may be moved to the November uniform election date.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 461 Eissler

Relating to the regulation of dyslexia practitioners and therapists.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes the Dyslexia Practitioners and Therapists Title Act, to be administered by the Department of State Health Services. This bill establishes what a person must do to meet the state dyslexia practitioner title recognition standards (including earning a bachelor's degree, completing language education and 60 hours of clinical experience). This bill also lays out what one must do to meet the state dyslexia therapist title recognition standards, establishes administrative processes, monitoring procedures and disciplinary actions.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 464 Paxton

Relating to the preparation by the Legislative Budget Board of a dynamic fiscal impact statement for certain bills and joint resolutions affecting taxes and fees.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires all bills and joint resolutions affecting taxes and fees to be accompanied with a fiscal impact statement prepared by the LBB. The impact statement shall accompany bills that: raise or lower taxes or fees that propose a constitutional amendment and positively or negatively impact revenue of at least \$75 million annually. The dynamic impact statement must, based on dynamic scoring principles, project for the five-year period beginning on the proposed effective date of the change in the rate or amount of the tax or fee the estimated fiscal and economic impacts of raising or lowering the tax or fee. On the fifth anniversary of the effective date of a bill that becomes law for which a dynamic fiscal impact statement was prepared under this section, the comptroller shall prepare a report that assesses the accuracy of the relevant fiscal note prepared for the bill.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 469 King, Phil

Relating to the establishment of incentives by this state for the implementation of certain projects to capture and sequester carbon dioxide that would otherwise be emitted into the atmosphere.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes in the Government Code a franchise tax credit for clean energy projects and sets forth tax credit eligibility requirements. The bill also adds a chapter related to the verification, monitoring, and certification of clean energy projects.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 635 Guillen

Relating to the authority of the Texas Education Agency to seek, accept, determine eligibility for, and distribute grants available for the benefit of public education and the establishment of professional development institutes.

Remarks: Enrolled: The agency may seek, accept, and distribute grants awarded by the federal government or any other public or private entity for the benefit of public education, subject to the limitations or conditions imposed by the terms of the grants or by other law. The commissioner may determine, for the purposes of technology services and support, that a Head Start program operated in this state by a school district or a community-based organization serves the function of a public elementary school under state law by providing elementary education at one or more program facilities. Such a determination by the commissioner does not entitle a Head Start program to receive state funds for which the program would not otherwise be eligible, may not reduce the amount of federal grant funds available for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools and the commissioner's decision may not be appealed.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 709 Rose

Relating to the award of stipends to nationally certified classroom teachers under the educator excellence awards program.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows teachers who hold advanced certification from an organization that certifies at least 2,500 teachers in the US each year based on the teachers' satisfaction, through study, expert evaluation, self-assessment, and peer review of high and

rigorous standards for accomplished teaching, to receive the award of stipends under the educator excellence awards program.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 752 England

Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to enter into an agreement with a school district to dedicate revenue from a tax increment fund to the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of an educational facility.

Remarks: Enrolled: Increases the number of municipalities that can enter into an agreement with a school district to dedicate revenue from a tax increment fund to the district for the acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of an educational facility by increasing the population limit from 120,000 to 130,000 for the municipality.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 770 Howard, Donna

Relating to ad valorem tax relief for an owner of certain property, including a residence homestead that is rendered uninhabitable or unusable by a casualty or by wind or water damage.

Remarks: Enrolled: Forbids a county attorney, district attorney, or criminal district attorney from filing suit to remove a house from a public beach if the beach boundary lines have changed due to meteorological events occurring prior to January 1, 2009. Amends Section 11.135 of the Tax Code to allow for a property tax exemption on a property deemed uninhabitable due to casualty or wind or water damage. This exemption will remain if the owner chooses to rebuild a habitable structure on the same land, as long as the owner does not establish a new, permanent homestead. Should the owner sell the property prior to replacing the structure with a habitable structure, a tax will be imposed that is equal to the difference between the taxes imposed on the property for each of the years in which the owner received the exemption and the tax that would have been imposed had the owner not received the exemption, plus 7 percent interest. The bill reduces the length of time for which this exemption may remain in effect from three years to two years. It also clarifies that the appraisal value may increase if the replacement structure exceeds the original square footage of the structure and/or is re-built with a higher quality exterior. A section is added to extend these exemptions to non-profit organizations that have suffered similar property damage.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 772 Howard, Donna

Relating to Internet broadcasts of open meetings held by the State Board of Education.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the SBOE to broadcast its open meetings over the internet through live audio and video. They shall also make available archived video and audio for each meeting through the Board's website.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 773 Oliveira

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

Remarks: Enrolled: Extends the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement act from September 1, 2009 to September 1, 2019.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 829 Hochberg

Relating to appeals to the commissioner of education.

Remarks: Enrolled: A person is not required to appeal to the commissioner before pursuing a remedy under a law outside of Title 1 or Title 2 or to which Title 1 or Title 2 makes reference or with which Title 1 or Title 2 requires compliance.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 986 Villarreal

Relating to the appeal of ad valorem tax determinations.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes a timetable for the payment of a tax refund as a result of a successful appeal by a property owner, which is the earlier of (a) 21 days after the final determination of the appeal, or (b) the date the property owner files the form. The recipients may include the property owner, the business office of the property owner's attorney of record in the appeal, or any other individual and address designated by the property owner.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 987 Creighton

Relating to competitive procurement requirements for local governments.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill increases the minimum amount of a school district purchasing contract from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for which the district must use specified methods for providing the best value for the district. These include competitive bidding, sealed proposals, RFPs, inter-local contracts, design/build contracts, contracts to construct,

job order contracts, reverse auction procedures, and formation of political subdivisions. In turn, the bill repeals sections of the education code (44.031 (k) and 44.033) that lay out the restrictions on purchases of personal property valued between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The bill also adds to the education code procedures for school districts to receive electronic bids or proposals.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1020 Deshotel

Relating to the use, exhibition, or possession of a firearm by public school students participating in certain school-sponsored programs and activities sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department.

Remarks: Enrolled: Protects public school students from expulsion for the sole reason of the students' use, exhibition or possession of a firearm if it occurs: at an approved target range facility that is not located on a school campus; and while participating in or preparing for a school-sponsored shooting sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity that is sponsored or supported by the Parks and Wildlife Department or a shooting sports sanctioning organization working with the department. A student is not authorized to bring a firearm on school property to participate in or prepare for a school-sponsored sports competition or a shooting sports educational activity.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1030 Callegari

Relating to the protest or appeal of ad valorem tax matters.

Remarks: Enrolled: An individual exempt from registering as a property tax consultant may receive all notices from the appraisal district, regarding protests, on behalf of the property owner. In the case of a hearing on a protest by the appraisal review board, the chairman or the chairman's representative may take action on a postponement without the necessity of action by the full board if the hearing for which the postponement is requested is scheduled to occur before the next regular meeting of the board. The granting by the appraisal review board, the chairman, or the chairman's representative of a postponement does not require the delivery of additional written notice to the property owner. Action on a request for postponement is final and may not be the subject of a protest under this chapter. A section was added to establish procedures for filing electronic protest forms. The bill also stipulates that members of an appraisal board for a county with a population of 3.3 million or more, or a county of 350,000 adjacent to a county with a population of 3.3 million or more, are appointed by the county commissioners court.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1038 Paxton

Relating to the determination of the market value of a residence homestead for purposes of ad valorem taxation.

Remarks: Enrolled: In determining property value, the chief appraiser may not exclude from consideration the value of other residential property that is in the same neighborhood as the residence homestead being appraised and would otherwise be considered in appraising the residence homestead because the other residential property: 1. was sold at a foreclosure sale conducted in any of the three years preceding the tax year in which the residence homestead is being appraised and was comparable at the time of sale based on relevant characteristics with other residence homesteads in the same neighborhood; or 2. has a market value that has declined because of a declining economy.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1041 Parker

Relating to school district policies addressing sexual abuse of children and establishment of a state strategy to reduce child abuse and neglect and improve child welfare.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires that public school districts implement policy to address the sexual abuse of children. The policy must address increasing teacher, student, and parent awareness regarding sexual abuse, the actions that a child victim should take to obtain assistance and available counseling options for students affected by sexual abuse.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1191 Flores

Relating to the enrollment period for insurance benefits for certain retirees of the Teacher Retirement System.

Remarks: Enrolled: Eligible retirees may now enroll on any date that is on or after the date the person retires and on or before the 90th day after that date; and during any other open enrollment periods for retirees set by the trustee by rule.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1259 Kolkhorst

Relating to hiring outside legal counsel to provide legal services to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: Enrolled: Prevents TRS from using outside legal counsel to provide certain legal services.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1297 Hochberg

Relating to optional flexible school day program courses offered by school districts to enable students to earn course credit under certain circumstances.

Remarks: Enrolled: Extends the flexible school day definition to include students who are denied credits for a class due to attendance requirements.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1309 Otto

Relating to the date by which the comptroller must certify the apportioned amount of the market value of railroad rolling stock to a county assessor-collector.

Remarks: Enrolled: Changes the date that the comptroller shall certify to the county assessor-collector for each county in which a railroad operates from August 1 to July 26.

This bill takes effect on January 1, 2010.

HB 1322 Hochberg

Relating to the establishment of an on-line resource for teachers of students with special health needs.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds a section to the education code that requires TEA, in coordination with HHS, to establish and maintain an Internet website to provide resources for teachers who teach students with special health needs. The agency shall include on the website information about the treatment and management of chronic illnesses and how such illnesses impact a student's well-being or ability to succeed in school.

The bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1332 Maldonado

Relating to responsibility for public school textbooks and technological equipment and to failure by students to return textbooks or technological equipment.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds electronic textbooks and technological equipment to the section of the Education Code that establishes responsibility requirements that students and parents have for textbooks. It also applies to students who return equipment but adds the language that it must be "in an acceptable condition."

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1364 Eissler

Relating to coverage of preexisting conditions by certain group health benefit coverage programs for active school employees.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds language to the state's insurance program that utilizes the Insurance Code's definitions for pre-existing conditions.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1365 Eissler

Relating to service records of professional staff employed by school districts.

Remarks: Enrolled: A school district that previously employed a classroom teacher, librarian, counselor or nurse, shall provide a copy of the individual's service record to the school district employing the individual to determine proper placement of the individual on the district's salary schedule. The district must provide the copy no later than the 30th day after the later of the date the request is made or the date of the last day of the individual's service to the district. The senate substitute removed the provision that classroom teachers, librarians, counselors and nurses are entitled to back pay.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1407 Geren

Relating to the redemption of real property sold at an ad valorem tax sale.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows an owner to redeem their property by paying the required amount to the assessor-collector at a tax sale.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1423 Guillen

Relating to granting charters to public junior colleges for open-enrollment charter schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: The SBOE may grant a charter on the application of a public junior college for an open-enrollment charter school to operate on the campus of the public junior college or in the same county in which the campus of the public junior college is located. The public junior college must meet certain criteria to be eligible for this section.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1425 Lewis

Relating to the determination of the population of a county required to develop a juvenile justice alternative education program.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill relates to whether a county must create a juvenile justice alternative education program based on the county's population size. The bill states that a county with a population greater than 125,000 does not have to create a JJAEP if it had a population of 125,000 or less according to the 2000 census AND the juvenile board of the county enters into a memorandum of understanding with each district that outlines the responsibilities of the board and districts in minimizing the number of students expelled without receiving alternative educational services.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1470 Thibaut

Relating to notification regarding entitlement of school district employees to leave time in circumstances involving assault.

Remarks: Enrolled: Any informational handbook a district provides employees (in either electronic or paper format) must include notification of an employee's rights regarding entitlement to leave in circumstances involving assault.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 1720 Bohac

Relating to the use of public funds by a political subdivision for political advertising or communications that contain false information relating to a ballot measure.

Remarks: Enrolled: An officer or employee of a political subdivision may not knowingly spend or authorize the spending of public funds for political advertising. The bill goes on to state that an officer or employee of a political subdivision may not spend or authorize the spending of public funds for a communication describing a measure if the communication contains information that: 1) the officer or employee knows is false; and 2) is sufficiently substantial and important as to be reasonably likely to influence a voter to vote

for or against the measure. If an officer or employee of a political subdivision reasonably relied on a court order or an interpretation, then it may be used as an affirmative defense to prosecution or defense against a civil penalty.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2263 Eissler

Relating to extending the high school innovation grant initiative to middle and junior high schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: Extends the high school innovation grant for use by middle and junior high schools.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2291 Gattis

Relating to the procedure to be used by a taxing unit in adopting an ad valorem tax rate.

Remarks: Enrolled: Amends the Tax Code to change mandatory language when making a motion to adopt an ordinance, resolution, or order setting a rate that exceeds the effective rate for ad valorem tax, by a taxing unit. The language shall state: "I move that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate, which is effectively a (insert percentage by which the proposed tax rate exceeds the effective tax rate) percent increase in the tax rate." Additional language must also be used in ordinance, resolution, and order documents stating the percentage by which the maintenance and operations rate will be raised.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2317 Villarreal

Relating to appraisal review board members.

Remarks: Enrolled: In addition to the provision of a course of training and education for appraisal review board members, the comptroller shall approve curricula and provide materials for use in a continuing education course for members of an appraisal review board. This bill lays out what shall be included in the curriculum and mandates that all materials must be available online. The bill requires the establishment of a toll-free telephone number appraisal review board members may use for technical assistance. As soon as practicable after the beginning of the second year of an appraisal review board member's term of office, the member must successfully complete the course. A person who fails to timely complete the course may not be reappointed to an additional term on the appraisal review board. If the person is reappointed to an additional term on the appraisal review board, the person must successfully complete the course in each year the member continues to serve. The

comptroller may contract with service providers, but the course may not be provided by an appraisal district or a taxing unit. The board of directors of the appraisal district is encouraged to select a chairman and a secretary from among the members of the appraisal review board. The board of directors of the appraisal district is encouraged to select as chairman of the appraisal review board a member of the appraisal review board, if any, who has a background in law and property appraisal.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2447 Flynn

Relating to the abolition of the Board of Tax Professional Examiners and the transfer of its functions to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Remarks: Enrolled: Transfers the functions of the Board of Tax Professional Examiners to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2480 Hochberg

Relating to agreements with public junior colleges for courses for joint high school and junior college credit.

Remarks: Enrolled: A public junior college may enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or other person that operates a high school to offer a dual credit course regardless of whether the high school is located within the service area of the junior college district.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2488 Hochberg

Relating to open-source textbooks and other instructional materials for public schools.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

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HB 2512 Aycock

Relating to audio recordings of certain grievance proceedings or meetings by school district employees.

Remarks: Enrolled: A school district grievance policy must permit that an employee who reports a grievance to make an audio recording of any meeting or proceeding at which

the substance of a grievance that complies with the policy is investigated or discussed. The implementation of this may not result in a delay of any timeline provided by the grievance policy and does not require the district to provide equipment for the employee to make the recording.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2542 Eissler

Relating to excused absences in public schools for students visiting institutions of higher education.

Remarks: Enrolled: A school district may excuse a student from attending school to visit an institution of higher education during the student's junior and senior years of high school for the purpose of determining the student's interest in attending the institution of higher education. The district may not excuse more than two days for this purpose.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2555 Hilderbran

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property acquired to provide low-income housing or used for charitable purposes.

Remarks: Enrolled: Exempts certain corporations from property taxation for the following reasons: i the corporation is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a); if the corporation holds title to the property for, collects income from the property for, and turns over the entire amount of that income to charitable organizations; and if the qualified charitable organization would qualify for an exemption from taxation if the charitable organization owned the property. The corporation must reapply after the fifth year of exemption in order to continue the exemption. Repeals section 11.184(b) of the Tax Code which grants property tax exemption if it is adopted by the governing body of the taxing unit or if it is voted on favorably by a majority of qualified voters from the taxing unit.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2591 Thompson

Relating to the regulation of property tax consultants.

Remarks: Enrolled: Amends the Occupations Code to require that property tax consultants to complete 40 (increased from 15) classroom hours of education courses, and pass a competency examination. The bill also establishes a subchapter regarding general prohibited acts of property tax consultants.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2628 Rodriguez

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property owned by a charitable organization and used in providing housing and related services to certain individuals.

Remarks: Enrolled: An organization that is organized exclusively to perform religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes and is engaged in providing housing and related services to individuals who are unaccompanied and homeless and have a disabling condition and have been continuously homeless for a year or more or have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the preceding three years can qualify for an exemption from taxation of buildings and property. Must be located in municipalities with populations between 600,000 and 700,000.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HB 2656 Miller, Doug

Relating to the composition of the board of trustees of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the governor to appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, eight, rather than seven, members of the board of trustees to the TRS Board. Under the bill, the governor will appoint two members, rather than one member, of the board from a slate of three former members of TRS who have retired and are receiving benefits from TRS.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2703 Olivo

Relating to classification of a prekindergarten or kindergarten student who is retained at the request of the student's parent.

Remarks: Enrolled: A student is not considered a student at risk of dropping out of school if the student did not advance from prekindergarten or kindergarten to the next grade level only as the result of the request of the student's parent.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 2730 Kolkhorst

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas and the Texas Private Security Board.

Remarks: Enrolled: An entity that contracts with a school district, charter school, shared service arrangement and any subcontractor shall obtain all criminal history record information that relates to any employee who will have continuing duties related to the contracted services and who will have direct contact with students.

The background check may not be released to any person except the person who is the subject, SBEC, the local or regional educational entity, by court order, and shall be destroyed by the agency after the information is used for authorized purpose. The employer may charge a fee to an employee requesting a copy of the information not to exceed actual cost of copying.

A school district shall consider offering a driver education and traffic safety course during each school year. The district may conduct course for a fee or contract with a driver education school. A driver education course must require 7 hours of behind the wheel instruction with instructor, 7 hours of observation instruction, 20 hours of behind the wheel instruction (10 at night) in presence of adult.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2763 Kuempel

Relating to the regulation of industrialized housing and buildings.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds a section to the Occupations Code regarding educational facilities that can be relocated. The section refers to portable school related buildings and mandates that they comply with industrialized building codes if leased or purchased on or after September 1, 2009. Repeals current provision that mandates that any portable, modular building capable of being relocated that is purchased or leased after September 1, 2007, for use as a school facility must be inspected to ensure compliance with the mandatory building codes or approved designs, plans, and specifications.

HB 2820 Chisum

Relating to contracts by governmental entities for professional services relating to geoscience and landscape architecture

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds landscape architects and geoscientists to the list of professional services that government entities must follow specific procedures for contracting their services.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2893 Hochberg

Relating to the technology demonstration sites project and to a computer lending pilot program.

Remarks: Enrolled: Changes the “technology immersion pilot project” to the “technology demonstration sites project.” TEA may by rule establish the technology demonstration sites project to demonstrate the use of technology for improving teaching and learning, using digital tools and resources to extend learning opportunities from school to home, and exemplify instructional practices and lessons that support academic learning in the classroom and at home. The bill also includes the Computer Lending Pilot Program which relies on donated or salvaged technology for distribution to participating schools. Schools are eligible for the program if 50 percent or more of the students enrolled are educationally disadvantaged and if the school agrees to lend technology to students and includes options to help students and parents work towards owning a computer. This subchapter expires September 1, 2014.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 2941 Paxton

Relating to the disclosure of certain ad valorem tax appraisal information and other confidential information.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows a school district to obtain from an appraisal district any information, including confidential information, that relates to the appraisal of property in the comptroller's finding that is being protested. Confidential information may be disclosed to an employee or agent of a taxing unit or a school district that is engaged in preparation of a protest of the comptroller's property value study.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 3041 Farias

Relating to a comprehensive schedule of public school reporting requirements.

Remarks: Enrolled: TEA shall develop and maintain a comprehensive schedule that addresses each reporting requirement generally applicable to a school district, including requirements imposed by an entity other than the agency, and that specifies the date by which a school district must comply with each requirement. The agency shall determine the appropriate format of the schedule and the manner in which the schedule is made readily accessible to school districts.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3076 Deshotel

Relating to a parenting and paternity awareness program used in the health curriculum for public schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the SBOE to develop parenting and paternity awareness programs for middle and junior high schools in addition to high schools. If a student completes this course in middle or junior high, the district shall provide high school health credit. A student under 14 years of age may not participate in this program without the permission of the student's parent or guardian.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3206 Edwards

Relating to the implementation of the exemption from ad valorem taxation for pollution control property.

Remarks: Enrolled: In applying for an exemption from ad valorem taxation for pollution control property, the standards and methods for making a determination of exemption shall apply uniformly to all applications including those relating to facilities, devices, or methods for the control of air, water, or land pollution. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall establish a permanent advisory committee consisting of representatives of industry, appraisal districts, taxing units, and environmental groups to advise the commission regarding the implementation of this section.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3347 Truitt

Relating to plan qualification provisions for and certain supplemental payments and health insurance deductions under the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: Enrolled: Salary and wages as used to determine TRS contributions now includes differential wage payments received by an individual from an employer while the individual is performing qualified military service. The individual shall be treated as employed by that employer and the differential wage payment shall be treated as earned compensation.

The retirement system is authorized to determine how contributions attributable to such differential wage payments shall be made. A section is added regarding deductions from service or disability retirement annuities which allows an individual eligible to participate in the uniform program to authorize the retirement system to deduct the amount of the contribution and any other qualified health insurance premium from the individual's regular monthly service or disability retirement annuity payment. The individuals may do this if they are: (1) eligible to receive a monthly annuity from the retirement system greater than the

amount of the authorized deduction; and (2) eligible to elect to exclude from annual gross income up to \$3,000 of distributions from an eligible retirement plan for health insurance premiums.

The bill also lays out eligible portions of rollover distributions that may be transferred and eligibility of distributees who are beneficiaries (regarding distributions made on or after January 1, 2007).

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3480 Truitt

Relating to certain investment products made available to certain public school employees and the companies authorized to provide those products.

Remarks: Enrolled: Provides TRS and other agencies oversight with respect to 403(b) plans offered by school districts. The bill would require firms to register with, be licensed by, or be regulated by the Texas Department of Insurance, the State Securities Board, and the Texas Department of Banking. The bill requires product approval by TRS, and would allow TDI, SSB, and TDB to investigate any complaint received from TRS regarding this issue. The bill also would increase teacher 403(b) investment options by allowing TRS to certify mutual fund platforms.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3611 Otto

Relating to the consolidation of appraisal review boards.

Remarks: Enrolled: When adjoining appraisal districts by inter-local contract have provided for the operation of a consolidated appraisal review board: (1) a reference in this or another section of this code to the appraisal district means the adjoining appraisal districts; (2) a reference in this or another section of this code to the appraisal district board of directors means the boards of directors of the adjoining appraisal districts; (3) a provision of this code that applies to an appraisal review board also applies to the consolidated appraisal review board; and (4) a reference in this code to the appraisal review board shall be construed to also refer to the consolidated appraisal review board. Contingent on the passage of HJR 36.

HB 3612 Otto

Relating to the creation of a pilot program that allows taxpayer appeals from certain appraisal review board determinations in certain counties to be heard by the State Office of Administrative Hearings.

Remarks: Enrolled: Not later than January 1, 2010, the State Office of Administrative Hearings shall develop a pilot program under which, as an alternative to filing an appeal under Section 42.01, Tax Code, a property owner may appeal to the office an appraisal review board order determining a protest concerning the appraised or market value of property.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HB 3613 Otto

Relating to the determination of the market value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead.

Remarks: Enrolled: The market value of a residence homestead shall be determined solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether the residential use of the property by the owner is considered to be the "highest and best use" of the property. The bill also adds a section that entitles a 100 percent or totally disabled veteran (if disability is service-connected) to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. Contingent on the passage of HJR 36.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HB 3643 Aycock

Relating to public school prekindergarten classes.

Remarks: Enrolled: Clarifies that the term "child" includes a stepchild and "parent" includes a stepparent under Section 29.153 of the Education Code, which refers to free prekindergarten classes.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 3646 Hochberg

Relating to public school finance and programs.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

HB 3676 Heflin

Relating to the Texas Economic Development Act.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

HB 3918 Darby

Relating to testing liquefied petroleum gas systems in certain school facilities.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires each school district to perform leakage (formerly pressure) tests for leakage on the LP-gas piping system in each school district facility biennially. The test must be conducted in accordance with commission rules.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 4102 Eiland

Relating to the disaster contingency fund and relief for school districts located in a disaster area.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows the state or a local government to receive disaster contingency funds if the entity participates in disaster preparation or disaster recovery efforts. If these entities receive federal reimbursements for their disaster recovery and preparation activities, then they must reimburse the state's disaster contingency fund. The bill lays out various uses of the disaster contingency fund.

The bill establishes a new section in the Government Code covering disaster remediation costs for school districts located, in part or in whole, within a disaster area and that incurs disaster remediation costs as part of the disaster.

For the two-year period after the declaration of a disaster area, the total amount of attendance credits required of a chapter 41 district is reduced by the amount of any disaster remediation costs paid by the district that it does not anticipate recovering through insurance, federal reimbursement, or other such source. Attendance credit reductions for the 2009-2010 school year are determined by calculating all disaster remediation costs paid by the district after September 1, 2008 (if costs meet requirements set forth in this section).

Another section allows districts to seek reimbursements for costs associated with disaster recovery. A district may apply for reimbursement of costs it pays during the two-year period after the disaster and that it does not anticipate recovering. The commissioner may provide reimbursement only if funds are available, and must reimburse chapter 42 districts from amounts appropriated for that purpose or from excess appropriations to the FSP. If funds remain after awards are made to chapter 42 districts, they may be provided to chapter 41 districts. If insufficient funds are available to cover all chapter 42 districts, each districts share is reduced proportionately.

The commissioner may permit a district to use funds available to the district as a result of attendance credit reductions to pay the costs of replacing, instead of repairing, a facility, but that cost cannot exceed the cost of repairing the facility.

A section is added to Chapter 42 of the Education Code regarding average daily attendance for districts in disaster areas. If ADA declines for disaster-affected districts, then ADA adjustments must be made sufficient to ensure that the district receives funding comparable to what would have been received if pre-disaster ADA levels had not declined. This adjustment be effective for the two-year period following the declaration of a disaster in the district's area.

Chapter 42 is further amended with the addition of a section regarding adjustments for property value affected by the disaster. This section allows for the adjustment of the taxable value of property of a school district all or part of which is located in a disaster area. The commissioner may fund adjustments under this section using funds specifically appropriated for the purpose or other funds available to the commissioner for that purpose. Additional funding received by a district under this section is in addition to funds received under Section 42.2516(b), which is the section of code that determines the state revenue needed to maintain state and local revenue per WADA amounts.

In the event of a catastrophe, emergency, or natural disaster affecting a school district, the district's board of trustees may delegate to the superintendent or designated person the authority to contract for the replacement, construction, or repair of school equipment or facilities if emergency replacement, construction, or repair is necessary for the health and safety of students and staff.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 4152 Rose

Relating to certification of an educator in Texas who is certified in another state or country.

Remarks: Enrolled: Authorizes SBEC to issue certificates to certain applicants certified to teach in another state or country. Requires acceptance or rejection of 90 percent of applications within 14 days of receipt and requires acceptance or rejection of all applications within 30 days of receipt. An educator certified to teach in another state or country who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a certificate must perform satisfactorily on the examination not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the credentials. This applies only to shortage areas as determined by the commissioner (math, science, special education, and bilingual education). An applicant must submit a letter of good standing from the state in which the teacher is certified, information necessary to complete a national criminal history check, and an application fee.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 4294 Branch

Relating to textbooks, electronic textbooks, instructional material, and technological equipment in public schools.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

HB 4435 Allen

Relating to the requirement for participation by certain principals in the school leadership pilot program for principals.

Remarks: Enrolled: A principal who was employed as a principal at a campus that was rated academically unacceptable during the preceding school year shall participate in the program and complete the program requirements not later than a date determined by the commissioner. This Act applies only to a principal employed at a school that is rated academically unacceptable during the 2008-2009 school year.

Amended to indicate that content of HB 3, if in conflict, takes precedence over the provisions of this act.

This bill takes effect immediately.

HB 4540 Raymond

Relating to disposition of proceeds from the development or sale of the rights to natural resources or minerals in land held by Webb County for the county permanent school fund.

Remarks: Enrolled: The commissioners court Webb County may develop or sell the rights to natural resources or minerals in the land, and enter into an agreement outlined in section 6 Article VII of the Texas Constitution (County School Lands, Proceeds of Sales, investment, available school fund). This Act takes effect December 1, 2009, but only if the constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. No. 142, 81st Legislature, is approved by voters.

This bill takes effect December 1, 2009 only if the constitutional amendment, H.J.R. 142 of the 81st Legislature, is approved by voters.

HB 4586 Pitts

Relating to making supplemental appropriations and reductions in appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority and prescribing limitations regarding appropriations.

Remarks:

\$2,630,206 appropriated for criminal history background checks in 2009; \$500 million reduction to FSP in 2009; \$19.2 million reduction to Student Success; \$1.03 million reduction to School Improvement; \$108,007 reduction to Educational Technology; \$1.3 million reduction to Safe Schools \$758 million; Reimbursement of \$10 million to eligible school districts in disaster area

HB 4765 Oliveira

Relating to the total revenue exemption for the franchise tax.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill would amend the franchise tax to increase the amount of total revenue at which an entity would owe no tax.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HJR 14 Corte

Relating to the limiting the taking of private property.

Remarks: Enrolled: Proposes a constitutional amendment that would specify that the taking of private property is authorized only if it is necessary for: the ownership, use, and enjoyment of the state, a political subdivision of the state, the public at large, or an entity granted the power of eminent domain under the law; or the elimination of urban blight on a particular parcel of property.

A section is added regarding the established national research university fund for the purpose of providing a dedicated, independent, and equitable source of funding to enable emerging research universities in this state to achieve national prominence. This bill allows the legislature to dedicate state revenue to the credit of the fund and allows the legislature to provide for administration of the fund. Specific methods for administration of the fund are included as well as the allocation of funds, based on revenue, dedicated for this purpose. On January 1, 2010, any amount in or payable to the credit of the higher education fund established by Section 17(i), Article VII, Texas Constitution, shall be transferred to the credit of the national research university fund. The bill prohibits The University of Texas at Austin and Texas A&M from receiving money from this fund.

The constitutional amendment proposed in this bill shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 2009.

HJR 36 Otto

Ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead; authorizing a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities.

Remarks: Enrolled: The resolution would propose a constitutional amendment to Article VIII of the Texas Constitution to authorize the Legislature to provide for the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether the residential use of the property is the highest and best use.

Authorizes the Legislature to allow for a single board of equalization for two or more adjoining appraisal entities that elect to provide for consolidated equalizations. The amendment also permits the state to set appraisal standards by general law. These provisions would be submitted to voters at an election to be held November 3, 2009.

SB 1 Ogden

General Appropriations Bill for the 2010-2011 biennium.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

SB 68 Nelson

Relating to licensing and inspection requirements of the Department of Family and Protective Services for certain facilities and homes providing child care.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill provides a definition for what constitutes a day care facility and details rules and regulation and lays out penalties for non-compliance. The bill adds a section to lay out rules regarding court orders and inspections of day care facilities. It also adds the definition for "school-age programs." It removes the section that describes child care excluded from this bill specific to care that occurs within a family home for sibling groups. Provides additional criteria and specificity regarding the types of programs that do not fall under the definition of day-care (before and after school programs offered by educational facilities accredited by TEA, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or an accrediting body that is a member of the Texas Private School Association are listed as entities that are not regulated under this section).

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 90 Van de Putte

Relating to adoption of the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Remarks: Enrolled: Enters Texas into the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

SB 161 Ellis

Relating to specialty license plates supporting the Safe Routes to School Program.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds education and awareness license plates to those designated for specialty plates.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 175 Shapiro

Relating to the automatic admission of undergraduate students to certain general academic teaching institutions and to scholarship and other programs to facilitate enrollment at institutions of higher education.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab.]

SB 184 Watson

Relating to "no regrets" greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

Remarks: Enrolled: The comptroller shall prepare a report for the legislature that includes strategies for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases that results in savings for consumers or state businesses and can be achieved without financial costs to consumers or state businesses. The comptroller shall consider the total net costs over the life of the strategy as opposed to short-term capital costs. The comptroller shall appoint an advisory committee and the report must be submitted no later than December 31, 2009.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 229 West

Relating to the procurement methods authorized for public projects by certain local governments.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill lowers the population size, from 500,000 to 100,000, for governmental entities to comply with certain procurement methods for public projects.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 282 Nelson

Relating to grant and outreach programs to provide nutrition education to children.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes a nutrition outreach program through the Department of Agriculture to promote better health and nutrition programs and prevent childhood

obesity. Creates a grant program for best practices in nutrition education to be developed by the Department of Agriculture that will award grants to public schools to develop best practices in nutrition education. Grants will be awarded to programs to operate nutrition programs for children in early childhood programs. This Act takes effect immediately.

Adds a change to the Agriculture Code that says the department of agriculture may develop an outreach program to promote better health and nutrition programs and prevent obesity among children. They may solicit and accept gifts, grants and donations.

States that the legislature shall not allot more than \$4 million for the implementation of this program for the biennium.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 283 Nelson

Relating to the membership and activities of local school health advisory councils and to parental involvement in human sexuality instruction in public schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: The board of trustees shall appoint at least five members to the local school health advisory council on which a majority of members must be persons who are parents of students enrolled in the district and are not employed by the district, one of whom shall serve as chair or co-chair of the council.

Additional appointments can be made from the following groups: public schools teachers, public school administrators, district students, health care professionals, the business community, law enforcement, senior citizens, the clergy, and nonprofit health organizations. Additionally, the advisory council shall meet at least four times annually and submit an annual written report to the board of trustees that includes recommendations for district health curriculum and an explanation of the council's activities. Reporting requirements must be fulfilled by April 1, 2010. The school district must notify parents if human sexuality will be offered and the notice must include a summary of the state's instructional requirements, information about the parent's right to review curriculum, and the parent's right to remove the student from the course.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 300 Patrick, Dan

Relating to eliminating certain mandates on school districts.

Remarks: [See Detailed Summary in Major Bills Tab]

SB 395 Lucio

Relating to creation of the Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Interagency Council.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes an early childhood health and nutrition interagency council in the Health and Safety Code. The language creates rules for the council, establishes meeting procedures, describes the council's make-up, explains members' reimbursements, details reporting procedures, and the council's mandate to create plans that align with the purpose of the council.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 451 Van de Putte

Relating to staff development requirements in public schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: As part of existing staff development requirements, mandates research-based training in the instruction of students with disabilities for educators who work primarily outside the area of special education. A school district is required to provide the training to an educator who works primarily outside the area of special education and who does not possess the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the IEP of the students.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 522 Averitt

Relating to the use of personal leave by a public school employee.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill states that the state minimum personal leave program may not restrict the order in which an employee may use state minimum personal leave and personal leave provided by the district. Also, employees who retain sick leave may use this sick leave in any order as long as it is appropriate to the purpose of the leave.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 562 Jackson, Mike

Relating to the inclusion on the exterior of an ad valorem tax bill of a statement directing the United States Postal Service to return the bill if it is not deliverable as addressed.

Remarks: Enrolled: If the tax assessor wants the United States postal Service to return the tax bill if it is not deliverable as addressed, the exterior of the tax bill may contain, in all capital letters, the words "RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED" or another appropriate statement.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 572 Shapiro

Relating to transportation safety training requirements for certain child-care providers.

Remarks: Enrolled: The department of family and protective services by rule shall require an owner, operator, or employee of a day-care center, group day-care home, family home, child-care institution, foster group home, or agency foster group home who transports a child under the care of the facility whose chronological or developmental age is younger than nine years of age to complete at least two hours of annual training on transportation safety.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009

SB 576 Davis, Wendy

Relating to the implementation of a project plan for a reinvestment zone under the Tax Increment Financing Act and the granting of exemptions from ad valorem taxes imposed on real property in a reinvestment zone.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds the construction of a road, sidewalk, or other public infrastructure in or out of the zone, including the cost of acquiring the real property necessary for the construction of the road, sidewalk, or other public infrastructure to reinvestment zone projects.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 759 Williams

Relating to certain standards for group-administered achievement tests used by school districts.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill extends the length of time that districts may use the same form of norm-referenced test to eight years, and lifts the time limit if no alternate form of the test exists. The bill also states that the eight-year limitation on data to compute norms under this section does not apply if only data older than eight years is available for an assessment instrument. The commissioner by rule may limit the exception created by this subsection based on the type of assessment instrument.

The bill repeals subsections (a), (b), and (d) of Section 39.032. These sections relate to: forbidding a company or organization to distribute, sell to, or grade for the same school district the same form of an assessment instrument for more than three school years; reporting requirements placed on companies or organizations that grade assessment instruments; and the section related to damages that must be paid by companies or organizations that fail to comply with this section.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 771 Williams

Relating to the determination of the value of property for ad valorem tax purposes, including appeals through binding arbitration of appraisal review board orders determining protests of property value determinations.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill would amend Chapter 23 of the Tax Code to prohibit an increase in the appraised value of property after the value had been determined by an appeal to the appraisal review board, binding arbitration, or court decision unless the increase is reasonably supported by substantial, reliable evidence after considering all the evidence in the record. The bill would limit sales that could be used as comparable sales in developing appraisals to sales that occurred within two years of the appraisal date unless insufficient comparable sales occurred within two years of the appraisal date to form a reasonable sample. The bill would require that a comparable sale price be adjusted for market changes during the period between the date of the sale and the appraisal date. The bill would include additional factors to be considered before using a sale as a comparable. The bill would also prohibit a chief appraiser from separately appraising personal property that is valued as a portion of the income of the real property. The market value of the real property would be required to include the combined value of the real and personal property.

The bill adds a section stipulating that land dedicated for agricultural use is still eligible for agricultural use appraisal during a drought. An additional section details the comptroller requirements for becoming an arbitrator.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

SB 798 Carona

Relating to refunds of overpayments or erroneous payments of ad valorem taxes.

Remarks: Enrolled: In the case of an overpayment or erroneous payment of taxes submitted by a taxpayer to a collector who collects taxes for one or more taxing units one of which is a county with a population of two million or more, a taxpayer is not required to apply to the collector for the refund to be entitled to receive the refund if the amount of the refund is at least \$5 but does not exceed \$5,000, and the collector is not required to do this unless the amount of the payment exceeds by more than \$5,000 the amount of taxes owed for a tax year to a taxing unit for which the collector collects taxes.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

SB 858 Seliger

Relating to offering the classroom portion of a driver education course through an alternative method of instruction.

Remarks: Enrolled: A driver education school may teach all or part of the classroom portion of an approved driver education course by an alternative method of instruction that does not require students to be present in a classroom if the commissioner approves the alternative method.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 873 Harris

Relating to a requirement that certain appraisal districts provide for electronic filing of and electronic communications regarding a protest of appraised value by the owner of a residence homestead.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds new section to the tax code that requires electronic filing of notice of appraisal protests for appraisal districts that had maintained an internet website by January 1, 2008 or anytime after that date.

The bill states that a county with a population less than 250,000 is not required to implement this before January 1, 2013.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2011.

SB 891 Nelson

Relating to the public school physical education curriculum.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires physical education curriculum to be sequential, developmentally appropriate, and designed, implemented, and evaluated to enable students to develop the motor, self-management, and other skills, knowledge, attitudes, and confidence necessary to participate in physical activity throughout life. Each school district shall establish objectives and goals to accomplish through the physical education curriculum. The bill lists a variety of measures that must be incorporated into SBOE developed physical education curriculum.

To the extent practicable, a district shall require a student enrolled in prekindergarten on less than a full-day basis to participate in the same type and amount of physical activity as a student enrolled in full-day prekindergarten.

A section is also added regarding student/teacher ratios in physical education classes. It stipulates that if a district establishes a student to teacher ratio greater than 45 to 1 in a physical education class, the district shall specifically identify the manner in which the safety of the students will be maintained.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 892 Nelson

Relating to inclusion in a public school campus improvement plans of goal and objectives for the campus coordinated health programs.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill expands the required components of campus improvement plans to include setting goals and objectives for the coordinated health program using fitness assessment data, academic performance data, attendance, economic status, and use/success of methods to ensure student participation in moderate to vigorous physical activity each week, and any other indicator recommended by the school's health advisory council.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 939 Watson

Relating to benefits and services for children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, including the exchange of information by the department regarding students in foster care.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds a new section to the education code that requires TEA and the Department of Family and Protective Services to enter into a memorandum of understanding regarding the exchange of information to facilitate the department's evaluation of educational outcomes of students in foster care. The bill lays out the requirements for the memorandum including demographic information, and educational outcomes (academic achievement, graduation rates, attendance, disciplinary actions). Nothing in this bill may be construed to require TEA or the Department to collect or maintain any additional information on students in foster care or allow the release of information regarding an individual student.

Incorporates language from an entirely different bill that related to foster children. It attaches exemption from certain fees in higher education to the age when a student was in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) or when adopted. The bill also: updates the required composition of DFPS review teams; adds requirements related to permanency goals for children in the care of DFPS; requires timely placement review hearings for children for whom DFPS is the managing conservator in a final court order terminating parental rights (within 90 days of the final order); requires the placement review reports to evaluate placement relative to permanency goals, include transition plans, and describe efforts to find a permanent placement for the child; requires court hearings to document whether permanent placements are appropriate or provide compelling reasons for the placement decisions made; and authorizes courts to order DFPS to provide up to 6 months of services to a parent if the court determines that reunification with the parent is appropriate.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1024 Ogden

Relating to authority of a school district to mail a tax bill with an adopted rate that is higher than the district's rollback tax rate before the date of a rollback election.

Remarks: Enrolled: If, after tax bills for the school district have been mailed, a proposition to approve the school district's adopted tax rate is not approved by the voters of the district at an election, on subsequent adoption of a new tax rate, the district assessor shall prepare and mail corrected tax bills. The date on which the taxes become delinquent for the year is extended by a number of days equal to the number of days between the date the first tax bills were sent and the date the corrected tax bills were sent.

If a property owner pays taxes based on the originally adopted rate by the school district but the proposition to approve the rate is not approved, the district shall refund the difference between the amount of taxes paid and the amount due under the subsequently adopted rate, if the difference is \$1 or more.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 1027 Watson

Relating to the establishment of an interagency farm-to-school coordination task force.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes the Interagency Farm-to-School Coordination Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to promote a healthy diet for schoolchildren and the business of small to mid-sized local farms and ranches, by developing a plan to facilitate the availability of locally grown food products in public schools. The task force is composed of a representative from the Department of Agriculture, TEA, and the Department of State Health Services each appointed by the commissioner of the department. The task force will also have at least one representative from: fruit and vegetable producer organizations; school food service organizations; food distribution businesses; child nutrition and advocacy organizations; parent organizations; educational institutions that conduct research in the areas of agriculture and nutrition; and health nutrition educators who serve school districts. Subject to available funding, the task force shall: design education resources on nutrition and food to be used by schools and school districts and expand food-focused education programs; create a grant program funded by the department that allows schools and school districts to recover the costs associated with purchasing locally grown food products; develop a database of available locally grown food products for use by school food service agencies that includes contact and purchasing information for the products; design and implement training programs to enable local farmers and ranchers to market their products to schools and school districts; advise schools and school districts on how they may improve their facilities to allow for the use of fresh produce in school meals; provide technical assistance to school food service agencies to accommodate the use of locally grown foods in public schools; offer advanced skills development training to school food service employees regarding the proper methods of handling, preparing, and serving locally grown foods; and

conduct any other activity considered by the task force as necessary to achieve its goals. The task force may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from public and private entities to use for the purposes of this section.

This act takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 1071 Wentworth

Relating to the required disclosure under the public information law of information pertaining to an employee or trustee of a public employee pension system.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds a section to the Government Code relating to an employee or trustee of the public employee pension system. The bill states that information (including income, salary, benefits and bonuses) concerning the employment of an employee of a public employee pension system and the service of a trustee of a public employee pension system is public information.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1105 Duncan

Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to extend the termination date for a reinvestment zone created under the Tax Increment Financing Act.

Remarks: Enrolled: Applies to a reinvestment zone, created in a municipality with a population of 195,000 or more and located in the county seat of a county with a population of 245,000 or less. A municipality may designate a termination date for the zone that is later than the termination date designated in the ordinance creating the zone but no later than the 20th anniversary of that date. If a municipality extends the termination date of a reinvestment zone, the zone terminates on the earlier of the termination date in the ordinance or the date in which all project costs, tax increment bonds and interest on these bonds and other obligations have been paid in full.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1134 Duncan

Relating to the authority for certain high school students to serve as election clerks.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds a new section to the election code that lays out special eligibility requirements for student election clerks. A student is eligible to serve as a clerk of an election precinct if the student at the time of appointment is a student at a public or private secondary school or attends home school and has the consent of the principal or the home-school adult who is responsible of the student's education. The student must also be

16 or older, be a US citizen and have completed the required training course. A student election clerk is entitled to compensation and may communicate in another language if necessary. No more than two student election clerks may serve at a polling place unless it is a countywide polling place.

The bill also amends the education code to allow for a student to be excused from school for serving as an election clerk. A student appointed to serve as an election clerk may use the time served in this position toward a requirement for a school project or a service requirement.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 1182 Wentworth

Relating to public information and open government.

Remarks: Enrolled: States that the only suit a governmental body could file seeking to withhold information would be a suit filed in Travis County district court against the attorney general that sought declaratory relief from compliance with an attorney general decision on exceptions to disclosure. If a governmental body wished to preserve an affirmative defense for its public information officer, the suit would have to be filed in accordance with the deadline.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 1219 Averitt

Relating to a parenting and paternity awareness component of the health curriculum used in public high schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: This bill allows a teacher to modify the suggested sequence and pace of the SBOE's parenting and paternity awareness program at the discretion of the district.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 1290 Van de Putte

Relating to authorization for school districts to provide mentors for teachers assigned to a new subject or grade level.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds that a mentor teacher can be assigned to a classroom teacher with less than two years experience in the subject or grade level to which the mentor teacher is assigned.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1344 Watson

Relating to an alcohol awareness component of the health curriculum used in public schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: The SBOE shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that address the dangers, causes, consequences, signs, symptoms, and treatment of binge drinking and alcohol poisoning. The agency shall compile a list of alcohol awareness evidence-based programs from which a school district shall choose for use in the district's health curriculum.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1359 Seliger

Relating to forfeiture of remedy for nonpayment of ad valorem taxes.

Remarks: Enrolled: Not later than the 45th day before the date of a hearing to review and determine compliance, the movant must mail notice of the hearing by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the collector for each taxing unit that imposes taxes on the property. Regardless of whether the collector for the taxing unit receives a notice, a taxing unit that imposes taxes on the property may intervene in an appeal under this chapter and participate in the proceedings for the limited purpose of determining whether the property owner has complied with this requirement. The taxing unit is entitled to process for witnesses and evidence and to be heard by the court.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1522 Shapleigh

Relating to the exemption of certain school districts from the drainage charge imposed by a municipal drainage utility system.

Remarks: Enrolled: Property owned by a school district located wholly or partly in a municipality of more than 500,000 and located within 50 miles of an international border is exempt from drainage charges.

This bill goes into effect immediately.

SB 1735 West

Relating to providing police and security services for certain post-secondary educational institutions.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds language to the Education Code that provides police security protection for medical complexes affiliated with institutions of higher education. Clarifies that parent corporations for the medical corporation receiving this service are also eligible.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 1969 West

Relating to nonsubstantive additions to and correction in enacted codes, to the nonsubstantive codification or disposition of various laws omitted from enacted codes, to conforming codifications, and repeal of unconstitutional

Remarks: Enrolled: Makes nonsubstantive changes to Education Code.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 2033 Nelson

Relating to adoption of a school district grading policy.

Remarks: Enrolled: A school district shall adopt a grading policy, including provisions for the assignment of grades on class assignments and examinations, before each school year. A district grading policy must require a classroom teacher to assign a grade that reflects the student's relative mastery of an assignment, may not require a classroom teacher to assign a minimum grade for an assignment without regard to the student's quality of work, and may allow a student a reasonable opportunity to make up or redo a class assignment or examination for which the student received a failing grade.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 2178 Shapleigh

Relating to the establishment by the commissioner of education of a computer lending pilot program for public schools.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes the computer lending pilot program to provide computers to participating public schools that make computers available for use by members of the local community. A public school is eligible to participate in the pilot program if 50 percent or more of the students enrolled in the school are educationally disadvantaged and the school operates or agrees to operate a computer lending program that allows students, parents and other area residents to borrow a computer, includes an option for students, parents and residents to work toward owning a computer initially borrowed under the lending program, provides computer training, and operates outside of regular school hours until at least 7pm.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 2248 Zaffirini

Relating to public school students placed in foster care.

Remarks: Enrolled: TEA shall assist the transition of substitute care students from one school to another by: 1. Ensuring that school records for a student in substitute care are transferred to the student's new school not later than the 14th day after the date the student begins enrollment at the school; 2. Developing systems to ease transition of a student in substitute care during the first two weeks of enrollment at a new school; 3. Developing procedures for awarding credit for course work, including electives, completed by a student in foster care while enrolled at another school; 4. Promoting practices that facilitate access by a student in substitute care to extracurricular programs, summer programs, credit transfer services, electronic courses, and after-school tutoring programs at minimum or no cost; 5. Establishing procedures to lessen the adverse impact of the movement of a student in substitute care; 6. Establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Family and Protective Services to exchange information as appropriate to facilitate student transition; 7. Encouraging school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide services for a student in substitute care in transition when applying for admission to postsecondary study and when seeking sources of funding for postsecondary study; 8. Requiring school districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools to accept a referral for special education services made for a student in foster care by a school previously attended by the student; and 9. Providing other assistance as identified by the agency.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 2258 Zaffirini

Relating to intensive summer programs for public school students and to college readiness programs at public institutions of higher education.

Remarks: Enrolled: Removes the classification of intensive summer programs as a pilot program. Places the responsibility of awarding grants for this purpose solely in the hands of the Commissioner of Education (no longer shared with commissioner of higher education). Grants for these programs may no longer be used to fund a program administered by an institution of higher education to provide intensive academic instruction in English language arts, math, and science to facilitate the student's transition from high school to a postsecondary institution.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 2262 Zaffirini

Relating to the administration of mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation academies at institutions of higher education.

Remarks: Enrolled: Moves teacher preparation academies oversight to SBEC from THECB.

This bill takes effect immediately.

SB 2274 Seliger

Relating to the authority of a school district to impose ad valorem taxes.

Remarks: Enrolled: If for the preceding tax year the district adopted a maintenance and operations tax rate that was less than the district's effective maintenance and operations tax rate for that preceding tax year, the rollback tax rate of the district for the current tax year is calculated as if the district adopted a maintenance and operations tax rate for the preceding tax year that was equal to the district's effective maintenance and operations tax rate for that preceding tax year.

This bill takes effect immediately.

All Bills Passed Addendum

HB 55 Branch

Relating to an offense of using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

Remarks: Enrolled: Prohibits the use of wireless communication devices while operating a motor vehicle within a school crossing zone unless the vehicle is stopped or the device is used with a hands free device. Requires municipalities that enforce this section to post signs at the entrance of the crossing zone indicating that the use of a wireless device is prohibited.

This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 537 Berman

Relating to the transportation of children in motor vehicles.

Remarks: Enrolled: Creates an offense of allowing a person at least 15 years old to ride in a passenger vehicle without securing the person individually by a safety belt if the person is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt. Creates as an offense allowing a child younger than 17 to ride in a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers, including the driver, without securing the child individually by a safety belt if the child is occupying a seat that is equipped with a safety belt. The provisions of the bill would apply to third-party transport service providers when transporting clients pursuant to a contract to provide nonemergency Medicaid transportation (previously, these providers were exempt).

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 978 Burnam

Relating to the employment rights of certain individuals with disabilities.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill would amend the Labor Code relating to the employment rights of certain individuals with disabilities.

HB 986 Villarreal

Relating to the appeal of ad valorem tax determinations.

Remarks: Enrolled: Establishes a timetable for the payment of a tax refund as a result of a successful appeal by a property owner, which is the earlier of (a) 21 days after the final determination of the appeal, or (b) the date the property owner files the form. The recipients may include the property owner, the business office of the property owner's attorney of record in the appeal, or any other individual and address designated by the property owner.

This Act takes effect immediately.

HB 1205 Button

Relating to the circumstances in which the approval of the governing body of a taxing unit is required for refunds of overpayments or erroneous payments of ad valorem taxes.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill would amend Chapter 31.11(a) of the Tax Code, relating to the approval process for refunds of overpayments or erroneous payments of ad valorem taxes.

This bill takes effect January 1, 2010.

HB 1232 Menendez

Relating to establishing a local behavioral health intervention pilot project.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the Department of State Health Services to establish a local behavioral health intervention pilot project for Bexar County. Requires collaboration between state and local agencies that work with children, including Department of State Health Services, Department of Family and Protective Services, Texas Youth Commission and TEA. An agreement should allow for identification of children who are at risk of placement in an alternative setting for behavior management. Requires parental consent.

This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 1257 Legler

Relating to the payment in installments of ad valorem taxes on certain property owned by a business entity and located in a disaster area and to the ad valorem taxation of a homestead rendered uninhabitable by a casualty or damage.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the continuation of a homestead exemption when a residence is under repair following an event that renders the residence uninhabitable or unusable. The owner must begin repairs within one year, the exemption would be limited to two years, and the exemption would not be available if the owner obtains a homestead exemption on another residence. Provides for recapturing the difference between the amount that would have been taxed and the amount actually taxed with the exemption if the owner sells the property before the completion of a replacement qualified residential structure. Requires a lien to be attached to the property to secure payment of the additional tax and interest.

Expands an installment payment option for ad valorem taxes to include certain property damaged by a disaster and owned or leased by a business entity with \$5 million or less in annual gross receipts. The expanded installment payment option would cover real and tangible personal property.

This bill takes immediate effect.

HB 1831 Corte

Relating to disaster preparedness and emergency management and to certain vehicles used in emergencies.

Remarks: Enrolled: Makes a number of changes to requirements related to the state emergency response plan as well as plans required of public junior college districts, school districts, and institutions of higher education. For example, plans must ensure coordination with the Department of State Health Services as well as local emergency management agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire departments. Modifies security audit to be safety and security audit. Documents relating to these plans are subject to disclosure if they enable a person to verify that the district complied with various requirements for the plans. Requires the creation of school safety committees in each district and the creation of a registry of persons providing school safety or security consulting services.

This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 1935 Villarreal

Relating to the establishment of certain programs to support adult and postsecondary education and workforce development in high-demand occupations and green jobs.

Remarks: Enrolled: Creates the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant program. Awards grants to junior colleges, technical institutes, and nonprofit organizations. A specific grant under this program makes awards to junior colleges and technical institutions for the development of new CTE courses.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 1945 Herrero

Relating to the date of the general election for certain political subdivisions.

Remarks: Enrolled: Repeals 44.0051 of the Election Code, which authorized CCISD to have a joint election with the City of Corpus Christi on any Saturday in April in odd-numbered years. Requires Corpus Christi and CCISD to choose a uniform election date for 2011 and subsequent years.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

HB 3851 Eiland

Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to suspend statutory deadlines during a disaster.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows the governor to waive or suspend deadlines imposed by statute, orders, or rules of a state agency on a political subdivision, including a deadline related to a budget or ad valorem tax, if it is reasonably necessary to cope with a disaster. Allows suspension of local law deadlines if the territory of the political subdivision is wholly or partly located in a disaster area and the presiding officer or governing body proclaims that the political subdivision is unable to comply because of the disaster.

This Act takes immediate effect.

SB 43 Zaffirini

Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for students who have been under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

Remarks: Enrolled: Exempts students from paying tuition and fees, including those related to dual credit courses if the student was under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services on the child's 18th birthday, on or after the child's 14th birthday if the child was eligible for adoption on or after that day, on the day the student graduated from high school or received a GED, or during an academic term in which the student was enrolled in a dual credit course or other course for which a high school student may earn joint credit. Must enroll not later than their 25th birthday.

This Act applies beginning with tuition and fees for the Spring of 2010.

SB 174 Shapiro

Relating to accountability of institutions of higher education, including educator preparation programs, and online institution resumes for public institutions of higher education.

Remarks: Enrolled: Adds accountability standards for educator preparation programs related to: the achievement, including a growth measure, of students taught by beginning teachers (to the extent practicable); and compliance with board requirements regarding frequency, duration and quality of structural guidance and ongoing support provided by field supervisors to beginning teachers during their first year in the classroom. Allows SBEC to propose rules establishing minimum standards for approval or renewal of educator preparation programs or certification fields to be offered by an educator preparation program. Requires accreditation ratings of educator preparation programs (not rated,

accredited, accredited-warned, accredited-probation, and not accredited-revoked). Allows for accountability sanctions and requires public reporting of data, including survey results. Requires the Higher Education Coordinating Board to post resumes containing performance data related to each institution of higher education.

SB 801 Hegar

Relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of land used for wildlife management.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill would expand the definition of land qualified for appraisal as agricultural land in wildlife management use to include land that is qualified for appraisal as timber land. Under prior law, land qualified for appraisal as timber land could not be converted to a wildlife management use. The bill would codify current practice of appraising agricultural land in wildlife management use based on its previous agricultural use, and expand this to include timber land in wildlife management use. Expands land qualifying for appraisal as open-space land to include land inside a city limit if it has been devoted principally to agricultural use or timber production continuously for the preceding five years and is also used for wildlife management.

This Act takes effect January 1, 2010.

SB 1068 Wentworth

Relating to allowing a governmental body to redact certain personal information under the public information law without the necessity of requesting a decision from the attorney general.

Remarks: Enrolled: Allows a governmental body to redact an employee's address, phone number, and social security number at the employee's request without the necessity of requesting an attorney general's opinion. The requestor of the information may seek an AG opinion if the information is redacted or withheld. Governmental bodies that withhold this information must provide a description of the redacted information, a citation to this section of the law, and instructions regarding how the requestor may seek an AG opinion regarding whether the redacted or withheld information is excepted from required disclosure.

This Act takes immediate effect.

SB 1402 Hinojosa

Relating to requiring certain political subdivisions to enter a contract with the county elections administrator to perform election services.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires the governing body of a political subdivision located entirely in a county with a population of more than 500,000 that is served by a county elections administrator and that does not contain a municipality with a population of more than

150,000 and that is not an irrigation district to request an election services contract with the county elections administrator to perform all duties and functions of the political subdivision in relation to an election if the political subdivision receives a petition requesting the contract signed by a number of registered voters residing in the political subdivision that is equal to or exceeds one percent of all votes cast in the most recent general election held by the political subdivision.

This Act takes immediate effect.

SB 1629 Wentworth

Relating to the persons exempted from the required prepayment of the personnel costs incurred by a governmental body in responding to requests from a requestor under the public information law that require large amounts of time.

Remarks: Enrolled: The bill would amend the Government Code to add newspapers of general circulation that are published on the Internet and magazines that are either published at least once a week or are on the Internet to the list of entities that may not be charged for public information requests that require large amounts of employee or personnel time. Requestors of the information would have to be individuals for whom a substantial portion of their livelihood or financial gain comes from gathering news or information and who seeks the information for a radio or television station, newspaper, magazine, or other accepted form of information dispensation.

SB 1824 Lucio

Relating to the Interagency Task Force for Children with Special Needs.

Remarks: Enrolled: Creates a Task Force for Children with Special Needs. Duties include: compile list of opportunities to increase flexible funding for students with special needs including alternative funding sources; conduct review of state agency policies; perform needs assessment; develop five-year plan to improve coordination, quality and efficiency.

SB 1970 Duncan

Relating to certain election practices and procedures.

Remarks: Enrolled: Makes a number of changes to the election code. Some of these changes include: requiring the Secretary of State to prescribe any additional procedures necessary to accommodate a particular voting system or ballot style; establishing procedures related to a cancellation of an election; modifying provisions related to canceling a voter's registration; and modifying provisions regarding requirements for the use of emergency paper ballots. Requires the Secretary of State to prescribe procedures; allows the presiding officer to make a clerical correction to the officially canvassed returns; modifies provisions regarding requirements of an early voting clerk; allows having a voting system technician present at a

polling place, a meeting of the early voting ballot board, or a central counting station; and requires posting notice of filing deadlines.

Amends time frame in which the Secretary of State must deliver the certification to the authority responsible for having the official ballot prepared in each county.

Changes the amount of deposit required for a recount to \$60 for each precinct in which regular paper ballots were used and \$100 for each precinct in which an electronic voting system was used.

This bill takes effect September 1, 2009.

SB 2505 Harris

Relating to safety of children who participate in rodeos.

Remarks: Enrolled: Requires certain safety provisions for children participating in rodeos and requires mandatory educational programs on safety for schools that sponsor, promote, or are otherwise associated with a rodeo.

This Act takes immediate effect.