



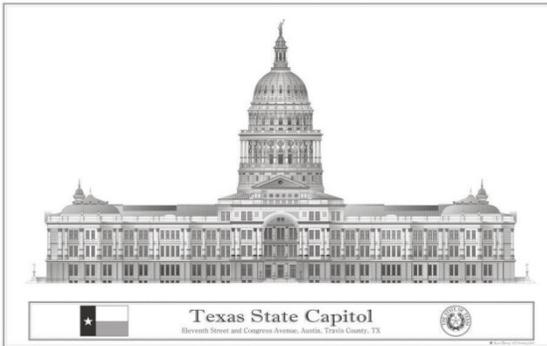
GARY

VanDeaver

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



**House District 1 - Bowie, Franklin, Lamar & Red River counties
District & Capitol Report
85th Legislature - April 2017**



Around the District. *Texas Workforce Commission check presentation.* TWC Commissioner, Julian Alvarez, was in Texarkana on Friday, April 28 at 11 a.m. at Texarkana College, for a Skills Development Fund Grant Award presentation to McClarty Ford and Texarkana College (TC). According to TC, the funds will support workforce training at McClarty Ford as the area rolls out the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 60X30TX initiative designed to have at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 have a degree or certificate by 2030. In 2013, only 35 percent of Texans in this age range had a degree or certificate, which was significantly lower than the previous generation. The workforce grant will help our region work to meet this important goal. Congratulations to TC & McClarty Ford!

At the Capitol. *Budget work continues.* The House, on April 7, adopted its version of the state budget (Senate Bill 1) for the next biennium for 2018-19. Since the House and Senate version of the budget are different, a 10-member conference committee has been appointed to resolve those differences. Members of the conference committee include the following House and Senate members: Reps: Zerwas; Ashby; Davis, S.; Gonzales, L.; and Longoria. Senators: Nelson; Hinojosa; Huffman; Kolkhorst; and Schwertner. The conference committee must finalize its work and submit its report to both Chambers no later than midnight, Friday, May 26, which is just three days before the regular session adjourns.



Rep. VanDeaver on the House floor during a session debate on legislation. Also with Rep. VanDeaver is (l-r) Rep. Scott Cosper (Killeen); Rep. Trent Ashby (Lufkin); and Rep. Jay Dean (Longview).

My legislation. Last week, I laid out two pieces of legislation in the House Committee on Urban Affairs. HB 1238 reduces the investment training hours a housing authority commissioner would have to complete every two years.



Rep. VanDeaver laying out two bills before the House Committee on Urban Affairs

This would help to reduce costs for housing authorities sending commissioners to other towns to complete this training. HB 1239 allows housing authority tenants to live off the housing authority development if there are 150 units or less. Both bills were unanimously voted out of the Urban Affairs committee Tuesday, April 25th, and were sent to the House Local and Consent calendar.

This week, my HB 515 was voted out of the House Committee on Public Education and should soon be scheduled for a vote on the House floor. This bill reduces some of the standardized testing requirements that have stolen instruction time away from our students and teachers and saves the state money.

On April 26th, the House debated SB 4, which is the "sanctuary cities" bill. Debate went late into the

night, lasting over 16 hours. You can watch the archived debate at Texas Legislature On-line at www.capitol.texas.gov. The House gave its final approval to this bill on April 27th; now the differences in the House and Senate versions must be resolved in a conference committee that should soon be appointed.

Earlier this week, students from Rivercrest ISD visited their state Capitol while competing in Austin in the state's UIL 2A One Act Play competition. This talented group of students included two students who received accolades. Luke Duvall made the All-Star Cast for his role as Preach in *We All Fall Down*, and Majandra Limon made the Honorable Mention All-Star Cast for her role as Trout in *We All Fall Down*. Congratulations to all!



Rep. VanDeaver and the Rivercrest ISD One Act Play team.

My office is here to help.

I thank each of you for letting me serve you as your state representative. Please contact either the District office (903-628-0361) or Capitol office (512-463-0692) if there is anything you think we can do to help you.