

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



February 10, 2017

Friends,

Yesterday, House Speaker Joe Straus issued committee assignments. This session there are 38 standing committees and two select committees. I am excited for the opportunity to continue serving as chair of the house committee on Economic and Small Business Development. The focus of this committee will be to continue working to keep Texans employed and our economy strong. This session I hope to do all we can to encourage and support small businesses, the backbone of our economy.

In addition to chairing the Economic and Small Business Development Committee, I was asked to serve on the committee on Higher Education. This committee has jurisdiction over education beyond high school. I look forward to working on this committee under the leadership of Chairman J.M. Lozano.

The Process

In Texas, the lawmaking process involves four major stages: introduction of legislation, committee action, floor action, and enrollment.

In the introduction stage, legislators take an idea for a bill that they developed to resolve concerns expressed from constituents or from problems identified during interim studies, and draft a bill. Once a bill has been written, it is filed by a member of the house or senate in the member's own chamber and assigned a bill number. House members and senators can introduce bills on any subject during the first 60 calendar days of a regular session. After 60 days, the introduction of any bill other than a local bill or a bill related to an emergency declared by the governor requires the consent of at least four-fifths of the members present and voting in the house or four-fifths of the membership in the senate. After a bill has been introduced, it is then assigned to a committee.

The chair of each committee decides when the committee will meet and which bills will be considered. The bill's author explains the proposed legislation and the public is given the opportunity to express their views. After considering a bill, a committee may choose to take no action or may issue a report on the bill. The committee report, expressing the committee's recommendations regarding action on a bill, includes a record of the committee's vote on the report, the text of the bill as reported by the committee, a detailed bill analysis, and a fiscal note or other impact statement, as necessary. In the house, a copy of the committee report is sent to the Committee on Calendars for placement on a calendar for consideration by the full house.

If you would like to follow any particular bill through the legislative process, please visit <http://www.legis.texas.gov/>.



I had the opportunity to step off of the House floor and visit with the UT Southwestern group including UTSW President Dr. Podolsky. We discussed the wonderful things this fine University is doing for our state.



I enjoyed seeing the Woodys from Garland this week when they visited the state capitol on Mental Health Awareness Day.



I spoke at the Texas Business Leadership Council's Economic Development Incentives Panel this week. The discussion focused on what Texas needs to do in a global economy to stay competitive in attracting and retaining businesses. I served on the panel with Samsung General Counsel and Senior Director of Public Affairs Catherine Morse and Texas Taxpayer and Research Association President Dale Craymer.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. Please continue to communicate your views on issues that are important to you.

Sincerely,

Angie Chen Button

If you would like to be added or removed from this mailing, please e-mail Angie.Button@house.texas.gov