

ANGIE CHEN BUTTON



The State of Texas House of Representatives



April 21, 2017

Friends,

I hope each of you had a wonderful Easter. It has been a very productive week in Austin. I recently passed two important pieces of legislation on the House floor to improve government efficiency and the way we do business in Texas.

HB 2126 - Stopping a Tax Hike

Recently, an administrative law judge ruled on a case that could have had an unintended consequence of raising taxes. HB 2126 clarifies that prepaid calling cards are not considered to be a telecommunication service for franchise tax purposes. This will allow retailers and wholesalers to continue selling prepaid phone cards without paying a higher franchise tax rate.

HB 1346 - Increasing Efficiency

HB 1346 moves the date that heavy equipment dealers have to submit their property tax and sales tax payments to the same day, the 20th day of each month. This gives dealers a reasonable amount of time to accurately calculate and submit their property taxes and sales statements.

School Finance

On Wednesday, April 19th the Texas House passed HB 21, which will reform our broken school finance system. The house worked tirelessly to craft this bill after a 2016 Texas Supreme Court ruling declared Texas' school finance system "undeniably imperfect with immense room for improvement." I proudly supported this important legislation, because it will ensure over \$1 billion in additional funding for students all over Texas. In addition to giving schools more money for every student, this bill relieves pressure on cities and counties that have been funding schools with local property taxes, as well as funds programs for dyslexic and bilingual students. HB 21 was one big step toward correcting school finance and I will continue to fight for you and Texas public schools in the future as well!

Ethics Reform

The Texas House is committed to increasing transparency in government and holding elected officials accountable to those who elected them to serve. This week, the Texas House passed five emergency item ethics bills.

- HB 1377 – Simplifies the personal financial statement reporting requirements for state officers, candidates elected to office, and state party chairs.
- HB 1378 – Repeals a law that was rendered unenforceable by a recent court ruling that creates the sixty-day, ten-person requirement for general-purpose committees.
- HB 1379 – Enhances election transparency and allows for the public to have more access to information about the flow of campaign money.
- HB 1381 – Streamlines the notification requirements for personal financial statement due dates.
- HB 1384 – Repeals a law that was rendered unenforceable by a recent court ruling that restricts contributions and expenditures made in the campaign for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

These bills will now head over to the Senate. To see where these, or any bills, are in the legislative process, please visit <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>.

HB 100 - Ride Sharing

This week, the House passed HB 100 that establishes a statewide framework for ride sharing companies. This bill would prevent the patchwork approach cities are currently using and provide a uniform system across the state that would take away burdensome regulations and barriers for companies looking to provide those services. The bill requires companies to register with the Texas Dept. of Licensing and Regulation and to conduct annual background checks on their employees. It is important for Texas to work to make sure our laws are not too cumbersome as new technology and business models enter the market. HB 100 will now head to the Senate for their consideration.



Last Thursday, I had the pleasure of spending time with Lucia, Sophia, and Leo Constantino who served as Honorary Pages for the Texas House of Representatives. The Honorary Page program gives children the opportunity to learn about the legislative process. Thank you for coming to your Texas State Capitol!



On Monday, Representatives Linda Koop, Cindy Burkett, and I welcomed Youth Leadership Garland to our Capitol. It was great to speak with these very smart G.I.S.D. students about making a positive impact in our community.

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