

State Representative Lynn Stucky

May Newsletter

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TEXAS LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SINE DIE

As of May 29, 2017, the 85th Texas Legislature has adjourned Sine Die! We had a successful session that included the passage of a conservative balanced budget, an overhaul of our Child Protective Service(CPS) Systems, Ethics Reform and much more.

The final budget (SB1) spends \$217 billion over the next two years. This conservative budget grows less than population growth plus inflation, *a common measurement for growth.*

Bills that highlighted the overhaul of CPS include:

HB 4, providing additional support for family members who care for relatives who've been removed from their homes;

HB 5, establishing the Department of Family and Protective Services as a standalone agency;

HB 7, reforming the court process and procedures for child welfare suits;

SB 11, expanding community-based care.

Ethics Reform Bills Include:

HB 500, prohibits elected officials who are convicted of a crime from collecting a pension;

HB 501, broadens reporting requirements for elected officials who have contracts with governmental entities, bonding services, & legal referral fees;

HB 505, prohibits elected officials from using their campaign funds as an expense account for two years if they become a lobbyist.

FINAL NUMBERS TO DATE

House Bills Filed: **4,333**

House Bills Sent To Governor: **700**

Senate Bills Filed: **2,298**

Senate Bills Sent To Governor: **501**

House Bills Signed: **223**

Senate Bills Signed: **182**

Bills Immediately Effective: **158**

Bills Effective September 1st: **254**

Bills Effective January 1st: **10**

REPRESENTATIVE STUCKY'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Thanks to the great work of my staff and others involved, I was able to pass five of the eight bills I filed in the 85th Legislative Session. Here is an explanation of my bills that passed:

HB 2445, relating to the use of municipal hotel occupancy tax revenue by the City of Denton to build up our city owned sports facilities.

- This bill will expand economic opportunity by allowing us to draw more tournaments to Denton.
- Additionally HB 2445, became one of the largest economic development bills for the entire state when many hotel/convention center projects were added as amendments ranging from Lubbock to Port Aransas.

HB 2565 & HB 2566, relating to the powers and creation of Municipal Utility Districts. These bills allows for continued growth within Denton County.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONTINUED

HB 2486, relating to restoration of the position of public employees when relieved of duty from the Texas military forces or a similar unit. This bill ensures that if a county or city employee is called to service with Texas Task Force One or similar unit, they have job security throughout the term of their deployment.

HB 2654, relating to the administration of the Property Assessed Clean Energy(PACE) Program. This bill is one that I worked on with Michelle French, our Denton County Tax Assessor/Collector. The bill cleans up the operation of a voluntary program which allows commercial businesses to upgrade their utilities to increase efficacy.

Other bills that did not pass:

HB 2519, requiring the Texas Education Agency to do a study on Middle School Dropout Prevention.

HB 3451, relating to the use of warfarin based pesticides for feral hog control.

HB 3922, allowing active judicial officers to concealed carry in establishments with 30.06 postings.

REPRESENTATIVE STUCKY'S CAPITOL FACT

The Legislature only meets once every two years for a reason. After the Civil War, Northern Reconstructionists were occupying Texas and trying to influence our post-war state. Our Founders were intent on not letting this happen, so they ensured a citizen legislature had a keen sense of their community before they went to Austin. They did not want career politicians in office who were not accountable to their districts. Additionally, that is why our Attorney General, Land, Agriculture, and Railroad Commissioners are statewide elected officials. They wanted every portion of their government to be accountable.

CAPITOL VISITORS



Jared and Gen Padalecki, of Gilmore Girls, came by the Texas Capitol to advocate for David's Law, which will help put an end to cyber bullying.



Texas Ranger Pudge Rodriguez was honored by the Texas House for his induction into the Hall of Fame.



TWU's National Championship gymnastics team travelled down to the Capitol to be recognized for their success.