

Giovanni's Journal

A publication of Texas State Representative Giovanni Capriglione

The 84th Legislative Session

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Bills: Disclosure & Conflict of Interest

Today, Governor Greg Abbott gave his first State of the State address. Governor Abbott gave his five emergency items for reform: border security funding, transportation, higher ed research, pre-school public education, and ethics reform. These will be especially notable topics to keep an eye on this session.

In my previous newsletter, I briefly introduced my filed bills to date. Those mentioned were HB 483, 484, 799, 903, and 986. Since then, I have filed an additional seven bills. They are as follows:

HB 1295: House Bill 1295 was filed to amend Subchapter Z, Chapter 2252, Government Code by adding Section 2252.908 relating to the disclosure of interested parties by persons contracting with governmental entities and state agencies. This section applies only to a contract that requires an action or vote by the governing body or agency before the contract may be signed or has a value of at least \$1 million. My bill requires that a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into a contract as previously described unless the person submits a disclosure of interested parties to the Texas Ethics Commission that lists each interested party for the contract.

HB 1294: I refiled this "conflict of interest" bill which relates to the disclosure on personal financial statements of certain contracts or subcontracts with governmental entities. Section 572.023, Government Code is amended to add that identification of each written contract, including the name of each party, is required if the aggregate cost of goods or services sold under one or more contracts exceeds \$10,000 in the year covered by the report. These parties include those for which the sale of goods or services is

in the amount \$2500 or more and those to which the individual or a business entity of the individual has at least 50% ownership interest with a governmental entity or an individual who contracts with a governmental entity.

HB 1297: House Bill 1297 amends Chapter 725, Transportation by adding large objects, if unsecured, be blown or fall from a vehicle must firmly tied down or otherwise secure to prevent the object from blowing or falling from the vehicle.

HB 1300: House Bill 1300 relates to the required qualifications of persons admitted to educator preparation programs as outlined in the Education Code. My bill amends the Code by striking the requirement that the board must permit a person who fails to satisfy the grade point average requirement provided that not more than 10% of the total number of persons admitted to the program in a year fail to satisfy the requirement, and the person's career experience demonstrates comparable to the academic achievement represented by the GPA requirement.

HB 1407: House Bill 1407 relates to a new duty of the Secretary of State to require the office to cross-check a county's list of registered voters with a list containing the names of non-citizens in the state illegally. It is the Secretary of State's duty to inform the county of the names of any non-citizens who may be on the list of registered voters.

HB 1218: House Bill 1218 amends Section 28.004(e) of the Education Code relating to course content requirements for human sexuality instruction provided by a public school. My bill would add the instruction that life begins at conception. If this Act passes, it would apply beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

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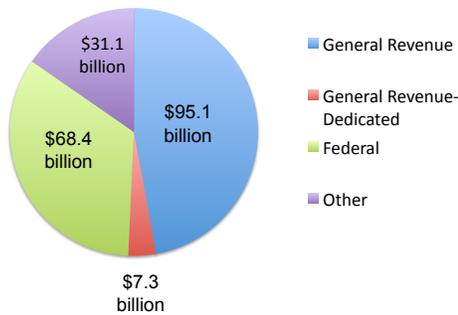
Budget 101

Information collected from the Legislative Budget Board's "Summary of Legislative Budget Estimates, 2016-2017 Biennium, House" submitted to the 84th Texas Legislature.

This recurring section of our newsletter will break down sections of the budget for the 2016-2017 biennium being discussed in Appropriations regarding the General Appropriations Act.

The four methods of finance used to appropriate funds to state agencies and public universities are: General Revenue Funds, General Revenue-Dedicated Funds, Federal Funds, and Other Funds.

Budget Fund Allocation for the 2016-2017 Biennium



The General Revenue Fund is the state's primary operating fund. It includes the Available School Fund, The State Instructional Materials Fund, and the Foundation School Fund.

The General Revenue-Dedicated Fund includes more than 200 accounts within the General Revenue Fund dedicated for specific purposes by statute or the consolidation of funds process.

The Federal Fund includes grants, allocations, payments or reimbursements received from the federal government by state agencies and institutions. The largest portion of federal funding are for the Medicaid program.

The Other Fund consists of any funds not included in the afore mentioned funds. Examples include the State Highway Fund and the Economic Stabilization Fund (aka "The Rainy Day Fund").

Applying For "Page For A Day" Program

Representative Capriglione's office is looking for ten honorary pages to serve the Texas Legislature during its 84th regular session. The "page for a day" program allows participants ages 8-18 years old to experience the legislative process up close as they assist members on the House floor.

Each page is eligible to serve one half-day shift during a legislative session. Each day is divided into two shifts: a morning shift from 8:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. and an afternoon shift from 1:30 p.m.- 5 p.m.

Pages will be responsible for delivering messages throughout the Capitol, as well as performing other administrative

tasks. Pages may keep their ID badges at the end of their service with the House.

Male pages must wear a coat and tie, while female pages are required to wear dresses, slacks, or other appropriate attire (no jeans, shorts, etc.).

To apply, applicants must be a resident of District 98 and submit a 300 word essay summarizing why they would like to be a page. Due to the ten limited spaces available per member, applicants will be chosen on a first come, first serve basis.

Please submit application to Courtney Roberts at courtney.roberts@house.state.tx.us.

Committee Announcements

A few weeks ago, I was honored to learn that I will be on the Appropriations, Investments & Financial Services, and Local & Consent Calendars committees for the 84th Legislative Session. Each of these three will be relevant to District 98.

The Appropriations Committee sets the state's budget for the biennium. The budget includes funding for everything from education and transportation, to border security. Appropriations has been hearing invited testimony from several groups over the last week. These committee meetings establish a knowledge base for members, and allow for them to ask pertinent questions. Furthermore, the Appropriations Committee is broken into five smaller subcommittees: Article II, Article III,

Articles I, IV & V, Articles VI, VII & VIII, and Budget Transparency and Reform. I am on the subcommittee for Articles VI, VII & VIII. This particular subcommittee studies funding for natural resources and transportation. Transportation especially is an issue for the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It's interesting to learn how each state agency prefers to allocate their resources.

The Investments & Financial Services Committee will deal with everything from banking regulations to lending of money, to regulation of securities and investments and privacy.

The Local & Consent Calendars Committee sets the order for all local bills. Most bills the House deal with go through Local & Consent Calendars.



Governor Abbott formally proclaimed February 2, 2015 to be Chris Kyle Day.

Giovanni's Journal is an official publication of State Representative Giovanni Capriglione, Texas House of Representatives District 98



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