What Happened the First Fortnight of the Legislature

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SD 26

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  the issues and machinations so far
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L-R: Sylvia Gartner, Jackie Fisher, Mike Berlanga, Rep. Mark Dorazio

Tuesday, January 10th - Wednesday, January 18th

Through Week 2 in the Legislature:

After resolutions, recognition and accolades for the World Series Champion Houston Astros in the Texas House of Representatives on Wednesday, January 18th, Speaker Phelan announced the House is adjourned now until Tuesday, January 24th.

A provision of the Texas Constitution bars the Legislature from holding hearings on bills for the first 30 days. I'm told this has something to do historically with Texas being so huge that it would take some legislators a month to arrive by horseback.

Report on Legislative Business Conducted

- Tuesday, January 10th - the swearing-in ceremony made all the Representative-Elects and Senator-Elects into Representatives and Senators
- Tuesday, January 10th - election of the Speaker of the House. (The Senate conducts no such election because the Lieutenant Governor automatically runs that chamber.)
- Wednesday, January 11th - the House passed Housekeeping and Rules
- Wednesday, January 11th - the Senate passed Rules by which that chamber operates
- Thursday, January 12th - the House and Senate jointly conducted the canvass of the November election of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor

Tuesday the newly appointed Secretary of State, Jane Nelson, called to order the first meeting of the 88th session of the House. During the ceremony there were lots of babies and toddlers on the floor of the House as members were allowed to have their families with them. So the floor was very crowded while the following vote for Speaker of the House was conducted. The result of the vote was understood to be a foregone conclusion - Dade Phelan was going to win by a sweep. The two candidates nominated for Speaker of the House were Rep. Dade Phelan of Beaumont, TX, who served in this role last session, and Rep. Tony Tinderholt of Arlington, TX. Rep. Dade Phelan's nomination was seconded by Rep. Angie Chen Button, Rep. Tracy King of Uvalde County, Rep. John Lujan of Bexar County, Toni Rose of Dallas County, and Rep. Shelby Slawson of Erath County. Rep. Tony Tinderholt's nomination was seconded by a freshman to the House, Nate Schatzline of Tarrant County.
Rep. Dade Phelan received 145 votes, Rep. Tony Tinderholt received 3 votes, and two representatives who were present did not vote.
If you want to read the full House Record of the day, go to Tuesday, January 10, 2023 — 1st Day (texas.gov)

To better understand what led to this vote result, see this statement put out by the Republican Party of Texas before January 10th:

> "The Republican Party of Texas formally extends its thanks to these Texas House Representatives for signing the Texas House Caucus Speaker Commitment Form to fairly elect a caucus member for Speaker by secret ballot during a Republican Caucus meeting before the session starts & support that candidate as a caucus on the House floor during the Speaker vote.
>
> Refer to RPT Plank 83, Texas Speaker Issues: Republicans in the Texas House should select their Speaker nominee by secret ballot in a binding caucus without Democrat influence.
>
> RPT Plank 218, Texas Speaker of the House: We oppose the use of pledge cards and call for the Republican members to caucus after each November general election to determine, by secure secret ballot, their candidate for Speaker. We also call for the Republican members to vote as a unified body for their selected speaker candidate when the Legislature convenes in regular session."

Wednesday things really got political. The following is a shrewd new provision added many pages into the "HOUSEKEEPING RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE," which was introduced very quickly and quietly early in the day. (The Housekeeping Resolution is always passed before the Rules are brought up.) This was the tool by which the Speaker later found the proposed Rules amendment disallowing members of the minority party (Democrats) to serve as chairs of committees out of order:

> SECTION 5.11. USE OF HOUSE RESOURCES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES PROHIBITED. Pursuant to Section 51, Article III, Texas Constitution, house resources may be used only for a public purpose. A house member, committee, officer, or employee may not use or direct the use of any house resources to ***further any political purpose***. In this section, "house resources" includes appropriated funds, property, services, personnel, or

any other thing of value belonging to the government that comes into the custody, possession, or control of a house member, committee, officer, or employee by virtue of public office or employment.

This was the *only* new section added to the Housekeeping document. All the rest were the same guidelines used for running the House in sessions past.

So here's what happened next:
Amendment No. 3
Representatives Slaton, Hayes, Schatzline, Tinderholt, Dorazio, Harrison, and Toth offered the following amendment to HR4: Amend HR4 (adopting the permanent rules of the house) on page 54, line 11, by adding the following after the period: *If, at the time the speaker announces the membership of committees, the members of one political party constitute a majority of the membership of the house, the speaker shall designate a member of that party to serve as chair of each committee*

Here's the record of the ruling by the Speaker on that amendment:
RULING BY THE SPEAKER on Amendment No. 3 to House Resolution 4 Announced in the House on January 11, 2023 Representative Geren raises a point of order against further consideration of the Slaton Amendment on the grounds that the amendment seeks to authorize actions prohibited by the Housekeeping Resolution. The subject of the amendment, as stated by the author in his layout, is to prohibit the Speaker from appointing certain members as committee chairs, specifically those members who were elected as nominees of an identified political party. (The author additionally stated that the purpose of the amendment was to implement the directive of a political party's state executive committee.) The Housekeeping Resolution adopted by the House earlier today codified the constitutional rule that House resources may be used only for public purposes and may not be used for political purposes. Attorneys General John Cornyn and Greg Abbott have held that political parties are not public entities, but are political instrumentalities. Atty. Gen. Ops. Nos. GA-880 (2011); JC-562i(2002). The amendment would require a speaker to use public resources, including staff time and government facilities, on behalf of one political instrumentality. This obviously would require the speaker to violate the Housekeeping Resolution. Once adopted, a House resolution is not subject to collateral attack. Deschler-Brown ch. 11, § 3.2. The Slaton Amendment effectively seeks to amend the previously adopted Housekeeping Resolution, which is not permitted under House precedent. 32 H. Jour. 71-72 (1911). It may only be offered by way of direct amendment to that measure. 41 H. Jour. 1st. C.S. 16, 79-82 (1929). Accordingly, the point of order is well-taken and sustained.
The ruling precluded further consideration of Amendment No. 3

Several House Republicans still tried to accomplish the goal of "Ban Democrat Chairs" via a variety of creative Rules amendments, to no avail. They tried half a dozen methods/amendments, many which seemed absurd to observers in the gallery, to achieve this goal. Farfetched amendments such as "Sec. 5A. AFFIDAVIT OF CHAIR. The chair of each committee shall submit to the speaker an affidavit stating that the chair believes that there are only two genders."
The Speaker ruled in favor of points of order brought up against each, which prevented further consideration and therefore also prevented any record votes on them.
Several legitimate amendments, such as the amendment to prevent "tagging" (delaying) bills in the Calendars Committee, and the amendment that at the request of a bill's author, after it has had a hearing, a vote must be taken on it within 14 days or no later than the last day the committee could refer the bill to the Calendars Committee and there still be time for a second reading, were proposed by Representatives Slaton, Tinderholt and Schofield, and while those were allowed votes, they overwhelmingly failed.

But one good new rule passed, as introduced by Rules Chairman Todd Hunter
-

(d) If a member is absent without leave for the purpose of impeding the action of the house, the member is subject to one or more of the following:
(1) fines as provided this section;
(2) payment of costs incurred by the sergeant-at-arms;
(3) reprimand;
(4) censure; or

(5) expulsion.

(e) Unless the house excuses the payment by a majority house vote, each member who is absent without leave is liable to the house for:

(1) a fine in the amount of $500 for each calendar day of absence; and

(2) the member's pro rata share of the costs incurred by the sergeant-at-arms to secure the attendance of absentees.

(f) The Committee on House Administration shall notify a member of the total amount of fines and costs for which payment is not excused. A member must pay the amount stated in the committee s' notice by making a payment of that amount to the House Business Office not later than the third business day of the first calendar month after the date of the committee s' notice. A member may not make any payment from funds in the member s' operating account or from funds accepted as political contributions under Title 15, Election Code. If a member does not make a full payment as required by this subsection, the committee shall direct the House Business Office to reduce the amount of the monthly credit to the member ' s operating account established under the housekeeping resolution by 30 percent in each month that any amount off a fine remains past due and owing. When a member has made full payment as required by this subsection, the committee shall direct the House Business Office to restore the impounded funds to the member s' operating account subject to any limitations on the carrying forward of unexpended funds established by the housekeeping resolution.

(g) Before a member is expelled under this section, the matter shall be referred to the Committee on House Administration for investigation and report. A report issued under this subsection shall not be considered by the house until a printed copy of the report has been provided to each member of the house at least 24 hours before consideration.

Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer of San Antonio made sure he was the first one to the back microphone to object to this new Rule. He was followed by numerous other Democrats who want to be able to leave the state again to prevent the passage of legislation without suffering any of these consequences.
The litany of objections made by Democrats ran the gamut from creative quibbles to gripes about being bullied.

All the details of the Housekeeping and Rules as adopted may be found in the House Journal for this date, Wednesday, January 11, 2023 — 2nd Day (texas.gov)

Thursday the House and Senate held a joint session to conduct the canvass of the November election of the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. It was rather fun to see the doors of the House ceremoniously thrown open to admit the Senators from the "other chamber" for a formal visit, and to see them pouring in and greeting friends--especially the newly elected Senators who had themselves been members of the House as recently as the 2021 session.
There was a lot of "at ease" time on the floor while the bicameral committee appointed to conduct the canvass of the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's elections left the floor to do so. When they came back and announced that Governor Abbott and Lieutenant Governor Patrick had won their races with 4,437,099 votes, (about 54.81%), and 4,317,692 votes, (about 53.8%), respectively, no one found this to be a surprise.

This was the day busloads of people in red "Ban Democrat Chairs" t-shirts were in the Capitol to influence the Rules vote - which had already happened the day before. The House gallery looked like a red ribbon around the perimeter of the chamber. But while they were all surely miffed about that, there was not one person who acted out or made an outburst. At one point during all the sitting around while the House was at ease, Representative Bryan Slaton quietly appeared among the audience up in the gallery, and when spotted he received a rockstar's reception--a standing ovation and cheers and people wanting photos with him. Rep. Tinderholt shortly appeared in another corner of the gallery, and he also received a warm reception. A couple other Republican representatives slipped in to visit with the Republican audience in a low-profile way, including Rep. Steve Toth and Rep. Briscoe Cain.

At 1:30 PM on Thursday the Republican Party of Texas hosted a Legislative Priorities rally near the North steps of the Capitol building. Legislative Priorities Chairman Jill Glover led the rally, which featured Rep. Brian Harrison, Rep. Nate Schatzline, Rep. Richard Hayes, Rep. Bryan Slaton, and Rep. Tony Tinderholt. Some of the speakers, such as Rep. Hayes, were positive in their tone about the direction they believe the session can take from now on, while others, especially Rep. Tinderholt, were critical of fellow Republicans. Rep. Slaton expressed how impressed he was by the large crowd of people who traveled to support the Legislative Priorities. They gave shout-outs to former SREC members who are now solid conservative members of the House, Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson and Rep. Mark Dorazio. There were several media outlets covering the rally, but there's no telling how they depicted it.

L-R: Rep. Dorazio, Senator Flores, Rep. Lujan

Critical Dates of the 2023 Session

- **Thursday, January 26th**: The Speaker of the House is expected to announce Committee Appointments. Who is on a committee can determine whether a bill will pass out of committee to get to the floor for a vote.
- **Thursday, February 9th**: Committees may begin considering bills
- **Thursday, February 16th**: The Governor's State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature, where he publicly announces his emergency legislative priorities.
- **Friday, March 10th**: Last day a bill may be filed. (The 60-day filing deadline.)
- **Saturday, March 11th**: Bills may start reaching the floor for debate and votes,

in both the House and Senate (61st day of session). Multiple public committee hearings are conducted daily, at least Mon-Thurs, from now until May 7th.

- **Friday, May 5th:** Any bill must be passed out of committee at the latest by this day in order to have time to get through Calendars Committee and get to the floor for a vote May 8th
- **Sunday, May 7th**: Last day committees may hold public hearings on bills
- **Monday, May 8**: Last day for House committees to report House Bills and House Joint Resolutions (HBs and HJRs)
- **Tuesday, May 9**: Last day for the House daily calendar with HBs and HJRs to be distributed (36-hour layout)
- **Friday, May 12 midnight**: Any HBs or HJRs not passed in 2nd reading by this time are dead. (2nd reading is when a bill is debated on the floor.)
- **Saturday, May 20**: Last day for House committees to report Senate Bills and Senate Joint Resolutions (SBs and SJRs)
- **Tuesday, May 23**: Last day for House to consider 2nd reading SBs and SJRs on the daily or supplemental calendar
- **Wednesday, May 24**: Last day for Senate to consider all Bills and JRs on 2nd and 3rd reading
- **Monday, May 29th**: Last day of the session, "Sine Die." It's finished, unless a new, special session is called.
- **Sunday, June 18th**: Deadline for Governor Abbott to sign or veto bills
- **August 27th**: Most bills passed go into effect

The 2023 Guide by the Texas Legislative Council is an excellent, detailed but brief explanation of the circuitous path a bill must take before passing into Texas law. It covers many mystifying aspects, such as the role the Calendars Committees play in the process. If you plan to advocate for a particular bill on an issue you care about, this will help you know what to expect and what hurdles will need to be overcome:

The Legislative Process in Texas

Hearings happening at the Capitol this week:

Wednesday
January 25, 2023 01:00 PM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Thursday
January 26, 2023 09:00 AM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Thursday
January 26, 2023 01:00 PM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Friday
January 27, 2023 10:00 AM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Friday
January 27, 2023 03:00 PM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Saturday

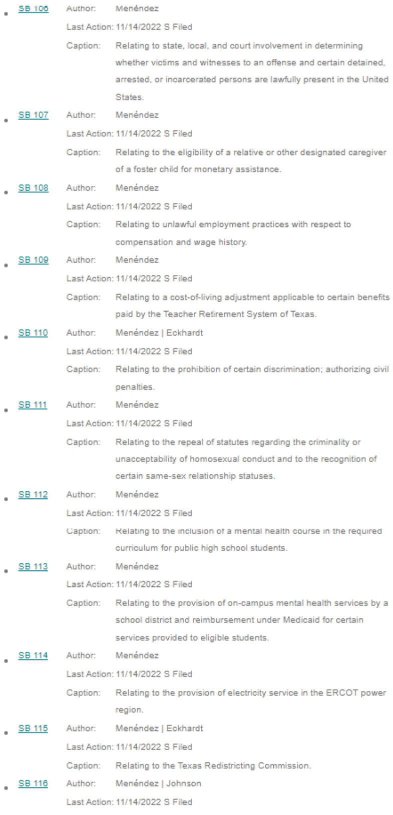
January 28, 2023 10:00 AM
Senate Special Committee on Redistricting
Capitol Extension, Room E1.036

Democrat SD 21 Senator Judith Zaffirini is the only member of the Special Redistricting Committee who represents part of Bexar County.
It is always a good idea to watch how hard our opponents are working constantly to make progress on their agenda, and Redistricting is an area they ceaselessly barrage.

Bills filed so far by our SD 26 Senator Menendez

(My, his staff has been busy. They were all lined up and ready to go early.)

I propose that we should know what our own Senator is doing, and we as constituents may notify his office what we think of the changes to laws which he is proposing. Here are the bills he has filed so far (Take note of his proposals such as getting to register and vote on the same day, electric school buses and solar panels in Texas public schools, at least four repealing the prohibition of abortion, and early voting by mail by any qualified voter, just to name *a few*):



- SB 106
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to state, local, and court involvement in determining whether victims and witnesses to an offense and certain detained, arrested, or incarcerated persons are lawfully present in the United States.
- SB 107
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the eligibility of a relative or other designated caregiver of a foster child for monetary assistance.
- SB 108
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to unlawful employment practices with respect to compensation and wage history.
- SB 109
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to a cost-of-living adjustment applicable to certain benefits paid by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.
- SB 110
  Author: Menéndez | Eckhardt
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the prohibition of certain discrimination; authorizing civil penalties.
- SB 111
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the repeal of statutes regarding the criminality or unacceptability of homosexual conduct and to the recognition of certain same-sex relationship statuses.
- SB 112
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the inclusion of a mental health course in the required curriculum for public high school students.
- SB 113
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the provision of on-campus mental health services by a school district and reimbursement under Medicaid for certain services provided to eligible students.
- SB 114
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the provision of electricity service in the ERCOT power region.
- SB 115
  Author: Menéndez | Eckhardt
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the Texas Redistricting Commission.
- SB 116
  Author: Menéndez | Johnson
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed

Caption: Relating to requiring a voter to present proof of identification.

- SB 117
  Author: Menéndez | Johnson
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to participation in the countywide polling place program.
- SB 118
  Author: Menéndez | Johnson
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the designation of polling place locations on the campuses of certain institutions of higher education.
- SB 119
  Author: Menéndez | Johnson
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the voter registration of naturalized United States citizens.
- SB 120
  Author: Menéndez | Johnson
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to early voting by mail by any qualified voter and to the repeal of certain criminal offenses concerning the solicitation and distribution of an application to vote by mail.
- SB 121
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to authorizing the possession, use, cultivation, distribution, delivery, sale, and research of medical cannabis for medical use by patients with certain medical conditions and the licensing of medical cannabis organizations; authorizing fees.
- SB 238
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/15/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the installment of electric school buses and solar panels in Texas public schools.
- SB 438
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for certain students who were under the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.
- SB 439
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to unprofessional conduct by mental health providers who attempt to change the sexual orientation of a child.
- SB 440
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the completion of sexual harassment prevention training and ethics training to register as a lobbyist.
- SB 441
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the diversion of certain foster youth from the juvenile justice system, including through emergency behavior intervention by certain persons providing foster care services.
- SB 442
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to increasing the expenditure requirement for the bilingual education allotment under the Foundation School Program.
- SB 443
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to education and training for peace officers on interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- SB 444
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to depression screenings for certain women in county jail or in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
- SB 445
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the establishment of a grant program to provide additional resources for public school students with disabilities.
- SB 446
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to contracts authorizing the use of photographic traffic signal enforcement systems.

- SB 447
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to health benefit coverage for certain fertility preservation services under certain health benefit plans.
- SB 448
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to a special education liaison program and the provision of certain special education services at public school districts.
- SB 449
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to training requirements for public school board of trustees members and superintendents regarding the adoption of a trauma-informed school standard.
- SB 450
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to registration powers of volunteer deputy registrars.
- SB 451
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to consumer protections for accident and health insurance that excludes coverage for preexisting conditions.
- SB 452
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to step therapy protocols required by health benefit plans for coverage of prescription drugs for serious mental illnesses.
- SB 453
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the enforcement of certain requirements regarding the transfer of course credit between public institutions of higher education.
- SB 454
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the establishment of the Texas Emergency Aid for Public Postsecondary Students (TEAPPS) grant program for students at certain public institutions of higher education.
- SB 455
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the measures to encourage eligible students to claim certain tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher education for students who are or have been in foster or other residential care.
- SB 456
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the adoption of a healthy and safe school water plan by public schools.
- SB 457
  Author: Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/12/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to disclosure requirements for health benefit plans and health expense arrangements marketed to individuals.
- SJR 16
  Author: Menéndez | Eckhardt
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the Texas Redistricting Commission to redistrict the Texas Legislature and Texas congressional districts and revising procedures for redistricting.
- SB 93
  Author: Johnson | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the registration of voters at a polling place and related procedure
- SB 122
  Author: Alvarado | Blanco | Eckhardt | Gutierrez | Menéndez | et al.
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the repeal of and exceptions to certain laws prohibiting abortion.
- SB 123
  Author: Alvarado | Blanco | Eckhardt | Gutierrez | Menéndez | et al.
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to exceptions to certain laws prohibiting abortion.

- SB 124
  Author: Alvarado | Blanco | Eckhardt | Gutierrez | Menéndez | et al.
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the Medicaid eligibility of certain women during and following a pregnancy.
- SB 125
  Author: Alvarado | Blanco | Eckhardt | Gutierrez | Menéndez | et al.
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the expansion of eligibility for Medicaid to certain individuals under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- SB 203
  Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to prioritization of a pregnant individual's health when providing health care treatments; authorizing an administrative penalty.

- SB 203
  Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to prioritization of a pregnant individual's health when providing health care treatments; authorizing an administrative penalty.

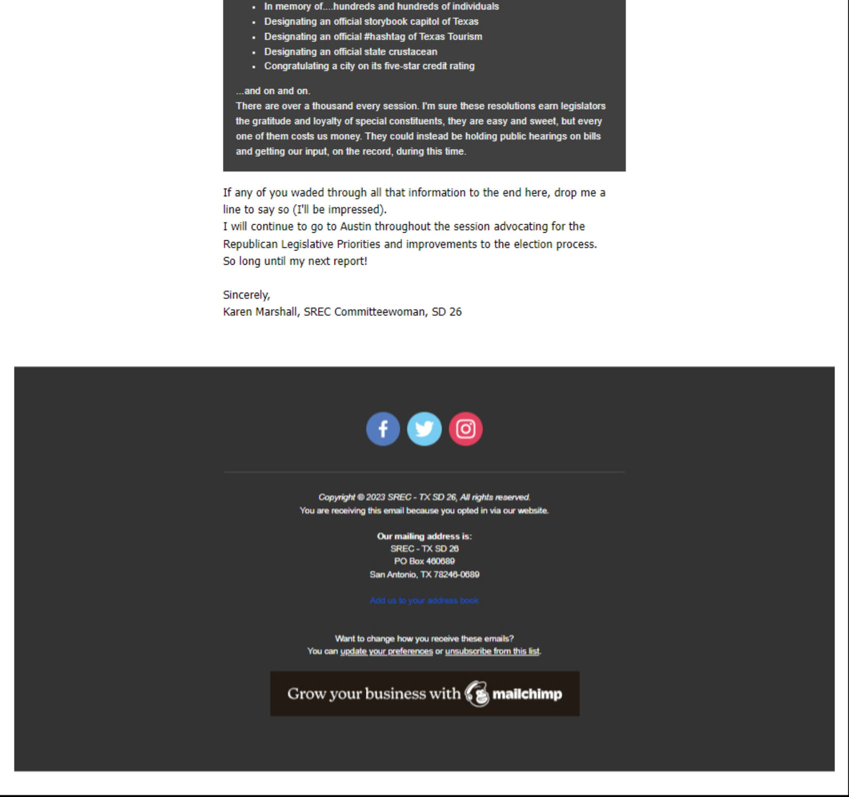
SB 204
Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Menéndez
Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
Caption: Relating to a prohibition of employment discrimination on the basis of reproductive decisions and certain employment agreements limiting reproductive decisions.

- SB 227
  Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Johnson | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the repeal of laws prohibiting abortion.
- SB 500
  Author: West | Menéndez | Parker
  Last Action: 01/19/2023 S Filed
  Caption: Relating to the value of a residential dwelling offered or awarded as a prize at a charitable raffle.
- SJR 21
  Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Johnson | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy.
- SJR 23
  Author: Eckhardt | Alvarado | Gutierrez | Johnson | Menéndez
  Last Action: 11/14/2022 S Filed
  Caption: Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the right to be free from governmental intrusion or interference into an individual's private life.
- SR 22
  Author: Gutierrez | Menéndez
  Last Action: 01/18/2023 S Reported enrolled
  Caption: Honoring Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson for her service as president of Texas A&M University-San Antonio.

Editorial:
I think it is time to revisit and update the rule that no bills may be considered, or hearings held, for the first 30 days of session, because that's 30 very expensive days for which we are paying to allow for
1. Lobbyists to schmooze legislators and staffers while they can't be conducting public hearings and
2. Passage of trifling and obsequious resolutions.

Examples of resolutions passed on taxpayers' time in Texas:

- Commemoration of Prince's Super Bowl halftime concert
- Texas Homemade Pie Day
- Congratulations on retirement to a Lubbock record store owner
- Mexican fruit fly awareness month
- Recognition of Javalina Day
- Congratulations to a legislator's constituent who won a pageant
- Congratulations to students for earning diplomas
- Naming a state legislator as Border Texan of the Year
- Recognition of the Texas Forestry Association's seedling giveaway
- Recognition of countless schools
- Congratulating a County Judge on being named the Newsmaker of the Year by his local newspaper
- Commemorating the life of Charlie Brown



- In memory of....hundreds and hundreds of individuals
- Designating an official storybook capitol of Texas
- Designating an official #hashtag of Texas Tourism
- Designating an official state crustacean
- Congratulating a city on its five-star credit rating

...and on and on.
There are over a thousand every session. I'm sure these resolutions earn legislators the gratitude and loyalty of special constituents, they are easy and sweet, but every one of them costs us money. They could instead be holding public hearings on bills and getting our input, on the record, during this time.

If any of you waded through all that information to the end here, drop me a line to say so (I'll be impressed).
I will continue to go to Austin throughout the session advocating for the Republican Legislative Priorities and improvements to the election process.
So long until my next report!

Sincerely,
Karen Marshall, SREC Committeewoman, SD 26

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