

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE — REGULAR SESSION

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AUSTIN, TEXAS

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PROCEEDINGS

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**TWENTY-NINTH DAY**  
(Tuesday, March 20, 2007)

The Senate met at 11:12 a.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Averitt, Brimer, Carona, Deuell, Duncan, Ellis, Eltife, Estes, Fraser, Harris, Hegar, Hinojosa, Jackson, Janek, Lucio, Nelson, Nichols, Ogden, Patrick, Seliger, Shapiro, Shapleigh, Uresti, Van de Putte, Watson, West, Whitmire, Williams, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

The President announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The Reverend Mike Hogg, S B C, Pearland, offered the invocation as follows:

O mighty and holy God, maker of the universe, as we gather in these Chambers today we ponder what wise thing can we ask which, when Your answer comes, will provide unity and blessings for all of the people of our great state. We ask this one thing: that we could feel You closer to us than ever before, that we would feel Your breath on our face, Your touch on our hands, and Your spirit in our hearts. O God, we want to be close to You, so united with You that Your thoughts flood our minds and Your feelings consume our hearts. When this occurs the deliberations will be fruitful and decisions wise. Grant us this prayer for this day, because we ask in Your holy name. Amen.

Senator Whitmire moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of yesterday be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Gallegos was granted leave of absence for today on account of illness.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Wentworth was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

## CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 425

On motion of Senator Carona, Senator Ellis will be shown as Co-author of **SB 425**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 621**

On motion of Senator Carona, Senator Shapiro will be shown as Co-author of **SB 621**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 744**

On motion of Senator Seliger, Senator Uresti will be shown as Co-author of **SB 744**.

**CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 750**

On motion of Senator Deuell, Senators Carona, Uresti, and Van de Putte will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 750**.

**CO-AUTHORS OF SENATE BILL 759**

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senators Shapleigh and Uresti will be shown as Co-authors of **SB 759**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 761**

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senator Uresti will be shown as Co-author of **SB 761**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 762**

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senator Uresti will be shown as Co-author of **SB 762**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 892**

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, Senator Uresti will be shown as Co-author of **SB 892**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1019**

On motion of Senator West, Senator Van de Putte will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1019**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1037**

On motion of Senator Duncan, Senator Seliger will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1037**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1095**

On motion of Senator Uresti, Senator Zaffirini will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1095**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1176**

On motion of Senator Ellis, Senator Shapleigh will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1176**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 1292**

On motion of Senator Nelson, Senator Shapleigh will be shown as Co-author of **SB 1292**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 28**

On motion of Senator Wentworth, Senator Watson will be shown as Co-author of **SJR 28**.

**CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 35**

On motion of Senator Gallegos, Senator Ellis will be shown as Co-author of **SJR 35**.

**PHYSICIAN OF THE DAY**

Senator Ellis was recognized and presented Dr. Ruchi Wanchoo of Houston as the Physician of the Day.

The Senate welcomed Dr. Wanchoo and thanked her for her participation in the Physician of the Day program sponsored by the Texas Academy of Family Physicians.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 458**

Senator Harris offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the City of Irving in recognizing March 20, 2007, as Irving Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Strategically located at the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, Irving maintains the spirit of a small town while offering residents and businesses an unparalleled quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Irving is the global headquarters of four Fortune 500 companies, ExxonMobil, Kimberly-Clark, Commercial Metals, and Fluor Corporation, and is home to 8,000 companies, with a presence of more than 30 Fortune 500 corporations; and

WHEREAS, Many foreign-owned businesses have benefited from Irving's strong corporate environment, and companies with headquarters scattered worldwide, such as Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Finland, Germany, and Japan, have opened offices in the Greater Irving area; the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, one of the world's busiest airports, provides easy global access to Irving for international business relationships; and

WHEREAS, The Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex is second only to Silicon Valley in the number of technology-related companies; a highly educated workforce of more than 2.7 million is available within a 30-minute commute to serve the needs of companies; and

WHEREAS, Empowering corporations to reach their greatest potential has become the goal of the Irving area; the city has earned a Double Triple A bond rating, the highest financial ranking a city can achieve; Irving is the bustling business center of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend the members of the Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce for helping the City of Irving become a business-friendly as well as a people-friendly place and extend best wishes to them for a successful and celebratory Irving Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the City of Irving as a memento of this special day.

HARRIS  
SHAPIRO

**SR 458** was read and was adopted without objection.

**GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Harris, joined by Senator Shapiro, was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens representing Irving Day at the State Capitol, accompanied by City Councilmembers, Lowell Cannady, Beth VanDuyne, Rick Stopfer, Lewis Patrick, and Tommy Gonzalez.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

**(Senator Averitt in Chair)**

**GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Watson was recognized and introduced to the Senate fourth-grade students from Lee Elementary School in Austin, accompanied by their teachers.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 482**

Senator Jackson offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the residents of Brazoria County in declaring Tuesday, March 20, 2007, as Brazoria County Day; and

WHEREAS, Brazoria County's roots can be traced to 1821 when that area of the Brazos River Valley was settled by Stephen F. Austin's colonists; and

WHEREAS, Rich in history, Brazoria County was created in 1836, and the area was the site of numerous events preceding and following the Texas Revolution; it was in Brazoria County that Santa Anna signed the Treaties of Velasco, effectively granting Texas its independence and leading to the consolidation of the continental empire of the United States; the first permanent capital of the Republic of Texas was established at Columbia in October of 1836; and

WHEREAS, Oil production began in Brazoria County in 1902, and Stratton Ridge Dome caused the county to rank first in the United States in the production of sulphur; the county became an extensive petroleum producer and a leader in the chemical industry, and today, the county is home to the largest chemical complex in the world; and

WHEREAS, Brazoria County is blessed with a wealth of natural resources, a deepwater seaport, and a bountiful harvest of crops and fish; it is comprised of coastal soils, rivers and inland marshes, and 20 miles of natural beach; throughout the county, there are giant groves of oak, elm, cottonwood, and pecan trees; and

WHEREAS, The county is host to the annual Brazoria County Fair, the largest county fair in the state; it is the location of Sea Center Texas and the Brazoria County Historical Museum, which contains the national award-winning Austin Colony exhibit; and

WHEREAS, Brazoria County Day brings together old friends and families who gather in celebration of Brazoria County's past and the many community assets it possesses today; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby express appreciation to the people of Brazoria County for their preservation of the county's natural amenities and for their many contributions to our state and extend best wishes to all for a joyous Brazoria County Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the residents of Brazoria County as a memento of this occasion.

JACKSON  
JANEK

**SR 482** was read and was adopted without objection.

### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Jackson, joined by Senator Janek, was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens representing Brazoria County Day, accompanied by Corky Melass, Gary Bucek, Vicki Melass, Wayne Shaw, and Mark Friudenberg.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Deuell was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens from Mesquite representing Leadership Mesquite.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

HOUSE CHAMBER  
Austin, Texas  
March 20, 2007

The Honorable President of the Senate  
Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas

Mr. President:

I am directed by the House to inform the Senate that the House has taken the following action:

**THE HOUSE HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:**

**HCR 27**, Commending The Biscuit Brothers television show for its quality children's programming.

**SB 378**, Relating to the use of force or deadly force in defense of a person.

Respectfully,  
/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

### **SENATE RESOLUTION 486**

Senator Uresti offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Ward County in recognizing March 20, 2007, as Ward County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Organized in 1892, Ward County was named for Thomas W. Ward, a renowned soldier in the Texas Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Ward County is located in the heart of the Permian Basin and plays an important role in the nation's oil and natural gas production; and

WHEREAS, Ward County is home to the Million Barrel Museum, which centers around an old oil-storage facility and includes displays of antique oil field equipment, the first Ward County jail, and an amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, The Monahans Sandhills State Historic Park is a unique site consisting of nearly 4,000 acres of sand dunes on which to camp, hike, and sand surf; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby congratulate the citizens of Ward County on their county's many contributions to our state and extend best wishes to all attending Ward County Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Ward County as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

**SR 486** was read and was adopted without objection.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Uresti was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens representing Ward County Day at the State Capitol: Larry Hanna and Julian Florez, County Commissioners; Morse Haynes, Monahans Economic Development Corporation Director; Arthur Carpenter, Friends of Monahans Sandhills State Park; and Keith Richardson, Superintendent, Monahans-Wickett-Pyote Independent School District.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Zaffirini was recognized and introduced to the Senate a group of fourth-grade students from Pearsall Intermediate School in Pearsall.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Ogden was recognized and introduced to the Senate ninth-grade students and their teachers from Caldwell High School in Caldwell.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

### **SENATE RESOLUTION 487**

Senator Uresti offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Culberson County in celebrating March 20, 2007, as Culberson County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Culberson County is named for David Browning Culberson, a noted lawyer and soldier in the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The county seat of Van Horn sits at the crossroads of the Texas Mountain Trail; it was organized as a stop on the historic Old Spanish Trail for those traveling from San Antonio to California in the mid-19th century; it is a popular stop on Interstate 10 for families as they traverse the country; and

WHEREAS, Culberson County's citizens are taking part in cutting-edge technology; the county is home to one of the first wind-energy projects in the state and to Blue Origin, a company that launched its first subscale vehicle in November of 2006; and

WHEREAS, Culberson County is also the location of part of Guadalupe Mountains National Park and of Guadalupe Peak, the highest point in Texas at 8,751 feet; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby proclaim March 20, 2007, Culberson County Day at the State Capitol and extend best wishes to the county's delegation for a memorable visit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Culberson County as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

**SR 487** was read and was adopted without objection.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Uresti was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens representing Culberson County Day at the State Capitol, accompanied by County Judge Manny Molinar and Sheriff Oscar Carrillo.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Zaffirini was recognized and introduced to the Senate representatives of the Laredo Firefighters Retirement System.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **SENATE RESOLUTION 488**

Senator Uresti offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Hudspeth County in celebrating March 20, 2007, as Hudspeth County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1917 from territory acquired from El Paso County, Hudspeth County is named for Claude Benton Hudspeth, an eminent state senator and rancher from El Paso; and

WHEREAS, Hudspeth County served as an important crossing for routes to the West; growth was encouraged by the completion of the nation's second transcontinental railroad when the Southern Pacific and the Texas and Pacific lines met in 1881; and

WHEREAS, Hudspeth County is home to Indian Hot Springs, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which served as an important place for Native Americans for many centuries before becoming a popular resort in the early 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Hudspeth County's historic courthouse in Sierra Blanca, the county seat, is the only adobe structure serving as a courthouse in Texas; farming and ranching drive the county's economy; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Hudspeth County have contributed greatly to the State of Texas and should take pride in their exemplary efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby recognize March 20, 2007, as Hudspeth County Day and extend a warm welcome to the Hudspeth County citizens who are visiting the State Capitol on this festive occasion; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Hudspeth County as a memento of this special day from the Texas Senate.

**SR 488** was read and was adopted without objection.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Uresti was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation of citizens representing Hudspeth County Day at the State Capitol: Becky Dean-Walker, County Judge; Kit Bramblett, County Attorney; Jim Ed Miller, County Commissioner; Joe Galvan, County Constable; and Whitney Walker.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44**

The Presiding Officer, Senator Averitt in Chair, laid before the Senate the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month, sponsored by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, is a nationwide effort to increase understanding about these diseases and to support educational and research programs aimed at finding a cure; and

WHEREAS, Blood-related cancers currently affect more than 700,000 Americans, and an estimated 110,000 new cases are diagnosed each year; in 2005, leukemia, lymphoma, and myeloma resulted in more than 60,000 deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is the world's largest voluntary health organization; the society seeks to find a cure for leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that Texans join with citizens throughout the country to express their support for eradicating these diseases and increasing public awareness about blood-related cancers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate September 2007 as Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month and that all citizens be encouraged to support educational and research activities in the search for a cure.

JANEK

**SCR 44** was read.

On motion of Senator Janek and by unanimous consent, the resolution was considered immediately and was adopted by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of the resolution except as follows:

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

#### **GUESTS PRESENTED**

Senator Janek was recognized and introduced to the Senate a delegation representing Leukemia and Lymphoma Awareness Month.

The Senate welcomed its guests.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS POSTPONED**

The Presiding Officer announced that the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading would be postponed until the end of today's session.

There was no objection.

#### **CONCLUSION OF MORNING CALL**

The Presiding Officer at 11:49 a.m. announced the conclusion of morning call.

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE**

HOUSE CHAMBER  
Austin, Texas  
March 20, 2007

The Honorable President of the Senate  
Senate Chamber  
Austin, Texas

Mr. President:

I am directed by the House to inform the Senate that the House has taken the following action:

**THE HOUSE HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:**

**HCR 5**, Congratulating Homer L. Thornton, Jr., of Paris, Texas, on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

**HCR 7**, Recognizing March 20, 2007, as Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Day at the State Capitol.

Respectfully,

/s/Robert Haney, Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**(President in Chair)****SENATE BILL 495 ON SECOND READING**

On motion of Senator Van de Putte and by unanimous consent, the regular order of business was suspended to take up for consideration **SB 495** at this time on its second reading:

**SB 495**, Relating to allowing a municipal electric utility to enter into hedging contracts for certain commodities.

The bill was read second time and was passed to engrossment by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the passage to engrossment except as follows:

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

**SENATE BILL 495 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Van de Putte moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **SB 495** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0. (Same as previous roll call)

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE****SENATE BILL 247 ON SECOND READING**

On motion of Senator Ellis and by unanimous consent, the regular order of business was suspended to take up for consideration **CSSB 247** at this time on its second reading:

**CSSB 247**, Relating to prohibiting the investment of state funds in certain private business entities doing business in Sudan.

The bill was read second time and was passed to engrossment by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the passage to engrossment except as follows:

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE****SENATE BILL 247 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Ellis moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **CSSB 247** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0. (Same as previous roll call)

### REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Ellis and Shapiro regarding **CSSB 247** were ordered reduced to writing and printed in the *Senate Journal* as follows:

**Senator Ellis:** Thank you Mr. President. Members, the committee substitute to Senate Bill 247 will require ERS and TRS only to divest from listed companies after a long period of engagement, a total of 15 months with those companies. This is a targeted divestment bill which sidesteps some of the constitutional issues that have been raised in other states. No other state funds are included in the bill. The committee substitute will require the Comptroller to come up with a list of targeted companies that ERS and TRS will have to engage and possibly divest from. Only international companies will be included that will engage in this business operation with the government of Sudan, or have significant involvement in all related activities or supplying military equipment within Sudan on the targeted investment list. Members, most of you have read the press accounts about the situation in Sudan. It is, of course, an international tragedy. This constitutes the first time in history that the United States has officially declared genocide while those atrocities are ongoing. President Bush, Secretaries of State Powell and Rice, the State Department, and the United States Congress have all certified that genocide is occurring in Sudan. In the last few years, 90 percent of Darfur's villages have been destroyed, over 400,000 people have been slaughtered, and nearly three million have been displaced. We made a number of concessions, Senator Shapiro and I, by working with ERS and TRS on this bill, and I just want to walk through six of them briefly. One, we changed the quantifiable opt-out provision from 99.5 percent to 99.7 percent. We added an indemnification clause. We added no private cause of action. We added flexibility to the 15-month divestiture timeline that I referenced. We assigned the list identification responsibility, at their request, to the Comptroller. We decreased frequency of ongoing engagement and reporting requirements and, lastly, we excluded money invested under a plan described by Section 401(k) and 457 of the Internal Revenue Code. This is an important bill, an important step for the State of Texas. We're following a number of other states around the country. I appreciate the help that I got from Senator Shapiro on this bill, and I know that she is the reason that a good number of Members of this body signed up on this bill. And before I turn it over to my distinguished Co-author on this bill, I want to just close with a brief quote by someone named Martin Niemoeller. He was a Protestant pastor born in 1892 in Westphalia. He was a submarine commander in World War I, he was a fervent anticommunist and, at one point, Senator Shapiro, he initially supported the Nazis in Germany until the church was made subordinate to state authority. In '34, he started an organization called Pastors' Emergency League to defend the churches in that part of the world. Adolf Hitler was angered by some of Niemoeller's rebellious sermons and his popularity, so he had him arrested in 1937. He was tried and sentenced to seven months in prison and fined. When he was released, he persisted with his sermons, so he was sentenced again, and spent seven years in concentration camps

under something called protective custody, and was liberated in 1945. He was later elected President of the Protestant Church of Nassau in 1947 and he held that title until '64. He later became President of the World Council of Churches in the '60s and was involved in the Civil Rights movement, including in this country. He died in 1984, but he had a great quote, and I would use this quote to anybody who would ask why would the State of Texas decide to consider and, hopefully, pass a bill like this. He said, "In Germany, they came first for the communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant, and then they came for me and by that time, no one was left to speak." With that, Mr. President, I'd like to, hopefully, yield to my Co-author, Senator Shapiro.

**Senator Shapiro:** Thank you. I'm not sure I can do anything after you said that. I have read that quote many, many times. It's a very emotional issue for me, and I'm going to try to handle this as best I can. Texans do things right but, more importantly, we try to do the right thing. And the divestment of Sudan, the divestment from Sudan is the right thing for Texans to do. The tragedies that are being carried out in that country today are documented, well-documented, as Senator Ellis mentioned to you. Millions are being slaughtered for no other reason than just because the government has decided they want to rid themselves of these individuals. It reminds you very clearly of what happened almost 65 years ago, which is very close to me and to my heart, certainly, because my parents are Holocaust survivors. And all of my life, I have been told one thing and one thing very clearly: If you can ever do anything, never, never let this happen again. I am very fortunate today that I sit on the Senate floor, stand on the Senate floor with my colleagues who are visionaries, who care very much, not only about our own communities and our own state but about the world. And each one of you who have signed on to this resolution, to this bill, do so for a different reason, I am sure. Each of you has a reason that you believe what's going on in this country, in Sudan, is despicable, reprehensible, and should not continue to take place. But as each of you come forward with your different ideas, we do that in the spirit of cooperation. Something that, I am sorry to say, did not happen in the United States some 65 years ago. If men and women, righteous men and women, I'd like to call you, had been around 65 years ago in this body, or in any body in the United States, I might have grown up with a grandfather, a grandmother, an aunt, and 40 relatives who perished during that time. Today, we are in this same place. We are back standing together, Jews and non-Jews, Republicans and Democrats, males and females, urban and rural, and we are saying loud and clear, never again. We are saying that it shouldn't have happened in Cambodia, it shouldn't have happened in Bosnia, it shouldn't have happened in Rwanda. We are standing together because we believe that the genocide, and we know it is genocide because it has been advocated, not only for the United States but the United Nations, everyone knows clearly that this is genocide. And we are standing together because we believe that this should not be tolerated anywhere in the world. We don't live, thank God, in that country. And we don't see it on a daily basis, but we know about it and we hear about it and we, in this body, are going to take action as a result. I am absolutely convinced that this is the

right thing for us to do. This reaches a different level. We are not here to tell TRS or ERS how to run their business, but when you see that there are businesses and companies that are involved in assisting this devastating government with what they do, we must speak out. I am very proud to stand with my friend, Senator Rodney Ellis, and our numerous Co-authors and Co-sponsors, not only here in the Senate but in the House, in supporting this bill and trying to help change and lead the charge of these efforts to divest state funds from Sudan. I'm not here to give you statistics. I know you're going to hear the statistics. It's a very, very small, small part of our portfolio, in either one of these groups, TRS or ERS, but I am here to talk to you from a very emotional standpoint. I truly believe that today we have the opportunity to fulfill what my father used to say to me often: Never again. And what we do here today will not be turning a blind eye, will not be saying, it's happening somewhere else and we can't do anything about it. It will actually say that we are here to learn from the past and we will not let it happen again in the future. We owe this to those who came before us, and we also owe this to those generations that will follow us. Mr. President, I am very proud to be a part of this bill and this process. Thank you.

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
SENATE BILL 213 ON SECOND READING**

On motion of Senator Fraser and by unanimous consent, the regular order of business was suspended to take up for consideration **CSSB 213** at this time on its second reading:

**CSSB 213**, Relating to the authority of certain counties to impose a county hotel occupancy tax and to the rate of the tax.

The bill was read second time.

Senator Fraser offered the following amendment to the bill:

**Floor Amendment No. 1**

Amend **CSSB 213** by striking all below the enacting clause and substituting the following:

SECTION 1. Section 352.002, Tax Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (f) to read as follows:

(a) The commissioners courts of the following counties by the adoption of an order or resolution may impose a tax on a person who, under a lease, concession, permit, right of access, license, contract, or agreement, pays for the use or possession or for the right to the use or possession of a room that is in a hotel, costs \$2 or more each day, and is ordinarily used for sleeping:

(1) a county that has a population of more than 3.3 million;

(2) a county that has a population of 90,000 or more, borders the United Mexican States, and does not have three or more cities that each have a population of more than 17,500;

(3) a county in which there is no municipality;

(4) a county in which there is located an Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States government;

(5) a county that has a population of 30,000 or less, that has no more than one municipality with a population of less than 2,500, and that borders two counties located wholly in the Edwards Aquifer Authority established by Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993;

(6) a county that borders the Gulf of Mexico;

(7) a county that has a population of less than 5,000, that borders the United Mexican States, and in which there is located a major observatory;

(8) a county that has a population of 12,000 or less and borders the Toledo Bend Reservoir;

(9) a county that has a population of less than 12,000 and an area of less than 275 square miles;

(10) a county that has a population of 30,000 or less and borders Possum Kingdom Lake;

(11) a county that borders the United Mexican States and has a population of more than 300,000 and less than 600,000;

(12) a county that has a population of 35,000 or more and borders or contains a portion of Lake Fork Reservoir;

(13) a county that borders the United Mexican States and in which there is located a national recreation area;

(14) a county that borders the United Mexican States and in which there is located a national park of more than 400,000 acres;

(15) a county that has a population of 28,000 or less, that has no more than four municipalities, and that is located wholly in the Edwards Aquifer Authority established by Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993;

(16) a county that has a population of 25,000 or less, whose territory is less than 750 square miles, and that has two incorporated municipalities, each with a population of 800 or less, located on the Frio River;

(17) a county that has a population of 34,000 or more and borders Lake Buchanan;

(18) a county that has a population of more than 45,000 and less than 75,000, that borders the United Mexican States, and that borders or contains a portion of Falcon Lake;

(19) a county with a population of 21,000 or less that borders the Neches River and in which there is located a national preserve;

(20) a county that has a population of 22,500 or less and that borders or contains a portion of Lake Livingston; ~~and~~

(21) a county that has a population of less than 22,000 and in which the birthplace of a president of the United States is located; and

(22) a county that has a population of more than 15,000 but less than 20,000 and borders Lake Buchanan.

(f) The tax imposed by a county authorized by Subsection (a)(22) to impose the tax does not apply to a hotel located in a municipality.

SECTION 2. Section 352.003(g), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g) The tax rate in a county authorized to impose the tax under Section 352.002(a)(18) [~~352.002(a)(17)~~] may not exceed two percent of the price paid for a room in a hotel.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

The amendment to **CSSB 213** was read and was adopted by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the adoption of Floor Amendment No. 1 except as follows:

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

On motion of Senator Fraser and by unanimous consent, the caption was amended to conform to the body of the bill as amended.

**CSSB 213** as amended was passed to engrossment by a viva voce vote.

All Members are deemed to have voted "Yea" on the passage to engrossment except as follows:

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

### **COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 213 ON THIRD READING**

Senator Fraser moved that Senate Rule 7.18 and the Constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on three several days be suspended and that **CSSB 213** be placed on its third reading and final passage.

The motion prevailed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Absent-excused: Gallegos, Wentworth.

The bill was read third time and was passed by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 0. (Same as previous roll call)

### **SENATE RULE 11.18(a) SUSPENDED (Public Hearings)**

On motion of Senator Nichols and by unanimous consent, Senate Rule 11.18(a) was suspended in order that the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations might consider **SB 976** tomorrow.

### **SENATE RULE 11.13 SUSPENDED (Consideration of Bills in Committees)**

On motion of Senator Brimer and by unanimous consent, Senate Rule 11.13 was suspended to grant all committees permission to meet while the Senate was meeting today.

### **SENATE RULES SUSPENDED (Posting Rules)**

On motion of Senator Ellis and by unanimous consent, Senate Rule 11.10(a) and Senate Rule 11.18(a) were suspended in order that the Committee on Government Organization might meet and consider the following bills today:

**SB 555, SB 393, SB 831.**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the Senate at 12:28 p.m. agreed to adjourn, upon completion of the introduction of bills and resolutions on first reading, until 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

**SENATE BILLS ON FIRST READING**

The following bills, filed on or before Friday, March 9, 2007, were introduced, read first time, and referred to the committees indicated:

**SB 856** by Shapleigh

Relating to the prohibition on participating in the lending of credit by a credit services organization that assists a borrower in obtaining the credit.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 857** by Shapleigh

Relating to restrictions on the authority of certain persons to act as or on behalf of, or associate with, a lender.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 858** by Shapleigh

Relating to the interest and fees that may be charged for certain consumer loans; providing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1351** by West

Relating to a requirement that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provide notice related to certain permit applications to certain municipal officials.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1352** by Shapleigh

Relating to prohibiting a local mental health or mental retardation authority or an affiliate of an authority from providing certain services.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1353** by Uresti, Janek

Relating to the requirement that a person who performs manipulation under anesthesia or needle electromyography hold a license to practice medicine.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1354** by Carona

Relating to use of electronically readable information from a driver's license or personal identification certificate by a commercial business.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1355** by Carona

Relating to the creation of consumer report cards for the comparison of health care plans.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1356** by Seliger

Relating to the transfer of certain state property from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, on behalf of the Department of State Health Services or the Department of Aging and Disability Services, as appropriate, to Texas Panhandle Mental Health Mental Retardation.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1357** by Ellis

Relating to the creation of a TexSun Solar Energy System Rebate Program.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1358** by Janek

Relating to independent emergency medical care facilities; providing an administrative penalty; creating an offense.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1359** by Ellis, Carona

Relating to the authorization and regulation of casino gambling and to the creation, powers, and duties of the Texas Gaming Commission; authorizing taxes; providing civil and criminal penalties.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1360** by Whitmire

Relating to the procedural requirements for a political subdivision to adopt airport zoning regulations.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1361** by Williams

Relating to the interception or the collection of information from certain communications in an investigation of criminal conduct.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1362** by Williams

Relating to the compensation of Texas Department of Transportation employees for certain compensatory time.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1363** by Williams

Relating to the operation of all-terrain vehicles in connection with utility work.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1364** by Williams

Relating to the regulation of the practice of public accountancy by certain out-of-state license holders.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1365** by Williams

Relating to the regulation of staff leasing services.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1366** by Williams

Relating to storage of certain imported alcoholic beverages.  
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1367** by Harris

Relating to the use of parenting plans and parenting coordinators in suits affecting the parent-child relationship.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1368** by Carona

Relating to the protective headgear requirements for motorcycle operators and passengers.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1369** by Carona

Relating to the sale of certain used trucks; providing penalties.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1370** by Carona

Relating to the powers and duties of certain entities authorized to construct turnpike or toll projects.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1371** by Carona

Relating to access to motor vehicle key information.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1372** by Carona

Relating to the requirements of commercial drivers.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1373** by Carona

Relating to the issuance and enforcement of motor carrier overweight or oversize vehicle permits and motor carrier registrations; providing administrative penalties.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1374** by Carona

Relating to the public and governmental oversight of the design, financing, construction, and operation of the Trans-Texas Corridor project.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1375** by Carona

Relating to the issuance of commercial paper notes by certain regional transportation authorities.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1376** by Deuell

Relating to the transfer of the Texas Commission on the Arts to the office of the governor and the dedication of certain sales and use tax and franchise tax revenue to the Music, Film, and Arts Office operating fund.  
To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1377** by Shapleigh

Relating to studies and determinations by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding funding to accomplish the goals of the state master plan for public higher education "Closing the Gaps."

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1378** by Shapleigh

Relating to the computation of the cost of goods sold for franchise tax purposes by certain taxable entities.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1379** by Shapleigh

Relating to reimbursements made to El Paso County by Culberson and Hudspeth Counties for certain costs.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1380** by Shapleigh

Relating to fees charged for public health services by certain governmental entities.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1381** by West

Relating to a parenting and paternity awareness component of the high school health curriculum.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1382** by Nichols

Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the expansion of school of nursing facilities at Stephen F. Austin State University.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1383** by Seliger

Relating to district hearings and citizen suits for illegally drilling or operating a water well.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1384** by Watson

Relating to declarations of taking for toll projects.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1385** by Watson

Relating to the use of audio or visual materials produced by or under the direction of an appellate court; providing penalties.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1386** by Carona

Relating to deferred disposition for certain defendants.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1387** by Van de Putte

Relating to the designated doctor's examination under the workers' compensation system.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1388** by Van de Putte

Relating to mental health services for women with postpartum depression.  
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1389** by Van de Putte

Relating to the processing of consumer rebates.  
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1390** by Uresti

Relating to rental of a vehicle to a member of the armed forces; providing a civil penalty.  
To Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations.

**SB 1391** by Uresti

Relating to requirements in certain health benefit plans that certain health care services be obtained in a foreign country.  
To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1392** by Uresti

Relating to the rights of certain incapacitated persons that may be terminated by a court in a guardianship proceeding.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1393** by Nichols

Relating to the prosecution of and punishment for the offense of tampering with or fabricating physical evidence.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1394** by Nichols

Relating to designating a county official to file certain financial information with the county commissioners court.  
To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1395** by Williams

Relating to certain employment records maintained by the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education; providing an administrative penalty.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1396** by Williams

Relating to the filing of a conflicts disclosure statement by a vendor or member of a governing body of a port authority or navigation district.  
To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1397** by Williams

Relating to damages available to a consumer under the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act.  
To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1398** by Williams

Relating to the ability of a governmental body under the public information law to request a redetermination from the attorney general on dismissal of litigation relating to the same issue.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1399** by Williams

Relating to the definition of certain terms used in a specified disease policy.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1400** by Lucio

Relating to the establishment of a school of law at The University of Texas at Brownsville.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1401** by Lucio

Relating to energy aggregation by political subdivisions.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1402** by Lucio

Relating to the refund of excess unearned premiums by insurance premium finance companies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1403** by Lucio

Relating to the administration of end-of-course assessment instruments in public schools at certain grade levels.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1404** by Whitmire

Relating to criminal law hearing officers in certain counties.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1405** by Wentworth

Relating to the submission of ad valorem tax rolls to certain taxing units.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1406** by Wentworth

Relating to the authorization of airport authorities and the issuance of bonds and the exercise of eminent domain by the authorities.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1407** by Wentworth

Relating to the powers and duties of the Sunfield Municipal Utility District No. 1 regarding elections and road projects; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1408** by Wentworth

Relating to the powers and duties of the Sunfield Municipal Utility District No. 3 regarding elections and road projects; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1409** by Wentworth

Relating to the powers and duties of the Sunfield Municipal Utility District No. 4 regarding elections and road projects; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1412** by Hinojosa

Relating to certain fees collected by justice courts and small claims courts.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1413** by Hinojosa

Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed or removed from justice court.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1414** by Hinojosa, Uresti

Relating to the application of the professional prosecutors law to the district attorney for the 143rd Judicial District.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1415** by Hinojosa

Relating to the authority of the attorney general to employ and commission peace officers.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1416** by Hinojosa

Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed from small claims court.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1417** by Hinojosa

Relating to the student endowment scholarship and internship program fund at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1418** by Hinojosa

Relating to the establishment and operation of a spatial reference center at Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1419** by West

Relating to the creation of the Texas Hospital-Based Nursing Education Grant Program.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1420** by Wentworth

Relating to the development by the Texas Education Agency of an Internet safety and use curriculum for use by school districts.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1421** by Wentworth

Relating to allowing the creation of scientific and cultural facilities districts in council of government regions; authorizing a tax.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1422** by Shapiro

Relating to the manner in which notice of the residence of certain sex offenders is requested and sent.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1423** by Brimer

Relating to funds exempt from the Public Funds Investment Act.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1424** by Brimer, Harris

Relating to the municipalities authorized to use the other events trust fund to attract certain sporting events.

To Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Development.

**SB 1425** by Brimer

Relating to economic impact studies and other financial issues affecting municipalities and counties that attempt to recruit or retain special events.

To Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Development.

**SB 1426** by Averitt

Relating to the issuance of a food and beverage certificate to the holder of a wine and beer retailer's permit.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1427** by Averitt

Relating to participation by private or independent institutions of higher education in the tuition equalization grant program.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1428** by Duncan

Relating to the arrest and commitment of certain individuals arrested under a warrant issued because of a violation of the conditions of parole.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1429** by Van de Putte

Relating to the authority of physicians to delegate to certain pharmacists the implementation and modification of a patient's drug therapy.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1430** by Van de Putte

Relating to designation of certain customer bill payment assistance program costs as an expense of operation that is a first lien against revenue securing certain public securities or obligations.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1431** by Van de Putte

Relating to the transfer of certain alcoholic beverages between certain permitted premises.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1432** by Van de Putte

Relating to violation surcharges in automobile insurance rating plans.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1433** by Van de Putte

Relating to the Employers for Education Excellence Award.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1434** by Estes

Relating to the selection of election officers for early voting for the general election for state and county officers.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1436** by West

Relating to the transfer of responsibility for the National Flood Insurance Program from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to the Texas Water Development Board and the administration and funding of the program.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1438** by Hegar

Relating to notice of protest of an appraisal review board.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1439** by Hegar

Relating to the powers of the West Fort Bend Management District.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1440** by Hegar

Relating to certain duties of the Office of Rural Community Affairs relating to assisting, and providing information regarding, volunteer fire departments in rural areas.

To Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Coastal Resources.

**SB 1441** by Hegar

Relating to the identification requirements for any device with the appearance of a fire hydrant that is nonfunctioning or otherwise unavailable for use in a fire emergency.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1442** by Hegar

Relating to a property owner's right to a binding third-party appraisal in connection with the use of eminent domain authority.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1443** by Gallegos

Relating to the authority of a municipality to regulate a vehicle operating as a limousine.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1444** by Gallegos

Relating to the receivership and rehabilitation of certain property.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1445** by Lucio

Relating to the operation and regulation of cross border health benefit plans.

To Committee on International Relations and Trade.

**SB 1446** by Duncan

Relating to the removal of indirect cost recovery fees from the list of items that must be accounted for as educational and general funds by institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1447** by Duncan

Relating to the investment authority of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1448** by West

Relating to reports on racial profiling in connection with motor vehicle stops; providing a penalty.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1449** by Ellis

Relating to the human resources employee-to-staff ratio for state agencies.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1450** by Ellis

Relating to a registered property tax consultant.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1451** by Ellis

Relating to the Safe Routes to School Program.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1452** by Ellis

Relating to the regulation of certain ocean-going ships on which gambling is offered and to the application of certain gambling offenses to the ships; creating offenses and providing penalties.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1453** by Van de Putte

Relating to including veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and their families as priority populations in the community-based mental health care system.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations.

**SB 1454** by Van de Putte

Relating to veteran's employment preferences.

To Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations.

**SB 1455** by Uresti

Relating to administrative approval of replats involving minor plat revisions.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1456** by Uresti

Relating to training for public school educators in the prevention of child abuse.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1457** by Uresti

Relating to the establishment of a strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect and improving child welfare.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1458** by Seliger

Relating to the authority of the governor to contract in relation to a clean coal project.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1459** by Seliger

Relating to indemnification requirements relating to a clean coal project.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1460** by Seliger

Relating to a franchise tax credit for purchasing electricity from a clean coal project.

To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1461** by Seliger

Relating to contracting authority and indemnification requirements in relation to a clean coal project.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1462** by Shapiro

Relating to the terms and conditions for access to airports owned or operated by certain local governments.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1463** by Seliger

Relating to the authority of certain counties to impose a hotel occupancy tax.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1464** by Janek, Deuell, Fraser, Patrick, Shapiro, Wentworth, Williams

Relating to the cancellation of the voter registrations of persons who are not United States citizens.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1465** by West

Relating to the authority of the attorney general to bring suit on behalf of individuals injured by unlawful practices in restraint of trade.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1466** by West

Relating to certain information in the computerized criminal history system and the use of that information for reintegration services.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1467** by Carona

Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation to enter into certain comprehensive development agreements.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1468** by Eltife

Relating to the promotion by the comptroller of Texas manufactured products; providing civil and administrative penalties.

To Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Development.

**SB 1469** by West

Relating to discipline and security in primary and secondary schools; providing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1470** by Seliger

Relating to the notice given to certain offenders of prohibitions under federal and state law.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1471** by Eltife

Relating to employment verification agreements between the Texas Workforce Commission and consumer reporting agencies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1472** by Hinojosa

Relating to a subpoena issued to obtain information relating to certain attorney-client relationships.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1473** by Jackson

Relating to the operation and funding of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1474** by Jackson

Relating to the creation of ship channel security districts by certain populous counties.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1475** by Jackson

Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1476** by Carona

Relating to the transfer of ad valorem tax liens.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1477** by Seliger

Relating to the continuation of certain severance tax credits for certain low-producing wells.  
To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1478** by Brimer

Relating to authorizing certain nonprofit organizations to conduct charitable poker tournaments; providing penalties.  
To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1479** by Brimer

Relating to the application of the sales and use tax to the repair and remanufacture of industrial and printing rollers.  
To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1480** by Brimer

Relating to the boundaries of Texas Department of Transportation districts.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1481** by Brimer

Relating to requests for reconsideration of TILE classifications assigned to certain nursing facility residents.  
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1482** by Brimer

Relating to the acquisition of toll projects and real property by the Texas Department of Transportation and regional mobility authorities.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1483** by Lucio

Relating to eviction suits in justice courts.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1484** by Lucio

Relating to the provision of accounting statements by a seller who finances the sale of residential real property owned by the seller.  
To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1485** by Lucio

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Rural Development Fund and to the establishment, operation, and funding of certain programs for rural economic development.  
To Committee on Finance.

**SB 1486** by Lucio

Relating to the creation of the self-help housing division of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.  
To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1487** by Patrick

Relating to requiring annual reporting of public school district expenditures for extracurricular facilities.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1488** by Patrick

Relating to an undergraduate education scholarship program for students who agree to teach in public schools in this state that have teacher shortages.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1489** by Watson

Relating to the regulation of fireworks by counties in densely populated unincorporated areas; providing a criminal penalty.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1490** by Watson

Relating to information that must be provided to the parent of a public school student enrolled in a special education program.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1491** by Watson

Relating to a grant available to school districts to provide services to students with disabilities.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1492** by Ellis

Relating to providing sign language interpreter services to hospitals.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1493** by Ellis

Relating to the assignment of school nurses at public school campuses.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1494** by Ellis

Relating to a notification requirement if a nurse is not assigned to a public school campus.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1495** by Zaffirini

Relating to student fees at component institutions of The Texas A&M University System.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1496** by Zaffirini

Relating to the partial forgiveness of Texas B-On-time loans for certain graduates of four-year public and private institutions of higher education.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1497** by Zaffirini

Relating to a competitive grant pilot program for certain small retailers of fresh produce.

To Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Coastal Resources.

**SB 1498** by Zaffirini

Relating to the eligibility of certain counties to adopt a civil service system.  
To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1499** by Zaffirini

Relating to the meeting notice that a governmental body may post in certain emergency situations.  
To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1500** by Zaffirini

Relating to designating the Donor Education, Awareness, and Registry Program of Texas as the Glenda Dawson Donate Life-Texas Registry.  
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1501** by Zaffirini

Relating to the removal of an emergency services district board member by a county commissioners court.  
To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1502** by Zaffirini

Relating to the duties of the board of an emergency services district in connection with a proposed tax rate increase.  
To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1503** by Zaffirini

Relating to behavioral health services for children and establishment of the Children's Behavioral Health Council.  
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1504** by Van de Putte

Relating to a school district policy for responding to a train derailment near a district school.  
To Committee on Education.

**SB 1505** by Van de Putte, Lucio

Relating to the licensing and practice of psychological associates.  
To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1506** by Janek

Relating to an urban school choice pilot program for certain public school students.  
To Committee on Education.

**SB 1507** by Janek

Relating to the transfer of the primary duties of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission to the comptroller and the General Land Office.  
To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1508** by Janek

Relating to the creation of the offense of unauthorized use of an emergency communications device.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1509** by Lucio

Relating to the authority of the asset management division of the General Land Office to sell real property to an economic development corporation.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1510** by Lucio

Relating to the time for preparing an annual budget in certain counties.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1511** by Lucio

Relating to the removal of county officers from office.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1512** by West

Relating to the use of certain funds by certain school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for the development and implementation of strategies for dropout prevention.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1513** by West

Relating to a dropout prevention and opportunity program for public school students who have dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out of school.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1514** by West

Relating to a study by the Texas Education Agency regarding best practices for dropout prevention.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1515** by West

Relating to state grants for student clubs in high schools that serve students at risk of dropping out of school.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1516** by Janek

Relating to authorizing certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

To Subcommittee on Higher Education.

**SB 1517** by Janek

Relating to an exemption for students enrolled in certain advanced courses from the requirement that a student be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for receiving an unsatisfactory grade.

To Committee on Education.

**SB 1518** by Wentworth

Relating to the removal of a trustee.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1519** by Wentworth

Relating to longevity pay for certain state judges and justices.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1520** by Wentworth

Relating to ad valorem tax lien transfers.

To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1521** by Wentworth

Relating to regulation of property tax lenders; providing a penalty.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1522** by Wentworth

Relating to the state's goal for electric energy generation capacity.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1523** by Wentworth

Relating to facilitating and supporting efforts of certain municipalities and counties to promote economic development by hosting certain major sporting or athletic events.

To Subcommittee on Emerging Technologies and Economic Development.

**SB 1524** by Wentworth

Relating to the protection and preservation of caves in the State of Texas; providing penalties.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1525** by Duncan

Relating to advertising by certain insurers.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1526** by Hegar

Relating to regulation by the Brookshire-Katy Drainage District of the construction of drainage facilities or improvements.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1527** by Eltife

Relating to the consolidation of state vehicle fleets.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1528** by Eltife

Relating to state facility management and maintenance practices.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1529** by Eltife

Relating to the preservation, maintenance, and restoration of certain state buildings by the State Preservation Board.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1530** by Hinojosa

Relating to the misuse and counterfeiting of certain government documents and related instruments for identity theft and other purposes and to the prosecution of certain offenses involving that conduct.

To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1531** by Hinojosa

Relating to disposing of salvage personal property and purchasing by navigation districts.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1532** by Hinojosa

Relating to the regulation of food safety in fresh fruits and vegetables.

To Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Coastal Resources.

**SB 1533** by Fraser

Relating to the transfer of certain state property from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to Burnet County.

To Committee on Government Organization.

**SB 1534** by Fraser, Duncan, Estes

Relating to the development of a regional water supply reservoir project at a site known as Cedar Ridge in Haskell, Shackelford, and Throckmorton Counties, Texas.

To Committee on Natural Resources.

**SB 1535** by Fraser

Relating to the issuance of bonds by a municipality for a defined area in an abolished municipal utility district.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1536** by Fraser

Relating to the issuance of bonds by a municipality for certain improvements on the state highway system; providing authority to impose a tax.

To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1537** by Fraser

Relating to the extraterritorial jurisdiction of general-law municipalities.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

**SB 1538** by Fraser

Relating to venue in civil actions under the Jones Act.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1539** by Fraser

Relating to the regulation by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation of certain chiropractic clinics; providing penalties.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1540** by Fraser

Relating to financing statements and other records under the secured transactions law.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1541** by Fraser

Relating to the Uniform Commercial Code provisions relating to negotiable instruments.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1542** by Fraser

Relating to registration statements filed by an insurer that is a member of an insurance company holding system.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1543** by Fraser

Relating to abolition of certain fraud reporting requirements regarding motor vehicle insurance.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1544** by Fraser

Relating to the transmission of an unsolicited commercial electronic mail message.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1545** by Fraser

Relating to the regulation of state banks and state trust companies.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1546** by Fraser

Relating to the application of the Business Organizations Code to certain financial institutions and the regulation of those institutions by the Texas Department of Banking.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1547** by Fraser

Relating to regulation of the decommissioning costs of certain nuclear-powered commercial electric generation units.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1548** by Hinojosa

Relating to certain open meetings requirements applicable to a regional mobility authority.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1549** by Hinojosa

Relating to health services districts.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

**SB 1550** by Hinojosa

Relating to the liability of a landowner for an act or omission of a peace officer on the property of the landowner.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1551** by Janek

Relating to the establishment, funding, and operation of the natural disaster catastrophe fund.

To Committee on Business and Commerce.

**SB 1552** by Hinojosa

Relating to allowing qualified organizations to conduct raffles using stored value cards and video displays.

To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1553** by Hinojosa

Relating to personal and monetary bail bond requests.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1554** by Hinojosa

Relating to the authority of a judge of a court of record to determine the system of recordkeeping used to record the court's proceedings.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1555** by Hinojosa

Relating to compensation of attorneys serving as guardians of a ward.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1556** by Hinojosa

Relating to the appointment of regional presiding judges by the chief justice of the supreme court.  
To Committee on Jurisprudence.

**SB 1557** by Hinojosa

Relating to the appointment of an attorney to represent an indigent defendant who is in the custody of a correctional facility of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or another related correctional facility.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1558** by Hinojosa

Relating to the punishment of certain persons who commit the offense of assault or aggravated assault.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**SB 1559** by Hinojosa

Relating to the registration of all-terrain vehicles by the Texas Department of Transportation.  
To Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security.

**SB 1560** by Hinojosa

Relating to damages in wrongful death and survival actions on health care liability claims.  
To Committee on State Affairs.

**SB 1561** by Hinojosa

Relating to the seizure and destruction of certain plants; creating an offense.  
To Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Coastal Resources.

**SB 1562** by Hinojosa

Relating to animal control officer training; providing civil and criminal penalties.  
To Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Coastal Resources.

**SB 1563** by Hinojosa

Relating to procedures for certain persons charged with an administrative violation of a condition of release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on parole or mandatory supervision.  
To Committee on Criminal Justice.

**RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

**Memorial Resolutions**

**SR 522** by Hinojosa, In memory of Robert Barnes of Corpus Christi.

**SR 523** by Van de Putte, In memory of Ernest V. Herrera of San Antonio.

**SR 528** by Janek, In memory of William Henry Griffith, Jr., of Austin.

**Official Designation Resolution**

**HCR 7** (Deuell), Recognizing March 20, 2007, as Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Day at the State Capitol.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Pursuant to a previously adopted motion, the Senate at 1:15 p.m. adjourned until 11:00 a.m. tomorrow.

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**APPENDIX**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following committee reports were received by the Secretary of the Senate in the order listed:

March 20, 2007

NATURAL RESOURCES — **CSSB 3**

EDUCATION — **CSSB 4, CSSB 9, CSSB 158, CSSB 403, SB 670**

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION — **SB 711, SB 904, SB 908**