MDL pretrial court shall not dismiss the action pursuant to this chapter but shall retain jurisdiction over the action under the MDL rules. The MDL pretrial court shall not remand such action for trial unless:

(1) the claimant serves a report complying with Section 90.003 or 90.004; or
(2)(A) the claimant does not serve a report that complies with Section 90.003 or 90.004; and
   (B) the claimant serves a report complying with Subsection (f)(1); and
   (C) the court, on motion and hearing, makes the findings required by Subsection (f)(2).

(d-1) Beginning on September 1, 2014, the MDL pretrial court shall dismiss each action for an asbestos-related injury or a silica-related injury that was pending on August 31, 2005, unless a report was served on or after September 1, 2013, that complies with Section 90.003, Section 90.004, or Subsection (f). The MDL pretrial court shall provide for the dismissal of such actions in a case management order entered for that purpose. All such actions shall be dismissed on or before August 31, 2015.

(i) A dismissal under Subsection (d-1) is without prejudice to the claimant’s right to file a subsequent action seeking damages arising from an asbestos-related injury or a silica-related injury.

(m) This chapter and Section 16.0031 apply to a subsequent action for an asbestos-related injury or a silica-related injury filed by a claimant whose action was dismissed under Subsection (d-1) or by a claimant in an action described by Subsection (d) who voluntarily dismissed the action under Section 90.008.

(n) If a claimant subsequently refiles an action for an asbestos-related injury or a silica-related injury that was dismissed under Subsection (d-1), the refiled action is treated for purposes of determining the applicable law as if that claimant’s action had never been dismissed but, instead, had remained pending until the claimant served a report that complied with Section 90.003, Section 90.004, or Subsection (f).

(o) A claimant whose action was dismissed under Subsection (d-1) may serve the petition and citation for any subsequently filed action for an asbestos-related or silica-related injury by certified mail, return receipt requested, or other method approved by the MDL pretrial court that is likely to accomplish service in a cost-effective manner, on a person who was a defendant in the dismissed action.

SECTION 4. (a) Section 90.010, Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as amended by this Act, applies to an action pending in the multidistrict litigation pretrial court on, or referred to the multidistrict litigation pretrial court on or after, the effective date of this Act.

(b) Nothing in this Act is intended to be regarded as a decision on the merits of a dismissed action, to affect the rights of any party in a bankruptcy proceeding, or to affect the ability of any person to satisfy the claim criteria for compensable claims or demands under a trust established pursuant to a plan of reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code (11 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.). With respect to the administrative dismissal of an action under Section 90.010(d-1), Civil Practice and Remedies Code, as added by this Act, the tort system rights of the dismissed actions are specifically preserved.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 22, 2013: Yeas 145, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 8, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved May 24, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 147

H.B. No. 1422

AN ACT
relating to the reporting in a lobbyist registration of certain persons from whom compensation or reimbursement is received.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 305.005, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

(m) The registration form must include the full name and address of each person who compensates or reimburses the registrant or person acting as an agent for the registrant for services, including political consulting services, rendered by the registrant from:

1. a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code;
2. interest received from a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code;
3. an asset purchased with a political contribution as defined by Title 15, Election Code.

SECTION 2. Section 305.005(m), Government Code, as added by this Act, applies only to compensation or reimbursement received by a registrant under Chapter 305, Government Code, on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 18, 2013: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 9, 2013: Yeas 23, Nays 7.

Approved May 24, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 148

H.B. No. 1493

AN ACT

relating to the transfer of programs from the Texas Department of Rural Affairs to the Department of Agriculture.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 61.0899, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0899. ASSISTANCE IN CERTAIN RURAL HEALTH CARE LOAN REIMBURSEMENT AND STIPEND PROGRAMS. The board shall, in cooperation with the [Texas Department of Agriculture and the department’s advisory panel established under Section 487.552, Government Code], ensure that the board seeks to obtain the maximum amount of funds from any source, including federal funds, to support programs to provide student loan reimbursement or stipends for graduates of degree programs in this state who practice or agree to practice in a medically underserved community.

SECTION 2. Section 487.001(3), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(3) “Department” means the Department of Agriculture [office].

SECTION 3. Section 487.026, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 487.026. DIRECTOR. (a) The director serves as the chief executive officer of the office and performs the administrative duties of the office.

(b) [The director may hire staff within guidelines established by the commissioner.]

SECTION 4. Section 487.051(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The office shall:

1. assist rural communities in the key areas of economic development, community development, rural health, and rural housing;
2. serve as a clearinghouse for information and resources on all state and federal programs affecting rural communities;
3. in consultation with rural community leaders, locally elected officials, state elected and appointed officials, academic and industry experts, and the interagency work group...