SECTION 5. 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, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2414 on May 23, 2013: Yeas 145, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 686
H.B. No. 2424

AN ACT relating to the designation of the part of U.S. Highway 83 Business in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties as a portion of the national Purple Heart Trail.

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

SECTION 1. Section 225.0225(a), Transportation Code, is amended to read as follows:
(a) The following highways are designated as the Texas portion of the national Purple Heart Trail:
   (1) the part of Interstate Highway 35 located in Texas;
   (2) the part of Interstate Highway 40 located in Texas;
   (3) the part of Interstate Highway 37 from Interstate Highway 35 to U.S. Highway 77;
   (4) the part of U.S. Highway 77 from Interstate Highway 37 to State Highway 100;
   (5) State Highway 100; [and]
   (6) Park Road 100; and
   (7) the part of U.S. Highway 83 Business in Hidalgo and Cameron Counties.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed by the House on May 2, 2013: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 22, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 687
H.B. No. 2500

AN ACT relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of solar energy property.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 23, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 23.26 to read as follows:
Sec. 23.26. SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY. (a) In this section, "solar energy property" means a "solar energy device" as defined by Section 11.27(c)(1) that is used for a commercial purpose, including a commercial storage device, power conditioning equipment, transfer equipment, and necessary parts for the device and equipment.
(b) This section applies only to solar energy property that is constructed or installed on or after January 1, 2014.

(c) The chief appraiser shall use the cost method of appraisal to determine the market value of solar energy property.

(d) To determine the market value of solar energy property using the cost method of appraisal, the chief appraiser shall:

(1) use cost data obtained from generally accepted sources;
(2) make any appropriate adjustment for physical, functional, or economic obsolescence and any other justifiable factor; and
(3) calculate the depreciated value of the property by using a useful life that does not exceed 10 years.

(e) The chief appraiser may not in any tax year determine the depreciated value under Subsection (d)(3) to be less than 20 percent of the value computed after making appropriate adjustments under Subsection (d)(2) to the value determined under Subsection (d)(1).

SECTION 2. This Act applies only to an ad valorem tax year that begins on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2014.

Passed by the House on May 10, 2013: Yeas 132, Nays 3, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 21, 2013: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective January 1, 2014.

CHAPTER 688
H.B. No. 2619
AN ACT
relating to the educational needs of children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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

SECTION 1. Section 107.002, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) A guardian ad litem appointed to represent a child in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services shall, before each scheduled hearing under Chapter 263, determine whether the child’s educational needs and goals have been identified and addressed.

SECTION 2. Section 107.004, Family Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d-2) to read as follows:

(d-2) An attorney ad litem appointed to represent a child in the managing conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services shall, before each scheduled hearing under Chapter 263, determine whether the child’s educational needs and goals have been identified and addressed.

SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 263, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 263.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 263.0025. APPOINTMENT OF SURROGATE PARENT. (a) If a child in the temporary or permanent conservatorship of the department is eligible under Section 29.003, Education Code, to participate in a school district’s special education program, the court may, when necessary to ensure that the educational rights of the child are protected, appoint a surrogate parent who:

(1) is willing to serve in that capacity; and

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