CHAPTER 260  
H.B. No. 625  
AN ACT relating to the penalty for the operation of a vehicle without a license plate.  

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

SECTION 1. Section 504.943, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:  

(e) An offense under this section is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed $200.  

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.  

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

Passed by the House on April 18, 2013: Yeas 139, Nays 4, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 15, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.  

Approved June 14, 2013.  

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 261  
H.B. No. 634  
AN ACT relating to the verification of an inmate’s veteran status by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.  

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.023 to read as follows:  

Sec. 501.023. VERIFICATION OF INMATE VETERAN STATUS. (a) In this section, “system” means the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) operated by the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.  

(b) The department shall:  

(1) investigate and verify the veteran status of each inmate by using data made available from the system through the Health and Human Services Commission; and  

(2) use system data to assist inmates who are veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the inmates may be eligible under a program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.  

SECTION 2. 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.
CHAPTER 262

H.B. No. 654

AN ACT
relating to the ability of a tenant representative to serve as a commissioner of a local housing authority.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 392.0331(f) and (f-1), Local Government Code, are repealed.

SECTION 2. The repeal by this Act of Sections 392.0331(f) and (f-1), Local Government Code, applies to a commissioner appointed under Section 392.0331, Local Government Code, without regard to whether the commissioner was appointed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

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, 2013.

Passed by the House on April 26, 2013: Yeas 134, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 17, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 263

H.B. No. 693

AN ACT
relating to the authority of a water and sewer utility to collect voluntary contributions on behalf of a local library.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 13.143(a), (b), and (d), Water Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A utility may implement as part of its billing process a program under which the utility collects from its customers a voluntary contribution, including a voluntary membership or subscription fee, on behalf of a local library, a volunteer fire department, or an emergency medical service.

(b) A utility that collects contributions under this section shall provide each customer at the time that the customer first becomes a customer, and at least annually thereafter, a written statement:

(1) describing the procedure by which the customer may make a contribution with the customer's bill payment;

(2) designating the local library, volunteer fire department, or emergency medical service to which the utility will deliver the contribution;

(3) informing the customer that a contribution is voluntary; and

(4) describing the deductibility status of the contribution under federal income tax law.

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