





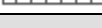




Dallas Co. Commissioners Court Bill Status Report

02-23-2009 - 08:32:56

A - Action in the date range **R** - Link to Related Information () - Priority [] - Position

-  Referred to Committee
-  Reported from Committee
-  Passed 1st Chamber
-  Referred to Committee
-  Reported from Committee
-  Passed 2nd Chamber
-  Signed/Vetoed



Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

HB 12 **Leibowitz** Relating to the membership of the Transportation Commission.

Specific Remarks: Enlarging Transportation Commission with seats filled by election instead of governmental appointment.

Sent to Comm Mayfield, Bob Schell & Marilyn Little 11-11-08 -Response Linda Baker (Comm. Mayfield) 11-18-08- Support this bill

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 29 **Leibowitz** Relating to the qualifications for office of justice of the peace in certain counties.

Specific Remarks: Requires all Justices of the Peace in counties of over one million in population be licensed attorneys.

Sent to Sent Comm. Dickey, Mike Pappas, Comm. Cantrell, Traci Enna, Comm. Price, Keidra McCracken, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Mayfield, Marilyn Little, Linda Baker, Brenda Sauls, Shay Cathey, & Steve Griggs 11-17-18 - Response Mike Pappas 11-18-08- As of right now. I don't believe JP Courts are courts of record, primarily because the of the lawyer issue, which is not a requirement to hold that office. If this law is enacted and the courts that are mandated and required to be held by an attorney, will they become or can they become courts of record?

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 46 **Riddle** Relating to a local option election in a county to set a limit on the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax.

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan. ?Response Ken Nolan 11-11-08- This bill provides for a local option election in a county to set a limit on the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes of less than 110 percent but not less than 103 percent of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year. As with all cap bills this is bad legislation. If a vote was successful to lower the appraisal cap below the current 10%, each percent lower would cost the county \$177,806,485 in value based on a the current 10% cap loss of \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 62 **Aycock** Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans.

Companions:

HB 1008	Moody	(Identical)
	2- 3-09 H Filed	
SB 192	Shapleigh	(Identical)
	2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance	

Specific Remarks: Homestead exemptions for disabled vets.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This bill provides that a disabled veteran who is classified as having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or of totally disabled is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. There are currently 2,434 accounts with a 100% veterans disability rating that have a total market value of \$ 381,416,800. This value would be lost under this bill. Using last year's county tax rate of .233028, the amount of revenue lost is \$889,769.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 69 **Guillen** Relating to residence homestead ad valorem taxes for armed forces members.

Specific Remarks: Limits property tax increases on armed service members called to active duty.

Sent to Ken Nolan, Ryan Brown, & Cori Thomason 11-17-08 - *Response Ken Nolan 11-17-08- This bill provides for a tax limitation for those individuals that who are a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, including the National Guard, and is ordered to active duty by a proper authority and are deployed or stationed on active duty for any part of that tax year at a location that is at least 60 miles from the individual's residence homestead; and have been continuously deployed or stationed on active duty for at least the preceding six months, disregarding temporary periods of leave or other absence, at one or more locations each of which is at least 60 miles from the individual's residence homestead. The limitation provides that a taxing unit may not increase the total annual amount of ad valorem taxes it imposes on the residence homestead of an individual who is eligible for a limitation on tax increases under this section above the amount of the taxes the unit imposed on the property in the preceding tax year if the property qualified as the individual's residence homestead in the preceding tax year. The tax officials shall appraise the homestead and calculate taxes as on other property, but if the tax so calculated exceeds the limitation provided by this section, the tax imposed is the amount of the tax as limited by this section. Taxes on new improvements may be added to the tax in the year that the new improvements appear on the appraisal roll. Application for the limitation must be made with the chief appraiser and is in effect until the eligibility of the property owner changes. We have no way of knowing how many individuals this covers.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 78

Flynn

Relating to the amount of a county expenditure for which competitive bidding is required.

Companions: **HB 117** Heflin (Identical)
2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs
SB 253 Estes (Identical)
2-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

Specific Remarks: Bumps up the competitive bidding spending requirement from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Same as HB 78 and 117.

Sent Shannon Brown & Linda Boles 11-14-08 -*Response Shannon Brown 12-5-08- SB 253 increases the limit on sealed bids from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for counties (Sections 1 and 2). The limit for cities was raised to \$50,000 in the last session. If approved, \$50,000 would be the statutory limit and counties could set lower limits by policy (as Dallas County has done in the past). This legislation is being supported by the Texas Public Purchasing Association (city and county Purchasing Agents). Section 3 of the bills addresses competitive bidding for public works contracts and also raises the limit to \$50,000. There is an exception to keep it at \$25,000 for projects funded by a governmental entity other than a county. Section 4 raises the limit for Crime Control and Prevention Districts and is not applicable to counties. I recommend supporting legislation that raises the statutory limit to \$50,000. Dallas County can then evaluate our policy limit to determine if it should be raised as well. A*

review of awards in 2008 show approximately 15 sealed bids under the \$50,000 (6 annual contracts and 9 one time purchases).

Support.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 79

Flynn

Relating to the payment of certain fees by sex offenders and the use of those fees for certain law enforcement purposes.

Specific Remarks: Creates a \$50 sex offender registration fee; a \$ reporting fee 90% of the \$50 goes to the state.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Cori Thomason, & Ron Stretcher 11-17-08. -
Response Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- I am not sure if the Sheriff or any of the Constables serve as a registration agency or reporting agency. If we are, then there would be an administrative issue of collecting and reporting these fees, with little of the money retained locally. In general, we are just about approaching a point where we are getting all that we can from offenders in the way of fees. Mr. Sweet and Chief Lindsey - does this impact the Sheriff at all? -Forwarded to Chief Gary Lindsey & Leslie Sweet 11-17-08. Sent to Dr. Noyes and Jim Harman 11-22-08. Resent to the above 1/6/09. -Response Dr. Noyes 1-6-09 No Comment.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Corrections

HB 88

Martinez

Relating to the use of revenue from a tax increment fund to acquire, construct or reconstruct educational facilities.

Specific Remarks: Municipalities and counties can raise taxes for educational facility construction.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Cori Thomason, David Childs, Ken Nolan and Mike Griffiths 11-12-08 -*Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This bill provides that revenue from a tax increment fund may be used to acquire, construct, or reconstruct educational facilities under Section 311.008(b), Tax Code. Since all decisions regarding tax increment zones and the use of tax increment funds are made by the county on a case by case basis, there is no way to determine the fiscal impact of this bill and it is not an appraisal issue. -Response Mike Griffiths 11-13-08- Recommend Tracking this bill. Amended section refers to Municipality.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 115 Pickett

Relating to the authority of a county tax assessor-collector to commission certain employees as peace officers.

Specific Remarks: Allows a county tax assessor to appoint employees as peace officers if the Commissioners Court sanctions such an action.

Sent to Sent to Sent Comm. Dickey, Mike Pappas, Comm. Cantrell, Traci Enna, Comm. Price, Dapheny Fain, Keidra McCracken, Comm. Mayfield, Brenda Sauls, Linda Baker, Marilyn Little, Shay Cathey, Steve Griggs, Mattye M. Taylor, David Childs, & Shirley Jacobson 11-17-08 -Response Ken Mayfield 11-17-08- I would oppose. ?Response Mike Pappas 11-18-08- In my opinion only. I would not support.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Safety

HB 116 Pickett

Relating to certain fees and taxes collected by this state in connection with a motor vehicle.

Specific Remarks: Light truck registration fees.

Sent to Shirley Jacobson 11-12-08 -Response Shirley Jacobson 11-13-08- This bill is attempting to simplify all the different registration fees for passenger and trucks, which is a good thing. However, the verbiage is confusing and should be more explicit on types of vehicles. Feedback from Debbie Jones, Director of Motor Vehicle Department, Dallas County Tax Office -Forwarded to Debbie Jones, David Childs, & John Ames 11-13-08

Determine financial impact and bring back.

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 117 Heflin

Relating to the amount of a county expenditure for which competitive bidding is required.

Companions: **HB 78** Flynn (Identical)
2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

Specific Remarks: Bumps up the competitive bidding spending requirement from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Same as HB 78 and 117.

Sent Shannon Brown & Linda Boles 11-14-08 -Response Shannon Brown 12-5-08- SB 253 increases the limit on sealed bids from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for counties (Sections 1 and 2). The limit for cities was raised to \$50,000 in the last session. If approved, \$50,000 would be the statutory limit and counties could set lower limits by policy (as Dallas County has done in the past). This legislation is being supported by the Texas Public Purchasing Association (city and county Purchasing Agents). Section 3 of the bills addresses competitive bidding for public works contracts and also raises the limit to \$50,000. There is an exception to keep it at \$25,000 for projects funded by a governmental entity other than a county. Section 4 raises the limit for Crime Control and Prevention Districts and is not applicable to counties. I recommend supporting legislation that raises the statutory limit to \$50,000. Dallas County can then evaluate our policy limit to determine if it should be raised as well. A review of awards in 2008 show approximately 15 sealed bids under the \$50,000 (6 annual contracts and 9 one time purchases).

Support.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 127

Callegari

Relating to the limitation on increases in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Companions: SB 299 Patrick, Dan (Identical)
2-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Specific Remarks: Lowers the appraisal cap from 10% to 5%.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Cori Thomason, & Ken Nolan 11-22-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- This bill reduces the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. This is another way to enact an appraisal cap. By not allowing reappraisal only once every other year, it is the same as lowering the current cap from 10% to 5%. Currently Dallas County lost \$17,781,190,050 due to the 10% homestead cap. The worst case scenario is that the amount would double to \$35,562,380,100. However in the current economy, with values decreasing, it is doubtful that the amount would increase to that degree.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 132

Chisum

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by organizations engaged primarily in performing charitable functions.

Specific Remarks:

Property tax exemptions for nonprofits.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08-This bill provides that charitable exemptions granted under Section 11.184, Tax Code, are mandatory and no longer local option. This exemption is intended for service organization such as the Elks, Lions Club, etc. It would become mandatory. Typically these organizations do not own much property, so the fiscal impact would not be that large. Since this exemption is currently not offered in Dallas County, we do not know which properties would qualify. Each application received would be reviewed individually.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 199 Alonzo

Relating to longevity pay for assistant public defenders.

Specific Remarks:

Longevity pay for Assistant Public Defenders. Funded with funds from the prosecutor longevity pay fund.

Sent to Ryan Brown & Bob Schell (Please check lines 16 through 21 of page 7) 11-22-08 -Response Lynn Richardson 11/25/08 - We are absolutely on board with HB 199. We have been waiting for this sort of legislation for a very long time. -Response Shawn Balusek 11/25/08 - Annual Financial Impact is \$91,000 but payment is made through the State Comptroller.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 209 Bohac

Relating to the determination of the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Companions:

SB 276 Patrick, Dan (Identical)
2-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Specific Remarks: Limits reappraisals to every two years. Companion SB 276

Sent to Ken Nolan, Ryan Brown, & Cori Thomason 11-22-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- *This bill provides that a reappraisal plan shall provide for the reappraisal of a residence homestead not more often than once every two years. The appraised value of a residence homestead may not be increased for a tax year in which the property is not appraised. This requirement does not apply to the appraisal of a residence homestead in the tax year in which a limitation on appraised value under Section 23.23(a) expires. At any time during a tax year before the date the chief appraiser certifies the appraisal roll for the appraisal district, an owner of a residence homestead is entitled to a reappraisal of the owner's residence homestead for that year on written request delivered to the chief appraiser. This is another way to enact an appraisal cap. By not allowing reappraisal only once every other year, it is the same as lowering the current cap from 10% to 5%. Currently Dallas County lost \$17,781,190,050 due to the 10% homestead cap. The worst case scenario is that the amount would double to \$35,562,380,100. However in the current economy, with values decreasing, it is doubtful that the amount would increase to that degree.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 210

Aycock

Relating to the confidentiality under the public information law of certain name and address information provided to a governmental body.

Specific Remarks: People who submit public information requests to governments can have their personal information kept confidential.

Sent to Bob Schell 11-22-08. *Response forwarded by Criag Pardue 2/05/2009 - This bill appears to make confidential the names and addresses of persons who correspondence with us, governmental entities, when releasing information under the PIA. I guess it means we will have to redact that information from every document. Not only does this seem to me to defeat the purpose of the PIA, but it places yet one more burden on the efficient and timely response to PIA inquiries. It also looks like it would thwart the ability of the public to request public documents from or addressed to specific individuals.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 225

Aycock

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the portion of the appraised value of a person's property attributable to the implementation on the property of water conservation initiatives, desalination and brush control

Specific Remarks: Ad valorem tax breaks for brush control and water conservation methods.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-22-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- This bill amends Section 11.32, Tax Code, by defining 'brush control', 'desalination', and 'rain water harvesting.' Persons are entitled to exemption from taxation for property attributable to such efforts without official action by a governing board. The Comptroller shall adopt uniform standards for such exemptions. This is a new exemption and we have no way of knowing the fiscal impact, since these types of designated properties do not exist today.

Track. Need financial impact.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 228

Pitts

Relating to a defendant's payment of the costs of legal services provided by court-appointed counsel in a criminal case.

Specific Remarks: Defendant's payment of court-appointed attorneys.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-22-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 12-2-08- This bill removes the wording about requiring defendants who the Court determines has financial means to pay for attorneys if convicted. We should support this. -Forwarded to Dana Wisner, Lynn Richardson, & Mikah Mitchell 12-2-08- -Response Lynn Richardson 12-2-08- I'm on board with HB 228, I don't have any problems with defendants paying something to reimburse the county for attorneys fees if they have the financial ability to pay.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 232

Rodriguez

Relating to grants for community-based telephone voice-mail services for individuals in crisis or in transition.

Specific Remarks: Grant money for community-based voicemail services for those in transition or homeless.

Sent to Zach Thompson and Ron Stretcher 11-22-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 11-24-08- I am very familiar with the local community voice mail program. It is a very good service. We secured foundation funding to make this available to our jail diversion clients. I recommend that we support this bill. I allows for the existing universal service fund from phone bills to go to a grant program for community voice mail. - Forwarded to Larry James, Larry Sykes, & Mike Faenza 11-24-08

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 268

Lucio III

Relating to considering ownership interests of disabled veterans in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting.

Specific Remarks: HUD business consideration for disabled veterans.

Sent to Leffie Crawford, Shannon Brown, Linda Boles, Shelia Graham, & Rick Loessberg 11-24-08 -*Response Leffie Crawford 11-25-08- This will open a lot of doors for disabled veterans. However, including them in the HUB Program will also allow opportunities to many large businesses. Otherwise you could have very large businesses being approved as HUB vendors.*

Track. Make sure there will be no fiscal impact to Dallas County.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Defense and Veteran's Affairs

HB 272

Ortiz

Relating to disease control programs to reduce the risk of certain communicable diseases.

Specific Remarks: Disease control programs for the anonymous exchange of needles.

Sent to Zach Thompson 11-24-08 -*Response Zachary Thompson 11-25-08- This bill comes up every year and dies a slow death. You might want to track the bill. It could impact local health departments if it passes.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 282

Anchia

Relating to the designation of certain election days as state holidays.

Specific Remarks: Election days as state holidays.

Sent to Bruce Sherbet, Mattye Taylor, Cori Thomason and Ryan Brown 11-24-08 -*Response Mattye Taylor 12-1-08- I really see no reason to make election days as state holidays. Our recommendation would be for the county not to follow what is being proposed. Employees can vote early and they can take time off to go vote. I do think in our current policy on voting that we should clarify employees should be allowed to take off for early voting. We will revise the policy and present to the Court for review. Response Cori Thomason – Each holiday costs Dallas County approximately \$1M but we should not necessarily oppose unless this is made a mandatory holiday as there are many state holidays the County does not give now.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Elections

HB 287

Dutton

Relating to the penalty for possession of a small amount of certain controlled substances.

Specific Remarks: Reduces the penalty for the possession of small amounts of controlled substances from a state jail felony to a Class A misdemeanor.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-24-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 12-2-08- I would support this bill. Misdemeanor cases are much easier to move through the system. - Forwarded to CSCD, Lynn Richardson & Judge Creuzot 12-2-08. Per Judge Creuzot - the bill is filed every year and never moves.

Track/Oppose

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 288

Dutton

Relating to authorizing a justice or municipal court to grant an occupational driver's license.

Specific Remarks: Authorizing justice or municipal courts the authority to grant occupational drivers licenses.

Sent to Ron Stretcher and Allen Clemson 11-24-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 12-2-08- As I read this, the bill would shift this authority from the County/District Courts to Justice or Municipal Courts. This does not seem to be a good idea at first glance. -Forwarded to Judges Seider & Cercone 12-2-08

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Safety

HB 290

Dutton

Relating to the consideration of the cumulative effects of air contaminant emissions in the emissions permitting process.

Specific Remarks: Consideration of air contamination within a 3 mile radius of plants.

Sent to Steven Griggs, Shay Cathey and Dan Savage 11-24-08 -
Response Dan Savage 11-24-08- This bill has the effect of considering air pollution issues by looking at the cumulative impact of pollution from plants located within three miles of each other. It probably targets situations like the three cement plants in Midlothian. If so, this could affect future air quality in Dallas County by limiting the addition of certain plants south of the county.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Regulation

HB 291

Dutton

Relating to discovery procedures for a claim against a governmental entity under the Tort Claims Act.

Specific Remarks: Discovery procedures for claims against governmental entities.

Sent to Bob Schell 11-24-08 -*Response Todd Sellars 12-2-08- HB 291 should be opposed on several grounds: 1) By opening the door to the Texas Supreme Court to begin enacting procedural rules for pleas to the jurisdiction in Tort Claims Act cases, the Supreme Court could then be given additional authority to promulgate rules for pleas in all cases; 2) While the proposed statute would limit the discovery to "reasonable" discovery, the statute would leave the determination of what is "reasonable" to the Supreme Court's rulemaking authority; and 3) By the time a governmental entity files a plea to the jurisdiction, a plaintiff should have either made sufficient inquiry into the jurisdictional facts, or could have availed himself of the pre-suit deposition rule to determine the jurisdictional facts, so HB 291 is unnecessary.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 295

Dutton

Relating to requiring a judge to explain certain matters concerning conditions of community supervision before a defendant enters a plea of not guilty or nolo contendere.

Specific Remarks: Judicial instruction required before a nolo contendere may be offered.

Sent to Dana Wisner 11-24-08 -*Response Kerry Young 11-24-08- This is a bad bill. Requiring the Court to explain every possible condition of probation that may be placed on the defendant, which I would assume includes conditions that might be added later if the Court determines to modify the conditions, would take forever. To have the Court explain all the possible sanctions available should the defendant violate the conditions would take even longer. Also, what happens if the Court inadvertently leaves out a possible condition or sanction, does that mean the Court cannot use that condition or sanction, or revoke the defendant if he violates? We should oppose this bill.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 309

Brown, Fred

Relating to the number of license plates to be issued for and displayed on a motor vehicle.

Specific Remarks: Eliminates the front license plate.

Sent to David Childs, Shirley Jacobson, & Jesse Flores 11-24-08 -*Response Ann Lanning (Tax Office, Motor Division) 12-1-08- This will save us doing replacements when customers have lost one plate and will save the state lots of money. I'm all for this.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 341

Herrero

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of the residence homesteads of military servicemembers who are serving on active duty.

Specific Remarks: Property tax exemption of \$3,000 for members of the military.

Sent to Ken Nolan, Ryan Brown, & Cori Thomason -*Response Ken Nolan 11-25-08-This bill provides for an exemption from taxation by a taxing unit of \$3,000 of the appraised value of the individual's residence homestead if the individual is: (1) a member of the armed forces of the United States; (2) a member of the Texas National Guard or the National Guard of another state serving on active duty under an order of the President of the United States; or (3) a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty under an order of the President of the United States. The bill also provides that a person who qualifies for a homestead exemption after January 1 of a tax year may receive the exemption for the applicable portion of that tax year immediately on qualification for the exemption. Taxes will be prorated based on the time that the individual qualified for the exemption. This will have an effect on revenue in Dallas County. There is no way to estimate the loss.*

Track**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 349

Strama

Relating to placement of public school students with certain disabilities in juvenile justice alternative education programs.

Specific Remarks: JJAEP for students with disabilities.

Sent to Mike Griffiths, Traci Enna, Steven Griggs, Mike Pappas, Marilyn Little, Daphney Fain, Shay Cathey, Comm. Cantrell, Kristi Padon, Lisa Retta, Keidra McCracken, Brenda Sauls, Comm. Mayfield, Linda Baker, Teresa Walther 12-2-08 -Response Mike Griffiths 12-4-08- Track and Support. Minimal impact due to only allowing JJAEP official input during ARD process with opportunity to ask for re assessment at later point in time.

Track**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 386

Miller, Sid

Relating to the selection of the board of directors of an appraisal district.

Specific Remarks: Adding 2 members to an appraisal district's board of directors and election and/or appointment of board members.

Sent to Ken Nolan and Allen Clemson 1/13/09. Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This bill expands the appraisal district board of directors to seven members by adding two that are popularly elected for two year terms. This is an attempt to "politicize" the appraisal process. The whole purpose of appraisal districts was to remove the appraisal process from any political pressures so that the district would be free to value property at market value without interference. This should be opposed. The author is from Erath County, which is currently having problems with their appraisal district.

Oppose**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)**Bill History:** 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 397

Hartnett

Relating to the regulation of private process servers.

Specific Remarks: Private process servers.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Steve Griggs, Marilyn Little, Mike Pappas, Tracit Enna, Daphney Fain 12/19/08. - *Response Ryan Brown 12-23-08 - House Bill 397- sets forth a licensing requirement prior to non-law enforcement officers serving civil process. Included is a requirement for training and criminal backgrounds prior to approval of a license. Private licensed process servers would not be allowed to charge an amount more than the local law enforcement agency for the service of civil process.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 406

Rodriguez

Relating to claims for excess proceeds of a tax sale of real property.

Companions: SB 471 Carona (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 407

Kuempel

Relating to participation and credit in, contributions to, benefits from, and administration of the Texas County and District Retirement System.

Specific Remarks: Annual County and District Retirement System Legislative update bill.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Joe Wells, Allen Clemson and Bob Schell 12/19/08. - *Response Joe Wells 1/22/09 - Based on additional information from TCDRS Lawyer: Attached is an Executive Summary from TCDRS of HB 407 by Rep Kuempel, this is TCDRS bill. I've highlighted the three sections in the executive summary which will impact Dallas County. Dallas County remain Fixed Rate - Gives TCDRS Board authority to make all plan amortization periods the same, currently Dallas County only Fixed Rate Plan 20 year rolling amortization period, this will change to 15 or 20 year Closed. Currently Dallas County is a Fixed Rate Plan with a rolling 20 year amortization period. The proposed legislation provides that Dallas County may remain Fixed Rate however it changes the amortization period from the current 20 year rolling to a time period at the Boards discretion closed period. Originally TCDRS Board intended this to be 15 year closed for all plans, however at the December Board meeting in response to potential market impacts on employer rates Board adopted 20 year closed amortization periods for all plans. Currently by existing statute Dallas County Fixed Rate Plan has a 20 year rolling amortization period. The shorter 15 year closed amortization period results in plans being required to be more fully funded with the costs of funding shortfall being spread over the entire period rather than at the end. As I understand it the rolling period delays the impact of funding shortfalls to the end of the amortization periods. The affect on Dallas County could be to increase employer contribution rate sooner particularly in view of recent investment market experience.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Pensions/ Investments/Financial Servi

HB 408

Isett

Relating to the eligibility of a disabled veteran or surviving spouse to pay ad valorem taxes imposed on a residence homestead in installments.

Specific Remarks: Disabled vets and surviving spouses eligible to pay property taxes in installments.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 1/13/09. *Response John Ames 1/13/09 - The Tax Assessor supports this bill.* Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This bill provides that an individual who is: a disabled veteran or the unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran; and qualified for an exemption under Section 11.22, may before the delinquency date pay one-fourth of the taxes due and make three more installment payments without penalty and interest being applied. *This is a tax collection issue, not an appraisal district issue. You should have John Ames, your tax assessor-collector analyze this bill.*

Track

General Remarks: Disabled vets and surviving spouses eligible to pay property taxes in installments.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 1/13/09. *Response John Ames 1/13/09 - The Tax Assessor supports this bill.* Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This bill provides that an individual who is: a disabled veteran or the unmarried surviving spouse of a disabled veteran; and qualified for an exemption under Section 11.22, may before the delinquency date pay one-fourth of the taxes due and make three more installment payments without penalty and interest being applied. *This is a tax collection issue, not an appraisal district issue. You should have John Ames, your tax assessor-collector analyze this bill.*

Track Bring back when fiscal impact has been established.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 411

Isett

Relating to motor vehicle sales and use taxes.

Specific Remarks: Eliminates the policy of collecting a used car tax based on the standard presumptive value of a vehicle. Tax office.

Sent to Ryan Brown 12/19/08. - *Response Ryan Brown 12-23-08 - This bill would change the amount of sales tax collected by Dallas County on behalf of the State and Municipalities*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 446 Villarreal Relating to the enforcement of unpaid child support.

Companions: SB 431 Wentworth (Identical)
2-25-09 S Meeting set for 1:30 p.m. or adj., E1.012, Senate Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Child support liens and enforcement.

Sent to Lori Bodino, Greg Allbright and Gary Fitzsimmons 1/13/09. - *Response Greg Allbright 1/23/09 - The impact of this legislation is that it extends the jurisdictional time for the court in its ability to rule on child support matters. This will likely have an impact on the family court case inventories as they may increase as a result.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 458 Leibowitz Relating to limitations on the number of dogs at a residence in certain counties.

Specific Remarks: Counties with 1M or more population can limit the number of dogs at a residence in the unincorporated part of the county.

Sent to Commissioners and Admin Assts 1/13/09. *Response Jim Foster 1/13/09 - I'm O K with it and think that is actually needed.*

Track

General Remarks: Counties with 1M or more population can limit the number of dogs at a residence in the unincorporated part of the county.

Sent to Commissioners and Admin Assts 1/13/09. *Response Jim Foster 1/13/09 - I'm O K with it and think that is actually needed.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 459

Leibowitz

Relating to county abatement of certain unsafe buildings that are a public nuisance.

Specific Remarks: County abatement of unsafe buildings using 343.011 (c) (5) Health and Safety Code that addresses structurally unsafe buildings.

Sent to Zachary Thompson 12/29/08. - *Response Zachary Thompson 12-31-08 - DCHHS supports HB 459. Please track the bill.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Urban Affairs

HB 470

Hartnett

Relating to the denial, suspension, or revocation of a motor vehicle inspection station certificate or an inspector certificate.

Companions: SB 368 Carona (Identical)
2-25-09 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016, Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Our Package), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 483

Pierson

Relating to an administrative fee for defendants required by a court to perform community service in lieu of serving a term of confinement in county jail.

Companions: SB 919 Harris (Identical)
2-17-09 S Filed

Specific Remarks:	<p>Creates an administrative fee that will be charged to persons who perform community service in lieu of jail time.</p> <p>Sent to Ryan Brown, Ron Stretcher 01-09-09. <i>Response Ron Stretcher 01-12-09 - We should support this bill as it would provide additional revenue to offset the cost of administering the community service program.</i></p> <p>Support</p>
General Remarks:	<p>Creates an administrative fee that will be charged to persons who perform community service in lieu of jail time.</p> <p>Sent to Ryan Brown, Ron Stretcher 01-09-09. Response Ron Stretcher 01-12-09 - We should support this bill as it would provide additional revenue to offset the cost of administering the community service program.</p> <p>Support</p>
Track Name(s):	Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results
Bill History:	02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 487

Menendez

Relating to sheriff's department civil service systems in certain counties.

Specific Remarks:	<p>Extensive rewrite of the Sheriffs civil service statute.</p> <p>Sent to Mattye M. Taylor, Jesse Flores and Bob Schell 01-09-09. <i>Response Mattye Taylor 1/22/09 - This is not a good bill and we should track it carefully. What is being mandated in the bill is overbearing, overcontrolling, and has the potential to be expensive. We should express our position of not being in favor of this bill. - Response Jesse Flores 1/22/09 - We all agree with you. - Mattye Taylor 1/27/09 - We have reviewed the 40 page House Bill and believe that if adopted/passed, it will significantly impact Dallas County, the Sheriff's Department and its Civil Service Commission. That impact includes:</i></p> <p><u>Limited Volunteers to Act as Commissioners</u></p> <p><i>This bill increases the responsibilities of the civil service commissioners and it may prove difficult to get volunteers to meet the time and administrative requirements proposed under this Bill. The proposed changes include: cannot have held a public office within the last three years; cannot serve on the commission for more than six years; inclusion of a formal process to remove a member of the commission if he/she is found guilty of misconduct in office, including holding an open hearing; and</i></p> <p><i>time and administrative commitment involved in implementing other changes outlined further in this document.</i></p> <p><u>Increased Personnel Required (Minimum)</u></p> <p><i>With the additional duties and timelines, additional full-time personnel will be required.</i></p>
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A full-time administrator - Job Grade I (\$61,902.24 + benefits)

Two full-time clerk &- Job Grade 7 (\$60,092.40 + benefits)

Full-time "grievance counselors" - Job Grade G (\$53,192.28 + benefits)

Full-time "grievance examiner" - Job Grade H (\$57,289.44 + benefits)

Other expenses (office space, etc.)

Disciplinary Actions

The bill outlines specific details regarding what must happen in suspensions and demotions. For example, the Sheriff will not be able to demote under the Bill. He/she can only recommend a demotion to the Commission. If a suspension is given, it limits the length of the suspension, delineates what must be given to the employee, and limits the prior "acts" that can be included ? cannot be over 180 days old. It requires the scheduling of a hearing within 30 days of receipt of a grievance. Employees can now grieve transfers, oral reprimands, job assignments and it lays out an elaborate process including grievance counselors, grievance examiners, and a special budget to cover costs. It includes the option to utilize third party hearing examiners, in lieu of the Sheriff's Department Civil Service Commission and if there is a dispute in selecting a third party hearing examiner, the Sheriff's Department Civil Service commissioners will need to get involved with strike outs, etc. The county and the grieving employee will share expenses. A total revamping of the sheriff's disciplinary process and the Sheriff's Department Civil Service process will need to occur.

Promotional Exams

Under this Bill, the state will make virtually all decisions regarding promotional exams. They include: determining eligibility; stipulating what constitutes a passing scores; adding additional points for seniority ? up to 10 additional points; testing of military personnel on leave using a different test; scoring tests on site and posting scores within 24 hours; it even defines a vacancy for organizations; imposing criminal penalty (misdemeanor) against those who knowingly or intentionally reveal test information; instructing the commission to submit three names for each vacancy (positive); however, it allows the other two candidates to appeal their failure to promote to the Sheriff's Department Civil Service Commission (negative). {note discrepancy}; and allowing the Sheriff to make temporary promotions and stipulates what salary shall be paid and when it must start.

Additional Mandated Benefits

This bill mandates additional benefits for employees covered under the Sheriff's Department Civil Service Commission. They include: the Commission will have authority to grant military leave of absence (not Commissioners Court and note the Sheriff's Department); the position must be filled; the County shall continue all health, life, or dental coverage while the employee is on military leave until the employee notifies the county otherwise which is different from what our insurance contract currently allows; requires the county to create a military leave account for those on military leave from the department in which employees donate and expend on a hourly basis, regardless of the cash value; it grants a one-year leave period for injury or illness, much more generous than current county policy; if an employee is not able to return and leave is extended and the employee is a member of pension fund, the employee may retire on pension until they are able to return to duty; if the pension benefits are not available, then the employee may use

accumulated leave, vacation time, and other accumulated time before the person is placed on leave; requires the civil service commission to keep personnel files on all employees, not the Sheriff Department and only civil service commission can release information.

Track/Amend

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Amend-Monitor), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

HB 489

Pickett

Relating to the authority of a county or municipality to remove graffiti from private property at the owner's expense.

Specific Remarks: Allows a county or municipality to remove graffiti from private property and charge the owner for the services.

Sent to Bob Schell and Ron Stretcher 01-09-09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1-09-09 I am not aware of any County resources or staff who remove graffiti from private property, so the ability to charge for this removal would not impact Dallas County. I would hope for some discussion of this issue at the next legislative briefing. As an Oak Cliff resident, we have long battled against graffiti. Removal expenses can really add up and I would be hesitant to have the County or municipality start billing me for removal if it took a little longer to remove a specific graffiti incident. Response Bob Schell 01- 11-09 - This bill would only effect the County's ability to remove graffiti from buildings or structures within the unincorporated area's of Dallas County. If there is a problem with graffiti in those areas, the bill may need support. If not, it is more a municipal issue.*

Track

General Remarks: Allows a county or municipality to remove graffiti from private property and charge the owner for the services.

Sent to Bob Schell and Ron Stretcher 01-09-09. Response Ron Stretcher 1-09-09 I am not aware of any County resources or staff who remove graffiti from private property, so the ability to charge for this removal would not impact Dallas County. I would hope for some discussion of this issue at the next legislative briefing. As an Oak Cliff resident, we have long battled against graffiti. Removal expenses can really add up and I would be hesitant to have the County or municipality start billing me for removal if it took a little longer to remove a specific graffiti incident. Response Bob Schell 01- 11-09 - This bill would only effect the County's ability to remove graffiti from buildings or structures within the unincorporated area's of Dallas County. If there is a problem with graffiti in those areas, the bill may need support. If not, it is more a municipal issue.

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 500 Kolkhorst

Relating to a temporary prohibition on increasing the market value of certain parcels of real property for ad valorem tax purposes following determination of a protest or appeal.

Specific Remarks: Prohibition on raising the market value of a property during/after protest/appeal decision.

Sent to Ken Nolan 1/13/09. Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This bill provides that if a parcel of real estate is reduced by at least 15% by the ARB or district court, the value may not be increased for the first two years following that determination, unless there is new construction. This bill is most likely unconstitutional, since the Constitution calls for market value and fair and equal values. This bill would prevent this by setting the value at a level that may not represent market value for the next two years. At this time there is on corresponding constitutional amendment.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 504 Kolkhorst

Relating to the creation of an offense for a parent's contribution to a child's failure to comply with a sentence or court order relating to a disruptive activity or disruption of class on school property.

Specific Remarks: Class C misdemeanors for parents whose contribute to a child's failure to comply with court instructions after a disruptive activity at school.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 1/13/09. - Response Ron Stretcher 2/03/09 - Judges Seider and Petty both support this bill as providing another tool for dealing with youth who don't respond to Court intervention. Judge Cercone is concerned that the bill would criminalize poor parenting. I recommend that we track this bill.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

HB 515 Vaught

Relating to the expansion of the boundaries of the Dallas County and Tarrant County Hospital Districts.

Specific Remarks: Creates a vehicle for the expansion of the Parkland Hospital district and the Tarrant county Hospital District, to areas in contiguous counties.

Sent to Shay Cathey, Judge Foster, Mike Pappas, Comm. Dickey, Traci Enna, Comm. Cantrell, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Price, Marilyn Little, Comm. Mayfield, Brenda Sauls, Zachary Thompson 01-09-09.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 547

Raymond

Relating to certain civil actions against persons who file complaints with governmental agencies or quasi-governmental entities.

Specific Remarks: Civil actions for persons who file a complaint against a governmental agency.

Sent to Bob Schell 1/16/09. *Response Todd Sellars 2/09/2009 - HB 547 allows a person who is the subject of a complaint to a governmental entity by another person to file suit against the complainant after the governmental entity takes final action on the complaint. It does not apply to complaints which are confidential and which are not public records, and does not allow suit until after the governmental entity takes final action on the complaint. The act expressly provides that it does not authorize or create a cause of action against governmental entities. Given the foregoing, the County does not need to oppose the bill in its present wording. However, we should probably continue to monitor its progress to ensure that no language is added that would increase reporting requirements for the County or otherwise waive governmental immunity.*

Track &nbs color="#ff0000">Track &nbs color="#ff0000">Track &nbs &nbs

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 553

Madden

Relating to the establishment of the office of criminal and juvenile ombudsman.

Specific Remarks: Creates the office of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Ombudsman.

Sent to Mike Griffiths and Ron Stretcher 1/16/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - I recommend that we track this bill, but do not need to take a position. A new oversight agency could require that Dallas County submit information and/or respond to reports of problems. However, the impact would be minimal as we would have to respond to reported problems at some level anyway.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Corrections

HB 560

Menendez

Relating to injury leave for peace officers injured by an intoxicated driver of a motor vehicle or boat.

Specific Remarks: Paid leave for peace officers hit by drunk drivers.

Sent to Mattye 1/21/09. *Response Mattye Taylor 1/22/09 - On House Bill 560, I see no reason for this bill. There is no justification for designating when an officer can or cannot take off. The Bill proposes to allow an injured officer to take off for up to 1 year if he/she is injured by a drunk driver. Does that mean that if he/she is shot in the course and scope of employment that he/she should not be allowed time off? It's nitpicky and should be addressed in the same manner as any other serious injury sustained in course and scope of employment.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Safety

HB 561

Madden

Relating to the authority of county auditors with respect to computer software and data of other local officers or departments.

Specific Remarks: Limits the authority of the County Auditor to mandate the type of information technology software used by a county.

Sent to Bob Clines, Virginia Porter, Traci Enna, Comm. Cantrell. Mike Pappas, Comm. Dickey, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Price, Marilyn Little, Brenda Sauls, Comm. Mayfield., Judge Foster, Shay Cathey, Steven Griggs 1/16/09 *Response Virginia Porter 1/16/09 - The current language of the bill could have unintended consequences. I would like the opportunity to amend to add language for Sec 112.011 ... the auditor would generate general accounting procedures relative to financial control within the systems and the commissioners would approve/adopt those procedures. I would like the opportunity to amend and clarify the language for Sect 115.001(b). Currently, the language is very restrictive potentially limiting audit access for inquiry or compliance testing. I believe the intent was to "restrict audit access of data to inquiry only (no updates) and to restrict audit access to inquiry of security sensitive system setup parameters (such as passwords).*

Amend

Track Name(s): Dallas County Amend List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 564

McClendon

Relating to the allocation to the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund of a portion of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales and use tax.

Companions: SB 383 Carona (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Specific Remarks: Dedicates \$200,000,000.00 from the new vehicle sales tax for rail relocation fund each year.

Sent to Mike Pappas, Comm. Dickey, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Price, and Don Holzwarth 12-29-08. - *Response Mike Pappas 1-05-09 - This is a support.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 565

McClendon

Relating to the abolition of the Texas Transportation Commission and the creation of the commissioner of transportation as an elected statutory state officer.

Specific Remarks: Eliminates the Texas Transportation Commission and replaces them with an elected commissioner of Transportation.

Sent to Don Holzwarth, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Comm. Cantrell, Comm. Dickey, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Price, Marilyn Little, Brenda Sauls, Comm. Mayfield., Judge Foster, Shay Cathey, Steven Griggs 1/16/09 . - *Response Don Holzwarth 1/21/09 -This bill originated with a finding from the Sunset Commission for TxDOT. This is essentially a political bill since it addresses the governance, not the TxDOT staff leadership. The intent seems to be to assure more responsiveness from an elected Commissioner of Transportation to the Governor and to the Legislature. I can report that State Rep. Carl Isett, who is the chair for the TxDOT Sunset Commission gave a report on this issue at the recent TxDOT Transportation Forum in Austin. He said he had voted against the finding, and he reported there was no consensus on this from the 12 member Commission. He based his vote (to keep the current 5 member Commission) on the following: In the brutal, 12 hour hearing the Commission held in Austin, governance (the Commission) was not the subject of any of the testimony (he called it the 'gripes'). The main gripe was leadership in the agency of TxDOT. Recommend tracking it and monitoring any position taken by the RTC and DRMC.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 571

England

Relating to permitting an owner, occupant, or lessee of agricultural land who is a certified prescribed burn manager to conduct a prescribed burn.

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Agriculture and Livestock

HB 572

England

Relating to the imposition by a county or municipality of fees related to certain collection services.

Specific Remarks: Commissioners court may authorize collection fees.

Sent to Ronica Watkins and Tim Morton 1/21/09. *Response Ronica Watkins 1/22/09 - This bill adds a provision that allows a County to collect fees for a collection program performed by employees of the County, which could potentially result in additional revenues for the County.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 579

Gutierrez

Relating to certain costs on conviction in certain intoxication and drug cases.

Specific Remarks: An additional \$10.00 fee on DWI cases to fund drug courts.

Sent to Virginia Porter and Ryan Brown 1/16/09. *Response Virginia Porter 1/20/09 - Currently, about 5,000 cases per year with half of the \$50 fees are retained by the county for the drug courts and another 10% retained by the county for county treasurer administrative fees . The balance is remitted to the state. (\$10 increase = \$5 more going to Escrow, \$1 to County Treasurer Service Fee, and \$4 to State). We don't have statistics on DWI cases.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 588

Naishtat

Relating to fees charged by a justice of the peace for certain documents in a criminal case.

Companions: [SB 409](#) Carona (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

Specific Remarks: Prohibits a justice court from charging a fee for a copy of a document in a criminal case.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Comm. Dickey, and Comm. Cantrell 1/16/09. *Response Ronica Watkins 1/22/09 - Currently, Justice Courts do collect a fee for the copy of a document in a criminal case. Typically the charge is \$1.00 for first copy and .25 for additional page; \$2.00 for first copy and .25 for additional page certified. Criminal cases in justice courts represent approximately 10% of the copy fees collected, which is estimated about \$67,600 annually.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 589

Naishtat

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property used by a charitable organization operating certain radio stations.

Specific Remarks: A tax exemption for a classical music radio station.

Sent to Ken Nolan 1/16/09. *Response Ken Nolan 1/16/09 - This bill provides a charitable exemption to organizations who operate a radio station that broadcasts educational, cultural, or other public interest programming, including classical music, and that in the preceding five years has received or been selected to receive one or more grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting under 47 U.S.C. Section 396, as amended. The only station that comes to mind is WRR and they are owned by the City of Dallas and already exempt.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 591

Howard, Donna

Relating to staffing, overtime, and other employment protections for nurses.

Companions: [SB 476](#) Nelson (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

HB 600

Hughes

Relating to appeals from small claims courts.

Companions: SB 408 Carona (Identical)
 2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Appeals from small claim courts to County courts. Same as HB 600.

Sent to Ron Stretcher and Mikah Mitchell 1/13/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1/15/09 - I believe that this relates to civil actions, not criminal. The bill does appear to provide for an additional level of appeal. I will forward to Judges Seider and Cercone for review and input. Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - I have received additional input from Judges Cercone and Seider on this bill. Based on their input, I believe that we should oppose this bill. - Response Judge Seider 1/21/09 - There is no direct impact on us as judges of Small Claims Court, as the appeal would be from the County Court, but it sure defeats the purposes stated in the Government Code and for that reason I would be against the Bill. The cost of litigation for the folks that use Small Claims Courts is of paramount importance-- this Bill will dramatically increase the costs and attorney fees for cases appealed to the CofA. - Response Judge Cercone 1/21/09 - A similar bill was being considered last session. Generally, a west Texas legislator contemplated a "what if" scenario about a bad decision against a large corporation or government entity, after something bad almost happened in his backyard. The case motivating him settled satisfactorily, but he was still concerned about what almost happened if the county court's decision could not be appealed. Without regard to other available remedies, he was bothered by the finality of the County Court's decision in an appeal from Small Claims Court. He was of the opinion that Small Claims Court should be eliminated, and he had massive support from "gut reaction" colleagues. While testifying in Austin on another matter, I suggested, "As an alternative to doing away with Small Claims Court why not allow the same appeals available to Justice Court?" It seems they are following my suggestion. I think it is unnecessary, but the alternative of eliminating Small Claims Court is much worse. I can dig up the details if anyone is interested.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

HB 615

Turner, Sylvester Relating to the right of an employee who is a parent of a child enrolled in special education program to time off from work to meet with certain persons affecting the education of the child.

Companions: SB 648 Van de Putte (Identical)
 2- 3-09 S Filed

Specific Remarks: Time off from work privileges fro parents of special ed children.

Sent to Mattye Taylor 1 /16/09. *Response Mattye Taylor 1/22/09 - Dallas County provides over a month of leave time to its employees, excluding holidays. If an employee has been with the county for over 1 year, they should have adequate leave to schedule meetings with school personnel. I do not see a need for additional mandated leave.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

HB 640

Zerwas

Relating to personnel records of a deputy sheriff in certain counties.

Specific Remarks: Personal information about Sheriffs Deputies cannot be disclosed.

Sent to Bob Schell and Joseph Costa 1/21/09. - *Response Thao La 2/03/09 - HB #640 ? Amendment to Chapter 157 of Texas Local Government Code I recommend that Dallas County support this bill. Background - HB 640 adds Section 157.905 to Chapter 157 of the Texas Local Government Code to address what is in the "personnel record" of a deputy sheriff in a county with a population of 300,000 or more. Effect of the Bill - This House Bill clarifies what documents should be included in the personnel records of a deputy sheriff appointed under Section 85.003 in certain counties, and lists the conditions for the disclosure of such documents. I brought this bill to Leslie Sweet's attention to receive his input and he recommended that County supports this bill. Leslie stated that the language, Notwithstanding Chapter 552, Government Code ... indicates that this bill trumps Chapter 552 (Open Records).*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

HB 644

Zerwas

Relating to the permissible uses of the state highway fund.

Specific Remarks: All money in the state highway fund must be used for highway purposes.

Sent to Comm Cantrell, Traci Enna and Don Holzwarth 1/21/09. - *Response Donald Holzwarth 01/21/09 This looks like a great "anti-diversion" bill. Recommend support since this is one of the top few transportation priorities for all of region. - Response Traci Enna 1/21/09 - I think it looks good too.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Monitor-Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Appropriations

HB 646

Hughes

Relating to the participation of this state in the Southern High-Speed Rail Compact.

Specific Remarks: Southern High Speed Rail Compact.

Sent to Mike Pappas and Don Holzwarth 1/21/09. *Response Mike Pappas 1/22/09 - I would just track this legislation at this time. Response Don Holzwarth 1/21/09 - Commissioner Dickey is superbly equipped to address this issue. Thanks for her leadership on this vital transportation initiative. If this Compact would facilitate bringing a beneficial version of High Speed Rail to Texas, I would think we would want to support it.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 649

Davis, Yvonne

Relating to a prohibition on the posting of certain tax appraisal record information on the Internet.

Specific Remarks: Allows a property owner to submit an application to an appraisal district that will exclude the disclosure of that property owners name on appraisal district internet records.

Sent to Ken Nolan 2/02/09. - *Response Ken Nolan 2/02/09 - This bill provides that the name of the owner of property included in the appraisal records may not be posted on the Internet by the appraisal district, a taxing unit, or a tax assessor or collector if the owner chooses to prohibit online disclosure of that information. To prohibit online disclosure of the information, the property owner must submit a request to that effect to the chief appraiser on a form prescribed for that purpose by the comptroller under Section 5.07. The prohibition applies to the appraisal district, to each taxing unit that participates in the district, and to the assessor and collector for each of those taxing units. This bill will affect Dallas County as well, since it will prohibit your tax office from listing the owner of the property on their website as well. This is a public policy issue and as such we do not have a position on this bill. The law currently allows some owners of property, (peace officers, sexual violence victims, etc.) to have their name not shown on the internet.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 650

Rodriguez

Relating to the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program.

Specific Remarks: Adding public transit passes and bicycles, etc. to reimbursement assistance received from the LIRAP program.

Sent to Steven Griggs 1/21/09. Response Steven Griggs 1/22/09 - Monitor & Support. This bill amends the popular LIRAP program. Financial assistance would be extended to those who trade their high-emitting vehicles for alternative fuel vehicles and low-emissions modes of transportation not currently included (natural gas cars, scooters, public transit passes). 1997 or newer diesel vehicles would be required to have emissions inspections, which is currently not the case. This bill would also allow more vehicles to qualify for replacement assistance, but the state cannot keep up with the popularity under the current guidelines. Response Cori Thomason 1/30/09 ? NCTCOG recommends amending all legislation pertaining to the LIRAP program to eliminate the required 50% County match.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Environmental Regulation

HB 666

Gutierrez

Relating to certain court costs used to fund drug court programs.

Specific Remarks: Raising fees to contribute to drug court programs.

Sent to Ron Stretcher and Shawn Balusek 1/21/09. Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - This bill adds to a \$50 fee passed by the last session on certain drug offenses to generate funding for drug court programs. Across the state, the funds generated by this new fee have been much less than expected. This bill increases the fee to \$50 and expands it to all offenses, Class B and above (not just drug offenses). Having this fee would certainly increase the funding pool for drug courts. However, Courts would have to consistently assess and collect the fee. We do reach a point where we are getting just about all that we can from defendants. I have forwarded this to Dr. Noyes and Judge Creuzot for their review and input. - Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - Both Dr. Noyes and Judge Creuzot recommend strong support for this bill as a realistic option to provide funding for drug court operations.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 701

Zerwas

Relating to the provision of ad valorem tax relief.

Specific Remarks: Puts caps on all appraised property n ot just homesteads and tax exemptions may be granted. If a homeowner acquires a home after January 1st.

Sent to John Ames, Ryan Brown, Ken Nolan, Shay Cathey, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Marilyn Little, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Cantrell, Comm. Price, Comm. Mayfield, Comm. Dickey 2/02/09. - *Response Ken Nolan 2/02/09* - *This bill provides for the following: (1) Homestead exemptions are retroactive back to Jan 1 in the year the person acquires the property; (2) Application for an exemption for a property acquired after Jan 1, must be made before the first anniversary of the date the person acquires the property; (3) The 10% appraisal cap is expanded to cover all real property; (4) A county or municipality may adopt, by general election, a one-half cent sales tax dedicated to reducing the property tax rate. This would make the homestead qualification date consistent with the senior citizen and disabled persons qualifications dates that are currently in place. That part is ok, the cap part of the bill should be opposed as it would extend the current appraisal cap to all real property. It is impossible to know the fiscal impact of this portion of the bill. It certainly has less effect in a declining market than it would have had 3-5 years ago. However once the market turns around, especially as it concerns commercial property, large amounts of value will escape taxation, and since commercial properties typically appreciate at much higher rates than homes, the tax burden is shifted to homeowners.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 704

Rose

Relating to the jurisdiction of a court to conduct placement review hearings for a child in the managing conservatorship of the state after the child's 18th birthday.

Companions: SB 984 Davis, Wendy (Identical)
2-19-09 S Filed

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-21-09 H Filed

HB 733

Fletcher

Relating to the definition of a police vehicle for the purposes of certain traffic laws.

Companions: HB 805 Quintanilla (Identical)
1-27-09 H Filed
SB 389 Patrick, Dan (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

Track Name(s): Dallas County Amend List(Amend-Against), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 737

Quintanilla

Relating to the duty to notify local governmental entities about the existence of proposed hazardous liquid pipeline projects.

Specific Remarks: If a county finds out about a proposed pipeline it shall notify other entities impacted by the project.

Sent to Ryan Brown and Don Holzwarth 2/02/09. *Response Don Holzwarth 2/09/2009 - Please see comments below from our Property Division Staff. In summary, we see some potential onerous effects of this bill and recommend tracking it.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Energy Resources

HB 742

Flores

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans and to the amount of the exemption to which a disabled veteran is entitled based on disability rating.

Companions: SB 469 Carona (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Specific Remarks: Exempting disabled vets from paying a ny property taxes.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 2/03/09. - *Response Ken Nolan 2/03/09 - This bill provides for a total exemption for the homesteads of disabled veterans who have a disability rating of 100%. The bill also adjusts the amount of the exemption for lesser disability ratings to: 10-29% = \$5,000 30-49% = \$7,500 50-69% = \$10,000 70% or greater = \$12,000. This is the companion bill to SB 469. There are currently 2,016 homesteads that have a 100% disability rating with a total value of \$311,048,830. This value would become exempt.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 770

Howard, Donna

Relating to the ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead that is rendered uninhabitable or unusable by a casualty or by mold or water damage.

Specific Remarks: Continuing to claim a homestead exemptions if the house is uninhabitable or unusable because of a casualty while it is being reconstructed.

Sent to Ken Nolan 2/03/09. - Response Ken Nolan 2/03/09 - This bill provides if a residential homestead is rendered uninhabitable or unusable by a casualty or by mold or water damage, the owner may continue to receive the exemption for the structure and the land and improvements used in the residential occupancy of the structure while the owner constructs a replacement qualified residential structure on the land if the owner does not establish a different principal residence for which the owner receives an exemption under Section 11.13 during that period and intends to return and occupy the structure as the owner's principal residence. To continue to receive the exemption, the owner must begin active construction of the replacement qualified residential structure or other physical preparation of the site on which the structure is to be located not later than the first anniversary of the date the owner ceases to occupy the former qualified residential structure as the owner's principal residence. The owner may not receive the exemption for that property under the circumstances described for more than three years. There is no fiscal impact in that the property is already subject to a homestead. This bill preserves the homestead while it is being repaired or rebuilt.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 773

Oliveira

Relating to extending the expiration date of the Property Redevelopment and Tax Abatement Act.

Specific Remarks: Expiration date for property tax abat ements.

Sent to Rick Loessberg 2/02/09. - Response Rick Loessberg 2/02/09 - Support. Extends the authorization of the enabling tax abatement statute, which will expire on September 1, 2009, to September 1, 2021. Please note that in the event this statute is not extended/renewed, the County will probably be able to use Chapter 381 of the Local Govt Code to do most of what it already does.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HB 789

Thompson

Relating to a criminal justice policy impact statement attached to certain bills or resolutions.

Companions:

HB 930	Dutton	(Identical)
	1-30-09 H Filed	
SB 164	Ellis	(Identical)
	2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Committee on Administration	

Specific Remarks: Criminal justice policy impact statements to be attached to bills.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-20-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- At first look, I see little impact to Dallas County. I would suspect that if we have a legislator sponsor a bill that includes changes to the sanctions for felony offenders, we would be asked to provide some info to prepare the impact statement this bill would require. I am going to forward this to some of my counterparts around the state to get their input. Les and Keith - what are your thoughts on this bill? -Forwarded to Les Smith (Tarrant County) & Keith Charlton (Bexar County) 11-21-08- Response Les Smith 11-21-08- This does not have an impact on counties but on the state. It is simply a policy impact statement that the Board of Criminal Justice will be required to implement. What am I missing?

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

HB 805 **Quintanilla** Relating to the definition of a police vehicle for the purposes of certain traffic laws.

Companions: **HB 733** Fletcher (Identical)
2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

SB 389 Patrick, Dan (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

Track Name(s): Dallas County Amend List(Amend-Against), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-27-09 H Filed

HB 831 **Taylor** Relating to exempting from ad valorem taxation property used by certain nonprofit community business organizations to provide services to aid in the economic development of local communities.

Companions: **SB 564** Jackson, Mike (Identical)
1-28-09 S Filed

Specific Remarks: Exemption from property tax for nonpr ofits that provide services to aid in the economic development of the community.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 2/3/09. - Response Ken Nolan 2/03/09 - This bill amends Section 11.231, Tax Code to exempt Nonprofit Business Organizations Providing Economic Development Services to Local Communities. The bill defines these organizations and exempts the buildings and personal property they use. This is the companion bill to HB 831. We cannot determine the fiscal impact of this bill, since we do not know who these organizations are at this time.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-28-09 H Filed**HB 837****Marquez**

Relating to the deadline for a school district to file a complaint concerning a student who fails to attend school without excuse.

Specific Remarks: Changes the truancy compliant deadlines from 10 days to 14 days. Sent to Rey Chavez, Truancy Magistrate, Ron Stretcher, and Mike Griffiths.

Response Ron Stretcher 2/10/2009 - We should support this bill. The current 10 day requirement is very tight for the school districts. The extra 4 days will help them file more cases in a timely manner. Response Rey Chavez 2/10/2009 - Ron, I agree with you. The benefit in giving the school districts a little breathing room to appropriately timely file cases clearly outweighs any detriment in possibly allowing a student to accumulate another absence. We should support HB 837.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-28-09 H Filed**HB 853****Laubenberg**

Relating to inclusion of pets and other companion animals in protective orders.

Specific Remarks: Inclusion of pets and compainion animals in protective orders. Referred to Craig Pardue.

Sent to Craig Pardue, Comm. Dickey and Mike Pappas. Response Craig Pardue 2/6/09 - This legislation was part of last sessions legislative package. It died during the end of session backlog on the house calendar. I strongly recommend we support the passage of this bill.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Our Package), Dallas County Support List (Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 H Filed**HB 869****Farabee**

Relating to the stopping, standing, or parking of certain vehicles on a highway.

Specific Remarks: Stopping government vehicles on highways. By Don Holzwarth and Bob Schell.

Response Don Holzwarth 2/10/2009 -Recommend support from a Public Works perspective: This language would make lawful what our Public Works inspectors & project managers many times have to do, that is stopping (safely) on a roadside in connection with construction, maintenance or repair of a road we are or have worked on - the same language applies for utility type vehicles who also are doing much of the same. The way the Transportation Code currently reads, they could be ticketed for doing their jobs.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 H Filed

HB 880

Strama

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain energy efficiency-related improvements to real or personal property.

Specific Remarks: If someone installs a permanent energy-efficiency device in/on their home, the amount the value increases from that is exempted from property taxes.

Sent to John Ames and Ken Nolan 02/10/2009. Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This bill provides for an exemption in the amount of the appraised value of real or personal property owned by the person that arises from the installation of an energy efficiency-related improvement that is permanently attached to or incorporated in the property. There is no way to know the impact of this bill since we are not required to track this type of property under current law.

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 H Filed

HB 888

Naishtat

Relating to the detention and examination of certain persons accepted for a preliminary mental health examination.

Specific Remarks: Period of time a person can be held under emergency detention for mental health exam.

Sent to Kima Letcher 2/03/09. Forwarded to Value Options. Response Sandy Potter of Value Options 2/10/09 - When people are authorized it is for the calendar day so as I have read It I agree with Ron and I would think this would not have an impact on us 12 noon or 4 pm is the same day to us. Response Ron Stretcher 2/10/09 - I recommend that Dallas County support this bill. Response Melanie Barton 2/13/2009 - HB 888 changes the time requirement from noon to 4 p.m. when the 48 hour period ends on a succeeding business day. This will have no impact on Dallas County.

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 H Filed

HB 914

Dutton

Relating to certain personal information contained in a decree of dissolution of a marriage or an order in a suit affected the parent-child relationship.

Companions: SB 478 Carona (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Excluding personal information from final divorce decrees.

Sent to Greg Allbright and Lori Bodino 1/16/09. *Response Maria Sanchez 1/20/09 - This legislation is doing away with the requirement of including personal information (SS#'s, birth dates, bank account #'s) in orders for divorce cases and suits affecting the parent child relationship. This information will be required to be filed as a separate document, and this document will be considered confidential. This will likely have an impact on the family court as we will have to develop a protocol for dealing with the confidential document. Per Gary Fitzsimmons 1/30/09 Support.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HB 930

Dutton

Relating to a criminal justice policy impact statement attached to certain bills or resolutions.

Companions: HB 789 Thompson (Identical)
2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence
SB 164 Ellis (Identical)
2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Committee on Administration

Specific Remarks: Criminal justice policy impact statements to be attached to bills.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-20-08 -*Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- At first look, I see little impact to Dallas County. I would suspect that if we have a legislator sponsor a bill that includes changes to the sanctions for felony offenders, we would be asked to provide some info to prepare the impact statement this bill would require. I am going to forward this to some of my counterparts around the state to get their input. Les and Keith - what are your thoughts on this bill? -Forwarded to Les Smith (Tarrant County) & Keith Charlton (Bexar County) 11-21-08- Response Les Smith 11-21-08- This does not have an impact on counties but on the state. It is simply a policy impact statement that the Board of Criminal Justice will be required to implement. What am I missing?*

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HB 942

Dutton

Relating to the duties of a court granting an occupational license to a person whose driver's license has been suspended.

Specific Remarks: No later than 10 days after granting an ODL, a copy of the order must be sent to the person.

Sent to John Warren, Ed Bailey, Gary Fitzsimmons and Greg Allbright. *Response John Warren 2/11/2009 - We can support. No impact on our operations. Response Greg Allbright 2/11/2009 - We do such a small volume of ODL's in a month (5-10) that this bill will not have an operational impact.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HB 954

Dutton

Relating to restrictions on the disclosure of certain criminal history records and to the duty of law enforcement agencies regarding records associated with certain defendants.

Specific Remarks: Criminal charges for releasing expunged information.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 02/10/2009 . *Response Ron Stretcher 2/10/2009 - CSCD, Mr. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Warren really need to review and give input on this bill. Response John Warren 2/11/2009 - I don't think this bill will impact my office. I would like to note that we will have to make the adjustments in making sure that the Court does not sign an order until the defendant HAS fulfilled they obligation in paying in full all court cost and fines. I would suggest that the courts check with either clerk's office to make sure that is done. Additionally, it will require some effort from IT Services to make the necessary changes as with previous expunctions. My question is how will the DA's office be impacted?*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HB 957

Swinford

Relating to the eligibility of certain public officers to the legislature and prohibiting legislators from other public employment.

Specific Remarks: Eliminates everyone who gets a paycheck from a government job except military reserves from running for the legislature.

Sent to AA. *Response Ken Mayfield 2/10/2009 - This is a joke!!!! Oppose!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!* **Oppose**

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HB 976

Legler

Relating to the proof of identity required of an applicant for a driver's license.

Specific Remarks: Documents presented for proof of ID for drivers licenses.

Sent to John Warren and Ed Bailey 02/10/2009. *Response John Warren 2/11/2009 - We should support this bill. It helps in preventing not just identity theft, but will also over a period of time decrease the number of fake ID's we get from individuals seeking birth certificates and marriage license.*

Support**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-02-09 H Filed

HB 985

Brown, Betty

Relating to the creation of a memorial sign account, the imposition of a memorial sign fee on certain defendants, and the posting of memorial signs for certain victims of alcohol related vehicle accidents.

Specific Remarks: Memorial signs for victims of alcohol related accidents.

Sent to Don Holzwarth 2/10/2009. *Response Don Holzwarth 2/10/2009 - No opinion from Pulic Works - essentially a political, public safety as well as a criminal code issue.*

Track**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-02-09 H Filed

HB 1003

Bolton

Relating to notice provided to certain victims or witnesses regarding certain inmates or defendants who are electronically monitored.

Specific Remarks: Community supervision and corrections shall notify a victim when an offender goes off electronic monitoring.

Sent to Ron Stretcher. *Response Ron Stretcher 2/10/2009 - I recommend that we oppose this bill as it would require additional staff resources to implement. Forwarded to Dr. Noyes for input*

Track**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1008

Moody

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans.

Companions:	HB 62	Aycock	(Identical)
		2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
	SB 192	Shapleigh	(Identical)
		2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance	

Specific Remarks: Homestead exemptions for disabled vets.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This bill provides that a disabled veteran who is classified as having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or of totally disabled is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. There are currently 2,434 accounts with a 100% veterans disability rating that have a total market value of \$ 381,416,800. This value would be lost under this bill. Using last year's county tax rate of .233028, the amount of revenue lost is \$889,769.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1026

Edwards

Relating to establishing legislative district emergency response teams.

Specific Remarks: Establishing legislative district emergency response teams.

Sent to Robie Robinson 02/10/2009. Response Robie Robinson 2/02/2009 - This bill would create an additional response team that would reach across all levels of government and effectively eliminate the current organization and structure that is in place nationwide. While reaching across levels may sound good, there are specified and tested span of control issues and organizational requirements that need to be maintained in order to insure that disaster response is manageable. The training that this bill requires deals specifically with the organization and structure through which municipal, county, state, and federal agencies relate but the bill requires that that structure be ignored or bypassed. Financially, the bill requires that the county with the largest population, in this case that would be Dallas, provide specific equipment to these teams. Only IF state funds are allocated would the county not be liable for all costs. Even if state funds were allocated, the county would be responsible for all management and oversight costs associated with acquiring and maintaining the equipment, recruiting and training team members, responding, etc. Dallas County has all the personnel available to do the tasks outlined in the bill and in fact, they do those tasks as needed for incidents when they occur. This bill would statutorily require that many personnel be reassigned to meet the demands of the bill which would have a significant adverse effect on preparedness and response not only in Dallas County but statewide. Response Cori Thomason 2/20/09 ? Fiscal Note submitted to CUC is \$1.5m

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1030

Callegari

Relating to the scheduling of hearings before appraisal review boards on property tax protests.

Specific Remarks: Appraisal board hearing postponements.

Sent to Ken Nolan 02/10/2009. Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This bill amends Section 41.45(e) Tax Code to allow the Chairman of the ARB agree to a later postponement of a hearing without the full board's consent. This bill would no longer require the full ARB to meet and approve the later date.

Track**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1037

Paxton

Relating to allowing persons acquiring a new residence homestead to receive an ad valorem tax exemption on the homestead in the year in which the property is acquired.

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1038

Paxton

Relating to the determination of the market value of a residence homestead for purposes of ad valorem taxation.

Specific Remarks: Appraisal values considering foreclosures and declining economies.

Sent to Ken Nolan 02/10/2009. Response Ken Nolan 02/11/2009 - This bill provides that in determining the market value of a residence homestead, the chief appraiser may not exclude from consideration the value of other residential property that is in the same neighborhood as the residence homestead being appraised and would otherwise be considered in appraising the residence homestead because the other residential property: (1) was sold at a foreclosure sale conducted in any of the three years preceding the tax year in which the residence homestead is being appraised; or (2) has a market value that has declined because of a declining economy. This is an attempt by the Legislature to codify appraisal methodology. We already consider foreclosures when appraising property. The key is if they are the dominant transaction in the marketplace in a particular neighborhood. If they are then they can be used to determine market value, if they are not, they are not given any weight. They are however always "considered."

Track**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1039

Paxton

Relating to the creation of county databases containing information on county expenditures.

Specific Remarks: County databases for county expenditures.

Response Joe Wells 2/5/09 - Not sure if this has been briefed but it has the County Treasurers buzzing about unfunded mandate and impact on IT Treasurer and Auditor workloads. Have you all reviewed it? Email from Virginia Porter 2/5/09 - the requirements are that the commissioners must post on the internet a searchable database, downloads, and include graphical representations (Pie charts). The auditor currently publishes departmental expenditure statements on our website albeit without a search tool and lacking full detail information regarding the payment. Oracle GL standard queries do allow for drill down functionality, but the process is not easy and intuitive as required by the bill. the County Treasurer submits a check register with payer information to commissioners court weekly, but object codes and drill down functionality is missing. I agree with Mr. Wells that creating a web posting to meet the requirements of this bill would be expensive and time consuming. I recommend discussing various report options with IT and amending the bill allowing expanded public access but without requiring significant costs to create the searchable database.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-03-09 H Filed

HB 1045

Otto

Relating to the contents of a notice of appraised value sent to a property owner by the chief appraiser of an appraisal district.

Specific Remarks: Removes from the appraisal statement the estimated tax increase notifications based on increased appraised value. This notification is confusing and irrelevant if a taxing district goes back to the effective tax rate.

Sent to Ryan Brown and Ken Nolan. Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This bill removes the estimated taxes from the notice of appraised value. This is a great bill and should be supported. Since the appraisal district has no part in the tax rate and tax calculations, the current information only causes confusion.

Support

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-04-09 H Filed

HB 1047

Deshotel

Relating to the permissible uses of the state highway fund.

Companions: [SB 746](#) Wentworth (Identical)
2-10-09 S Filed

Specific Remarks: SAME AS SB 746. Limits expenditures from Highway Fund 6.

Sent to Don Holzwarth, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Comm. Cantrell and Comm. Dickey 2/10/2009. *Response Don Holzwarth 2/10/2009 - This is a companion bill to SB 211 by Senator Corona (similar) & SB 746 by Senator Wentworth (identical). These bills stop diversion from Fund 6 to pay for the Highway Patrol if a constitutional amendment is approved by the voters. This is a top priority for region. Recommend strong support.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-04-09 H Filed

HB 1092

Parker

Relating to the authority of voters of a county to allow the owners of certain real property to require that county and any municipal ad valorem taxes be imposed on the basis of a five-year average of the property's value.

Specific Remarks: Voters in a county can vote that property taxes be assessed based on a five-year average of values.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 02/10/2009. *Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This bill provides that in a county-wide election the voters may elect to have their value based on a five year average for purposes of county and municipal taxes. If the election is successful the property owner may elect to require that the county tax and any municipal tax imposed on that property for the current tax year and each of the subsequent four tax years be calculated on the basis of the average taxable value of the property over the five-year period ending with the tax year for which the taxes are imposed. If the property owner waives this method of calculation there is a rollback of the taxed for up to the previous five years. This is just another attempt to institute appraisal caps and not use fair market value as the standard of valuation. However this bill does provide for a rollback of taxes if the average results in less taxes being paid. The rollback can be for up to five years.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-05-09 H Filed

HB 1149

Thompson

Relating to hearings by the Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding clemency matters.

Companions: [SB 166](#) Ellis (Identical)
2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

Specific Remarks: Videoconferencing used in parole hearings.

Sent to Ron Stretcher -*Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- This bill will not impact Dallas County. It is a good idea and we should support.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-09-09 H Filed

HB 1269

Hughes

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain organizations engaged primarily in performing charitable functions.

Companions: SB 475 Wentworth (Identical)
2-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Specific Remarks: Property tax exemption guidelines for charitable organizations.

Sent to Ken Nolan 1/16/09. *Response Ken Nolan 1/16/09 - This bill provides that a corporation that is not a qualified charitable organization is entitled to an exemption from taxation of property if: (1) the corporation is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(2) of that code; (2) the corporation holds title to the property for, collects income from the property for, and turns over the entire amount of that income, less expenses, to a qualified charitable organization; and (3) the qualified charitable organization would qualify for an exemption from taxation of the property under this section if the qualified charitable organization owned the property. Before a corporation may submit an application for an exemption under this section, the qualified charitable organization for which the corporation holds title to the property must apply to the comptroller for the determination described with regard to the qualified charitable organization. The application for the determination must also include an application to the comptroller for a determination of whether the corporation meets the requirements described above. The corporation shall submit with the application for an exemption under this section a copy of the determination letter issued by the comptroller. The chief appraiser shall accept the copy of the letter as conclusive evidence of the matters in question as well as of whether the corporation meets the requirements set out above. In order for the corporation to continue to receive an exemption under this section after the fifth tax year after the year in which the exemption is granted, the qualified charitable organization for which the corporation holds title to property must obtain a new determination letter and the corporation must reapply for the exemption. The bill also repeals Section 11.184(b). There is no way to know the fiscal impact of this bill since these organizations are currently not tracked since they do not qualify for an exemption. The bill does take the decision making for this out of our hands and gives it to the comptroller.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-13-09 H Filed

HB 1349

Vaught

Relating to supervision of juvenile case managers.

Companions: SB 54 Zaffirini (Identical)
2-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Oversight of juvenile case managers.

Sent to Mike Griffiths 11-13-08 Forwarded to Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- Response Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- As I read this bill, it applies to the juvenile case managers that are employed by some JP and municipal courts. I do not believe that this would apply to our truancy courts, which operate under the "constitutional county courts". But I would really like for Bob Schell to have some confirm that this would not apply to our truancy courts. If it does apply to us, then we would want to oppose this bill. We currently designate someone other than a judge to manage these Juvenile Case Managers and do not want to change that. Forwarded to Bob Schell 11-17-08 Response Thao La 1/20/09 - BACKGROUND - I believe that the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 45.056 does pertain to what many refer to as the Truancy Courts' case managers (but Art. 45.056 refers to as Juvenile Case Managers). Art. 45.056 does not reference district courts where the juvenile cases are heard, but rather references only county courts, justice courts and municipal courts (where "truancy" or more correctly, "failure to attend school", cases are heard). Despite the confusion in the labeling (Juvenile vs. Truancy), the fact remains that Art. 45.056 affects case managers working primarily on cases alleging violation of the Texas Education Code Sections 25.093 (Parent Contributing to Truancy) or 25.094 (Failure to Attend School). EFFECT OF THE BILL - Specifically, SB 54 adds subsection (f) to Art. 45.056 and requires that the juvenile case manager be supervised by the judge of a court that employs a juvenile case manager or supervised by a person who has been delegated by the said judge, and who is also authorized to conduct hearings under Title 3, Family Code. Dallas County currently designates someone other than a judge to manage these Juvenile Case Managers and does not want to change that. This Bill affects Dallas County negatively. I recommend that Dallas County opposes this Bill.

Amend to bracket out Dallas County.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Dallas County Amend List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Filed

HB 1383

Davis, Yvonne

Relating to access to certain information under the public information law concerning public officers and employees.

Companions: SB 331 Carona (Identical)
2-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

Specific Remarks: A governmental employee's personal information is not an open record.

Sent to Mattye M. Taylor 12-8-08. - Response Mattye M. Taylor 12-10-08 - I think overall this is a good bill and should be supported. When it comes to public information, an employee will now have to notify us if they want personal information disclosed (address, etc.). Currently, they must notify us if they do not want it disclosed. Also, it clarifies other gray areas, such as revealing the location of where an employee works, etc. The clarification in this proposed bill is needed.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Filed

HB 1575

Isett

Relating to ad valorem tax relief.

Companions: SB 700 Patrick, Dan (Identical)
2- 6-09 S Filed

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-20-09 H Filed

HJR 12

Leibowitz

Relating to authorizing the legislature to limit the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes.

Companions: HJR 42 Zerwas (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 44 Rose (Identical)
2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 51 Brown, Betty (Identical)
2- 3-09 H Filed

HJR 61 Howard, Charlie (Identical)
2-11-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 22

Villarreal

Relating to ad valorem taxation of a residence homestead.

Specific Remarks: Appraisals based solely on the value of the homestead.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment provides that the Legislature by general law may provide for the taxation of real property that is the residence homestead of the property owner solely on the basis of the property's value as a residence homestead, regardless of whether the residential use of the property by the owner is considered to be the highest and best use of the property. This will only come into play on those residential homesteads that are located in primarily commercial areas and that are zoned commercial. The effect of this bill should be minimal since Dallas County is an older established area.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 28

Herrero

Relating to exemption from ad valorem taxation a portion of the assessed value of the residence homesteads of military servicemembers who are serving on active duty.

Specific Remarks: Exempting a portion of the assessed value for property taxation of military members on active duty.

Sent to Ken Nolan 12/8/08 Ken Nolan Response 12/8/08 This amendment provides that the legislature by general law may exempt from ad valorem taxation by a political subdivision \$3,000 of the assessed value of the residence homestead of a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States, a member of the Texas National Guard or of the National Guard of another state serving on active duty under an order of the President of the United States, or a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty under an order of the President of the United States. Whereas ad valorem taxes have previously been pledged for the payment of debt, the taxing officers of a political subdivision may continue to levy and collect the taxes against the value of homesteads exempted under this subsection until the debt is discharged if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created. The legislature shall provide for formulas to protect school districts against all or part of the revenue loss incurred by the implementation of this subsection. There is no way to measure the fiscal impact of this constitutional amendment, since we do not currently have information on the military status of homeowners.

Track. Make sure that the bill would only apply to counties not already offering an exemption.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Amend-Monitor), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 42

Zerwas

Limiting the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year.

Companions:	HJR 12	Leibowitz (Identical) 2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
	HJR 44	Rose (Identical) 2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
	HJR 51	Brown, Betty (Identical) 2- 3-09 H Filed
	HJR 61	Howard, Charlie (Identical) 2-11-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

[HJR 44](#) [Rose](#)

Relating to limiting the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year.

Companions:	HJR 12	Leibowitz (Identical) 2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
	HJR 42	Zerwas (Identical) 2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means
	HJR 51	Brown, Betty (Identical) 2- 3-09 H Filed
	HJR 61	Howard, Charlie (Identical) 2-11-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

HJR 48

Bonnen

Exempting from ad valorem taxation a portion of the assessed value of the residence homesteads of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers.

Specific Remarks: \$5000 exemption from appraised value for volunteer firefighters and EMS.

Sent to Ken Nolan 02/10/2009. *Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This amendment provides that the legislature by general law may exempt from ad valorem taxation \$5,000 of the assessed value of the residence homestead of a person who serves as a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical services volunteer. We currently have no idea who these persons are, so therefore we cannot gauge the impact of the bill.*

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-30-09 H Filed

HJR 51

Brown, Betty

Relating to limiting the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding tax year.

Companions:

HJR 12	Leibowitz	(Identical)
	2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
HJR 42	Zerwas	(Identical)
	2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
HJR 44	Rose	(Identical)
	2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
HJR 61	Howard, Charlie	(Identical)
	2-11-09 H Filed	

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -*Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-03-09 H Filed

HJR 61

Howard, Charlie

Regarding limiting the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or more of the appraised value of the property for the preceding year.

Companions:	HJR 12	Leibowitz	(Identical)
		2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
	HJR 42	Zerwas	(Identical)
		2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means	
HJR 44	Rose	(Identical)	
	2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means		
HJR 51	Brown, Betty	(Identical)	
	2- 3-09 H Filed		

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-11-09 H Filed

SB 54 **Zaffirini** Relating to the supervision of juvenile case managers.

Companions:	HB 1349	Vaught	(Identical)
		2-17-09 H Filed	

Specific Remarks: Oversight of juvenile case maangers.

Sent to Mike Griffiths 11-13-08 Forwarded to Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- Response Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- As I read this bill, it applies to the juvenile case managers that are employed by some JP and municipal courts. I do not believe that this would apply to our truancy courts, which operate under the "constitutional county courts". But I would really like for Bob Schell to have some confirm that this would not apply to our truancy courts. If it does apply to us, then we would want to oppose this bill. We currently designate someone other than a judge to manage these Juvenile Case Managers and do not want to change that. Forwarded to Bob Schell 11-17-08 Response Thao La 1/20/09 - BACKGROUND - I believe that the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure Art. 45.056 does pertain to what many refer to as the Truancy Courts' case managers (but Art. 45.056 refers to as Juvenile Case Managers). Art. 45.056 does not reference district courts where the juvenile cases are heard, but rather references only county courts, justice courts and municipal courts (where "truancy" or more correctly, "failure to attend school", cases are heard). Despite the confusion in the labeling (Juvenile vs. Truancy), the fact remains that Art. 45.056 affects case managers working primarily on cases alleging violation of the Texas Education Code Sections 25.093 (Parent Contributing to Truancy) or 25.094 (Failure to Attend School). EFFECT OF THE BILL - Specifically, SB 54 adds subsection (f) to Art. 45.056 and requires that the juvenile case manager be supervised by the judge of a court that employs a juvenile case manager or supervised by a person who has been delegated by the said judge, and who is also authorized to conduct hearings under Title 3, Family Code. Dallas County currently designates someone other than a judge to manage these

Juvenile Case Managers and does not want to change that. This Bill affects Dallas County negatively. I recommend that Dallas County opposes this Bill.

Amend to bracket out Dallas County.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Dallas County Amend List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

SB 74 Nelson Relating to limitation of liability for certain emergency care provided during a declared disaster.

Specific Remarks: Limited liability for emergency care provided during a disaster.

Sent to Robie Robinson 11-13-08 -Response Robie Robinson 11-14-08- I have no objection to this bill although it would be nice if it expanded the coverage to include good Samaritan acts in addition to those that are done in the course of employment. It's better than nothing.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 75 Nelson Relating to the establishment of a disaster and emergency education program.

Specific Remarks: Emergency/disaster education.

Sent to Robie Robinson 11-13-08 -Response Robie Robinson 11-14-08- I strongly oppose this bill as it may increase the division between agencies and disciplines across the state. Texas has the Governor's Division of Emergency Management that is already tasked with this and tasking DSHS to do it will create conflict, confusion, duplication, and added cost for less benefit.

Track. Possible funding issues.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-25-09 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016 Senate Transportation and Homeland S

SB 77 Nelson Relating to participation by single-employee businesses in private purchasing cooperatives or health group cooperatives.

Specific Remarks: Cooperative health insurance purchases.

Sent to Comm. Dickey & Mike Pappas 11-13-08 -Response Mike Pappas 11-19-07- *I would not waste a whole lot of time on this. If it passes it's ok, but co-operatives like this for the most part do not work.*

Track.

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 112

Ellis

Relating to deferred prosecution programs for certain military service members and veterans.

Specific Remarks: Deferred prosecution for military and vets.

Sent to Carmen White and Ron Stretcher 11-20-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- *As written, this bill would slow down the processing of cases through the criminal justice system and open the courts to more medical/psychological testing before proceeding with cases. I do not believe that we should support this. I am including some others in this response to ask for their review and comment. ?Forwarded to Dana Wisner, John Creuzot, Kerry Young, Lynn Richardson, Mikah Mitchell, & Teresa Tolle 11-21-08- -Response Kerry Young 11-21-08- I agree with Ron. Complying with this bill could get very costly and time consuming. It will inevitably set up a battle of the experts.*

Wait for the DA to respond before recommending action.

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 164

Ellis

Relating to a criminal justice policy impact statement attached to certain bills or resolutions.

Companions:

HB 789	Thompson (Identical)
	2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence
HB 930	Dutton (Identical)
	1-30-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Criminal justice policy impact statements to be attached to bills.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-20-08 -Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- At first look, I see little impact to Dallas County. I would suspect that if we have a legislator sponsor a bill that includes changes to the sanctions for felony offenders, we would be asked to provide some info to prepare the impact statement this bill would require. I am going to forward this to some of my counterparts around the state to get their input. Les and Keith - what are your thoughts on this bill? -Forwarded to Les Smith (Tarrant County) & Keith Charlton (Bexar County) 11-21-08- Response Les Smith 11-21-08- This does not have an impact on counties but on the state. It is simply a policy impact statement that the Board of Criminal Justice will be required to implement. What am I missing?

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Committee on Administration

SB 166

Ellis

Relating to hearings by the Board of Pardons and Paroles regarding clemency matters.

Companions: [HB 1149](#) Thompson (Identical)
2- 9-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Videoconferencing used in parole hearings.

Sent to Ron Stretcher -Response Ron Stretcher 11-21-08- This bill will not impact Dallas County. It is a good idea and we should support.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 192

Shapleigh

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans.

Companions: [HB 62](#) Aycok (Identical)
2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

[HB 1008](#) Moody (Identical)
2- 3-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Tax exemptions for disabled vets.

Same as HB 62. Sent to Ken Nolan 11-12-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-12-08- This bill provides that a disabled veteran who is classified as having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or of totally disabled is entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of the veteran's residence homestead. There are currently 2,434 accounts with a 100% veterans disability rating that have a total market value of \$ 381,416,800. This value would be lost under this bill. Using last year's county tax rate of .233028, the amount of revenue lost is \$889,769.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-10-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 216

Carona

Relating to permissible uses of state highway funds.

Specific Remarks: Highway fund uses.

Sent to Don Holzwarth 11-21-08 -Response Donald Holzwarth 11-21-08- This bill filed by Sen Carona is the bill that would stop diversions from the Highway Fund 6, if approved in a constitutional amendment. Specifically, it would stop funding the Dept of Public Safety (the Highway Patrol). Since this is the foundational issue for the Comm. Court as well as the RTC, DRMC, & Tarrant regional group, recommend STRONG SUPPORT.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 217

Carona

Relating to the rate of the state gasoline tax and diesel fuel taxes.

Specific Remarks: Indexing the gasoline tax to the cost of highway construction.

Sent to Comm. Dickey, Mike Pappas, Comm. Cantrell, Traci Enna, Comm. Price, Keidra McCracken, Dapheny Fain, Brenda Sauls, Shay Cathey, & Steve Griggs 11-14-08 -Response Mike Pappas 11-18-08-I would suggest supporting.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Our Package), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 218

Nichols

Relating to the limitation on increase in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-21-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- This bill lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The Commissioners Court of a county may call an election to raise the 5% cap to no greater than 10%. This will cause additional revenue loss. Currently Dallas County lost \$17,781,190,050 due to the 10% homestead cap. The worst case scenario is that the amount would double to \$35,562,380,100. However in the current economy, with values decreasing, it is doubtful that the amount would increase to that degree.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 219

Nichols

Relating to prohibiting the use of eminent domain to take private property for recreational purposes.

Specific Remarks: No eminent domain taking of property if the property is to be used for a recreational purpose.

Sent to Rick Loessberg & Donald Holzwarth 11-14-08 -Response Rick Loessberg 11-14-08- Oppose. SB219 would prohibit the use of eminent domain to acquire property for a recreational purpose. While County has only very rarely used eminent domain to acquire property for its open space system, it is important to have the ability to use it if needed. Possessing this ability may become even more important as County and cities seek to create a comprehensive trail system. -Response Selas Camarillo & Carter Ferguson 11-20-08- While the intent may have been to restrict the taking (through Eminent Domain) for purely "recreational purpose," Sec. 2206.002 (d), subparagraphs (1) & (2) wrap-up improvements to parks, greenbelts and trails in the definition of "recreational purpose." This broad sweep will conflict with the county's Open Space Program and further affect the implementation of the county's recently adopted "green strategy." Therefore it is recommended that Dallas County not support this bill as currently drafted.

Track/Amend for trail programs

Track Name(s): Dallas County Amend List(Amend-Monitor), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 223

West

Relating to allowing a person who successfully completes a term of deferred adjudication community supervision to be eligible for a pardon.

Specific Remarks: If you complete deferred adjudication, you are eligible for a pardon.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 11-14-08 -*Response Ron Stretcher 11-17-08- At first read, I see no impact on Dallas County by this bill. A constitutional amendment is required before the proposed changes to the Code of Criminal Procedures would go into effect. I have forwarded this to others for review/comment. --Forwarded 11-17-08- John Creuzot Lynn Richardson, Michael Noyes, Teresa Tolle, & Terri Moore. PD Supports.*

Wait for DA to respond before recommending action.

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 249 **Shapleigh** Relating to counties eligible to impose an optional fee on registration of a vehicle to fund transportation projects.

Specific Remarks: Expands optional vehicle registration fee for El Paso County.

Sent to Craig Pardue 11-11-08 -*Response 11-11-08- Recommends Support*

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

SB 253 **Estes** Relating to the amount of a county expenditure for which competitive bidding is required.

Companions: **HB 78** Flynn (Identical)
 2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House County Affairs

Specific Remarks: Bumps up the competitive bidding spending requirement from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Same as HB 78 and 117.

Sent Shannon Brown & Linda Boles 11-14-08 -*Response Shannon Brown 12-5-08- SB 253 increases the limit on sealed bids from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for counties (Sections 1 and 2). The limit for cities was raised to \$50,000 in the last session. If approved, \$50,000 would be the statutory limit and counties could set lower limits by policy (as Dallas County has done in the past). This legislation is being supported by the Texas Public Purchasing Association (city and county Purchasing Agents). Section 3 of the bills addresses competitive bidding for public works contracts and also raises the limit to \$50,000. There is an exception to keep it at \$25,000 for projects funded by a governmental entity other than a county. Section 4 raises the limit for Crime Control and Prevention Districts and is not applicable to counties. I recommend supporting legislation that raises the statutory limit to \$50,000. Dallas County can then evaluate our policy limit to determine if it should be raised as well. A review of awards in 2008 show approximately 15 sealed bids under the \$50,000 (6 annual contracts and 9 one time purchases).*

Support.**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

SB 258

Shapleigh

Relating to requirement that certain appraisal districts provide for electronic filing of and electronic communications regarding a protest of appraised value by the owner of a residence homestead.

Specific Remarks: Electronic filing and email for appraisal protests in large counties.

Sent to Ken Nolan and David Childs 11-21-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- This bill only applies to appraisal district in a county with a population greater than 500,000. The appraisal district shall implement a system for homestead property owners to electronically file protests under Section 41.41(a)(1), (2), receive comparable sales data and other evidence, and accept or reject settlement offers. Information about such a system is to be shown on the appraisal notices. The property owner shall provide an electronic address to use this system and it is confidential. We currently provide this service to property tax consultants. This bill has no effect on Dallas County. However it is likely to greatly increase the number of protests that our office receives. If those are not settled in a timely manner the certification of the appraisal roll could be delayed.

Support**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 263

Carona

Relating to the issuance by the Transportation Commission of general obligation bonds for highway improvement projects.

Specific Remarks: Allows the highway dept to issue 30year bonds to pay for new construction.

Sent to Don Holzwarth -Response Donald Holzwarth 11-17-08- Public Works recommends supporting this bill. Yhios is the \$5B the voters approved for highway improvements.

Support**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 276

Patrick, Dan

Relating to the determination of the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Companions: [HB 209](#) Bohac (Identical)
2-17-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Specific Remarks: Homes appraised every 2 years for tax purposes.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-14-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-14-08- *This bill provides that a reappraisal plan shall provide for the reappraisal of a residence homestead not more often than once every two years. The appraised value of a residence homestead may not be increased for a tax year in which the property is not appraised. This requirement does not apply to the appraisal of a residence homestead in the tax year in which a limitation on appraised value under Section 23.23(a) expires. At any time during a tax year before the date the chief appraiser certifies the appraisal roll for the appraisal district, an owner of a residence homestead is entitled to a reappraisal of the owner's residence homestead for that year on written request delivered to the chief appraiser. This would have the same effect of lowering the apprais al cap on homestead property to 5% annually. However this is only an issue if property is appreciating at a rate of more than 5% per year. In current down economy this would probably not be an issue. However in an appreciating real estate market a sizeable amount of value will escape taxation. This is another attempt to set a different standard than full market value to value property. This is a bad bill and would eventually cause a redistribution of the tax burden. Without a companion constitutional amendment, this bill is probably unconstitutional.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 293](#) [Carona](#)

Relating to the pledge of certain revenue of a regional transportation authority to the payment of bonds.

Specific Remarks: Transportation authority revenue taht may be pledged to fund construction bonds.

Sent to Don Holzwarth 11-14-08 -Response Donald Holzwarth 11-17-08- *Public Works recommends tracking this bill filed by Sen Carona. A technical provision of how a pledge of revenue used to secure the payment of a bond sale...is a "first lien or charge against that revenue." This applies to Regional Transportation Authority involved with Mass Transportation, and apparently this subtitle does not apply to DART, so I see little impact to Dallas County.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Monitor-Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

[SB 294](#) [Hinojosa](#)

Relating to optional fees on the registration of a vehicle imposed by a county.

Specific Remarks: Counties may raise optional vehicle registration fees from \$10 to \$15.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Cori Thomason and Shirley Jacobson 11-14-08 - Response Shirley Jacobson 11-17-08- The DCTO has no objection to this bill. ?Response David Childs 11-24-08- Historically, the Tax Office has not recommended policy decisions, in this case how much to increase a fee. The Tax Office has given the Commissioners Court factual information so that Court may make an informed decision about policy. In the case of this bill, Dallas County processes 1.9 million vehicle registrations per year; consequently, each \$1 increase in this fee would generate \$ 1.9 million. Historically, the Tax Office has relayed such information back to the Commissioners as the Tax Office's response, then allowed the Commissioners to make the actual decisions about whether or not to support the bill, and, should the bill pass, how much to increase Dallas County's fees.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 298 Carona

Relating to the authority of the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies to establish a checkpoint on a highway or street to determine whether persons are driving while intoxicated.

Specific Remarks: TxDPS checkpoints

Sent to Comm. Mayfield, Marilyn Little, Brenda Sauls, & Linda Baker 11-21-08 -Response Comm. Mayfield 11-21-08- I would support generally, but require that the constable and sheriff obtain Comm Court approval before initiating and require that the law enforcement agency must video tape the interaction with the motorist. So amend to add these two provisions.

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, D W I Taskforce(Support)

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 299 Patrick, Dan

Relating to the limitation on increase in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation.

Companions: **HB 127** Callegari (Identical)
2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Specific Remarks: Property tax appraisal caps. See HB 127.

Sent to Ken Nolan, Ryan Brown, & Cori Thomason -*Response Ken Nolan 11-17-08- This bill reduces the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. %. The current 10% homestead loss is \$17,780,648,510 from the 2008 Certified Appraisal Roll. If the cap is cut in half, from 10% to 5%, a worst case scenario is that the cap loss would double to \$35,561,297,020. However without totally recalculating the 2008 appraisal roll, the actual increase is not known.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 304

Shapleigh

Relating to information obtained under the public information law for legislative purposes that indicates a crime has been committed by a governmental body or a governmental officer or employee.

Specific Remarks: Public information acts relating to employee criminal acts.

Sent to Bob Schell 11-21-08. -*Response Thao La 12-31-08 This bill may affect Dallas County negatively. I recommend that Dallas County track this bill. This bill amends the Public Information Acts of the Government Code to void the confidentiality requirement and allow the Legislature or government officer/employee to use and disclose confidential information obtained for legislative purpose and which is deemed on a good faith basis to contain evidence that the governmental body, officer or employee committed a crime that has not clearly been detected, investigated or prosecuted by an appropriate authority.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 312

Wentworth

Relating to the regulation and certification of medical examiners and the conduct of autopsy and inquest investigations by justices of the peace and medical examiners.

Specific Remarks: Medical examiner certification and death investigations by JPs and medical examiners.

Sent to Cathy Self 11-24-08. - *Response Jeffrey Bernard 2/03/09 - I reviewed this bill and support it. Much of this is cleanup work needed for years. There is an unfunded mandate that ME offices be NAME accredited, but the court has already agreed to this and has funded what is needed to maintain accreditation. It is a good thing to be accredited. This bill covers our ability to charge for cremation permits which we had to stop. That was about \$100,000 in annual revenue lost. It clarifies our right and need to retain tissues for further examination in the determination of the cause and manner of death. This is to prevent a lawsuit similar to Ohio in which the ME was sued for retaining the brain for further exam (which all offices do). The ME won, but it was a huge media event. I fully support this bill. Our practice will not change. Also, there is a provision which allows the office to recover expenses for disposition of an indigent person*

if the money is present on the deceased. In the past the taxpayers had to pay for the burial or cremation in which the family claimed indigence, but there were several thousand dollars on the body. We had to give the money to the next of kin, but pay for disposition.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Support), Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-18-09 S Committee action pending Senate Jurisprudence

SB 331

Carona

Relating to access to certain information under the public information law concerning public officers and employees.

Companions: [HB 1383](#) Davis, Yvonne (Identical)
2-18-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: A governmental employee's personal information is not an open record.

Sent to Mattye M. Taylor 12-8-08. - Response Mattye M. Taylor 12-10-08 - I think overall this is a good bill and should be supported. When it comes to public information, an employee will now have to notify us if they want personal information disclosed (address, etc.). Currently, they must notify us if they do not want it disclosed. Also, it clarifies other gray areas, such as revealing the location of where an employee works, etc. The clarification in this proposed bill is needed.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 332

Carona

Relating to the adjudication of certain gang-related delinquent conduct.

Specific Remarks: Gang awareness programs for juveniles charged with gang-related activities.

Sent to Mike Griffiths, Craig Watkins and Gloria James 12/8/08 Response Mike Griffith 12/8/08 - Track this bill. Youth adjudicated for delinquent conduct that included gang related conduct would be ordered into a twelve hour gang awareness program. It would have a financial impact on the County. We currently use two programs for gang intervention and diversion. This bill would mandate gang awareness training which is geared more at prevention. Conservatively figured, the bill would cost \$120 per youth and estimate that at least 600 youth would fall within this requirement. Potential cost impact \$ 72,000 .

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

SB 336 Deuell Relating to closing state schools.

Specific Remarks: HHS Commissioner can close state schools.

Sent to Zach Thompson and Mike Griffiths 12-8-08. - *Response Mike Griffiths 12-9-08 - Track this bill. This could have significant financial impact on Dallas County. There is not adequate funding to support behavioral healthcare in our community currently. Closing State Schools would shift the responsibility for those residents to depleted community resources. TXHHSC has never adequately addressed the needs of families who need behavior healthcare services. It is doubtful that they would shift sufficient funding to cover this displaced responsibility.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-11-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

SB 348 Carona Relating to the Transportation Commission's authority to establish advisory committees.

Specific Remarks: Authority of Transportation Commission to establish advisory committees.

Sent to Comm. Cantrell and Traci Enna 1/12/09. - *Response forwarded by Traci Enna 2/2/09 on behalf of Bill Hale 1/21/09 - This is a good bill for TxDOT. It would provide the commission with general statutory authority to create advisory committees. Currently, statutes expressly provide for the commission to create several advisory committees, but do not provide general authority to create such a committee. The attorney general has determined that a state agency may not create an advisory committee unless it is expressly authorized to do so by statute or has implied statutory authority to create an advisory committee for the purpose provided in the statute. If the commission determines that it is desirable to have information from an advisory committee not covered by statute, it must request the legislature to provide the authority. This helps project decisions and advice be provided to the commission from the local level while minimizing a lot of bureaucracy. Let me know if you need anything else.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-25-09 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016 Senate Transportation and Homeland S

SB 365 Carona Relating to the suspension of sentence and deferral of final disposition in certain misdemeanor cases.

Specific Remarks: Part of the Dallas county Legislative Package requires a charge equal to the fine that would have been assessed for the dismissal of a ticket by taking defensive driving.

Response forwarded by Kirsha Haverlah 1/07/09- This Bill will require the Court to require a defendant to post a bond for deferred. The bill proposes to strike the language "the judge may, at the judges discretion require the defendant to post a bond" as a condition of deferred. The language in the bill reads, "the judge SHALL require the defendant to post a bond." Secondly, it REQUIRES the court to collect the special expense equal to the amount of the fine assessed at the end of a successful deferral period. Changing the language of current law that the Court MAY impose a special expense at the end of the deferral period in an amount not to exceed the amount of the fine assessed. I am not in favor of this bill. First, it takes away our judicial discretion and does not allow us to look at cases on a case-by-case basis. Many defendants, especially juvenile defendants cannot post a bond no matter how much it is required; thus if the defendant cannot post the bond they cannot participate in deferred nor would a JP be allowed to place them on deferred without posting a bond. Additionally, it is unconstitutional to require a cash bond. As I explained to the Senator's office, if a defendant posts a surety bond and defaults then the Court would basically have to have a civil hearing to collect from the sureties which in my view complicates the entire process.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Our Package), Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 368

Carona

Relating to the denial, suspension, or revocation of a motor vehicle inspection station certificate or an inspector certificate.

Companions: **HB 470** Hartnett (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

Specific Remarks: Inspection stations and inspector certificates can be denied, suspended or revoked for felons.

Sent to Steven Griggs 1/12/09. SAME AS SB 470. Response Steven Griggs 1/13/09 -Support this bill. SB 368 amends current law to require the Department of Public Safety to deny or revoke an inspection station certificate if the applicant, holder, or station owner is convicted of felony. Also, an individual inspector's license shall be denied or revoked if they are convicted of a felony. Under current law, DPS may deny an application for having a felony conviction, but rarely does so. Response Jim Foster 1/13/09 -The word MAY should be changed to SHALL deny, suspend, etc.

Track

General Remarks: Inspection stations and inspector certificates can be denied, suspended or revoked for felons.

Sent to Steven Griggs 1/12/09. SAME AS SB 470. Response Steven Griggs 1/13/09 -Support this bill. SB 368 amends current law to require the Department of Public Safety to deny or revoke an inspection station certificate if the applicant, holder, or station owner is convicted of felony. Also, an individual inspector's license shall be denied or revoked if they are convicted of a felony. Under current law, DPS may deny an application for having a felony conviction, but rarely does so. Response Jim Foster 1/13/09 -The word MAY should be changed to SHALL deny, suspend, etc.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Package(Our Package), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-25-09 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016 Senate Transportation and Homeland S

SB 369

Carona

Relating to information contained in an intelligence database used to investigate and prosecute offenses committed by criminal street gangs.

Specific Remarks: If posted on the internet that a person is a member of a criminal street gang, the information may be stored in a criminal justice database

Sent to Mike Griffiths and Ron Stretcher 12-19-08. - Response Mike Griffiths 12-19-08 - Track this bill, no action necessary at this time. Law Enforcement authorities have the option of having a separate data base system for gang information. It is their responsibility to update & maintain gang affiliation related data. If enacted the bill would require corrections personnel to disseminate the information covered in the bill to law enforcement personnel.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 370

Carona

Relating to the penalty for engaging in gambling promotion or keeping a gambling place.

Specific Remarks: Having a gambling place or promoting gambling is a third degree felony

Response Ron Stretcher 1/14/09 - This bill would change gambling promotion" from a Class A misdemeanor to a Felony 3. My position is that anytime we can have an offense in the misdemeanor courts, they can move faster and have less impact on the system. I have forwarded this to others for their review and input. Response Judge Creuzot 1/14/08 - Should stay a misdemeanor. Response Mark Stolz 1/15/09 ? misdemeanor. Response Ron Stretcher 1/22/09 - I believe that Dana Wisner forwarded this to Judges Creuzot and Stoltz who agree that gambling promotion should stay as a Misdemeanor. I recommend that Dallas County oppose this bill.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 374

Carona

Relating to the power of a county to enforce compliance with speed limits by an automated traffic control system.

Specific Remarks: Counties cannot send speeding tickets based on an automated traffic control system.

Sent to Ron Stretcher and Ronica Watkins 1/12/09. Response Ronica Watkins 1/13/09 Kimberly, this bill should be sent to all five Constables for comments and/or concerns. Forwarded to Constables. Response Jaime Cortes 1/22/09 - Does Dallas county have plans to do or do they do any of the things listed on this bill? The reason I ask is that law enforcement should be able to utilize any resource available to them to keep their citizens safe. We are understaffed and if being able to use some form of technology to monitor speed out on roads that are not able to be patrolled as often we should take advantage of it and not have our hands tied by state law. Many accidents occur because of speed and if drivers know that the possibility of getting a citation exists, they may be more careful. I don't know how you would implement it or take action or even how much it would cost but I do know that peace officers across the state welcome any tools or help available to save lives.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

SB 378

Van de Putte

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

Companions: [HB 698](#) Zerwas (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

Specific Remarks: Workers comp recipients can request a second opinion from another doctor if the designated doctor under the workers comp system doesn't give them an MMI rating they agree with.

Sent to Mattye 1/13/09. *Response Urmit Graham 2/09/2009 - In regards to the attached, this now allows the Claimant to do what we normally do with a Post-DD RME but with the following restrictions - must be the 1st MMI/IR and Claimant must disagree with the DD's opinion. As it stands now, if the Claimant disagrees with the DD, the DWC sends a Letter of Clarification to the DD and sets a BRC. This Act will now allow the Claimant to request a Treating Doctor exam for MMI/IR.*

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 383

Carona

Relating to the allocation to the Texas rail relocation and improvement fund of a portion of the revenue from the motor vehicle sales and use tax.

Companions: [HB 564](#) McClendon (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Ways and Means

Specific Remarks: Dedicates \$200,000,000.00 from the new vehicle sales tax for rail relocation fund each year.

Sent to Mike Pappas, Comm. Dickey, Dapheny Fain, Comm. Price, and Don Holzwarth 12-29-08. - *Response Mike Pappas 1-05-09 - This is a support.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 389

Patrick, Dan

Relating to the definition of a police vehicle for the purposes of certain traffic laws.

Companions: [HB 733](#) Fletcher (Identical)
2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation
[HB 805](#) Quintanilla (Identical)
1-27-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Allows certain privately owned vehicles to be classified as police vehicles.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Sheriff Lupe Valdez, Bob Schell 1-5-09. *Response Bob Schell 1-12-09 - This bill appears to allow the head of a law enforcement agency to approve an employee's vehicle for law enforcement use. A vehicle does not have to be owned by the governmental entity to be a police car under this bill. This would raise insurance issues. I am not sure the County would be able to insure the vehicle since it is not owned by it. It would also be difficult to determine when the vehicle was being used for public or private purposes, if in fact the employee would still be allowed to use it for the employee's purposes. The Sheriff and Constables would have to indicate if there is any need for such use of private vehicles. If not, I would suggest the bill be tracked.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Amend List(Amend-Against), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Securit

SB 392

Patrick, Dan

Relating to the elimination of straight-party voting for judicial offices.

Specific Remarks: Eliminating straight-party voting for judicial offices.

Sent to Mikah Mitchell, Dana Wrisner, Lori Bodino and Bruce Sherbet 1/13/09. *Response Carl Ginsberg 1/13/09 - This is an incredibly divisive bill that would eliminate straight ticket voting in judicial races only. There is likely no fiscal impact, and so the County should have no financial interest in the bill at all. The bill also has no direct effect on the "nuts and bolts" of county government & operation, and so, at a minimum, the County should take no position on the bill. If anything, the County should oppose the bill because it is inherently politically partisan, and, therefore, very divisive. Any legislation that is so divisive and politically partisan can only serve to pit elected officials against each other and cause conflict. In the big picture, such conflict can only impede county operations, not enhance them. We should all be free to take positions on this bill as individuals, as members of a political party, or as a judiciary as a whole (which I certainly intend to do, and invite others to do). However, since the purpose, I understand, of this commentary & feedback process is to help formulate a County policy on these bills, I think the County policy should either be neutral (because this does not directly affect county operations) or against, for the specific reason that it is divisive and can cause internal conflict among county departments.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 394

Lucio

Relating to the appointment of an attorney for a workers' compensation claimant in certain proceedings initiated by a workers' compensation insurance carrier.

Specific Remarks: Appointing attorneys for workers comp plaintiffs.

Sent to Lori Bodino 1/13/09. *Response Carl Ginsberg 1/13/09 - This bill allows the court to appoint attorneys to individuals who have been sued by an insurance carrier, most common in suits seeking judicial review of administrative worker's compensation decisions. The attorney would be paid with state, not county funds, so there should be no fiscal impact on the county. Therefore, once again, the County probably has no fiscal reason to take any position on the bill. However, once again, from a "fairness" standpoint, it is a good bill, because it levels the playing field, which is otherwise heavily stacked against injured workers. Therefore, the County ought to support it. Response Martin Hoffman 1/14/09 - I fully agree with Judge Ginsberg's analysis of HB514, SB394 and SB392.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List(Neutral), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 402

Eltife

Relating to the authority of the voters of a municipality or a county to adopt a one-quarter cent sales and use tax in the municipality or county to provide property tax relief.

Specific Remarks: Voters in cities and counties may elect to adopt a ? cent sales tax increase in order to offset property taxes.

Sent to Comm. Court, Admin Assts and Ken Nolan 1/13/09. *Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This bill allows the voters of a municipality or county to adopt a one-quarter cent sales tax to be used for property tax relief. If adopted the rollback rate for that county or municipality becomes 5% instead of 8%. This is not an appraisal district issue. You should check with your office to see how much revenue a one-quarter cent sales tax would produce. Keep in mind that no matter how much that number is you must lower your property tax revenue by a commensurate amount and be subject to stricter rollback requirements for the effective tax rate calculation. Forwarded to John Ames, Shirley Jacobson and Ryan Brown. Response Shirley Jacobson 1/14/09 - I have no problem with this - it allows for the County to vote not to adopt it so there is an out should CC want an out. - Response John Ames 1/14/09 - no opinion or opposition. - Response Cori Thomason 2/4/09 - There were questions regarding whether SB 402 allowing a 1/4 cent sales tax increase was intended for the entire county or only the unincorporated areas of the county. I spoke with Cheryl from Senator Eltife's office and she confirmed that the increase is intended for the entire county; therefore the citizens of Dallas could face a ? cent increase if both the city and the county chose to implement it.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 408

Carona

Relating to appeals from small claims courts.

Companions: [HB 600](#) Hughes (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House
Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Appeals from small claim courts to County courts. Same as HB 600.

Sent to Ron Stretcher and Mikah Mitchell 1/13/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1/15/09 - I believe that this relates to civil actions, not criminal. The bill does appear to provide for an additional level of appeal. I will forward to Judges Seider and Cercone for review and input. Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - I have received additional input from Judges Cercone and Seider on this bill. Based on their input, I believe that we should oppose this bill. - Response Judge Seider 1/21/09 - There is no direct impact on us as judges of Small Claims Court, as the appeal would be from the County Court, but it sure defeats the purposes stated in the Government Code and for that reason I would be against the Bill. The cost of litigation for the folks that use Small Claims Courts is of paramount importance-- this Bill will dramatically increase the costs and attorney fees for cases appealed to the CofA. - Response Judge Cercone 1/21/09 - A similar bill was being considered last session. Generally, a west Texas legislator contemplated a "what if" scenario about a bad decision against a large corporation or government entity, after something bad almost happened in his backyard. The case motivating him settled satisfactorily, but he was still concerned about what almost happened if the county court's decision could not be appealed. Without regard to other available remedies, he was bothered by the finality of the County Court's decision in an appeal from Small Claims Court. He was of the opinion that Small Claims Court should be eliminated, and he had massive support from "gut reaction" colleagues. While testifying in Austin on another matter, I suggested, "As an alternative to doing away with Small Claims Court why not allow the same appeals available to Justice Court?" It seems they are following my suggestion. I think it is unnecessary, but the alternative of eliminating Small Claims Court is much worse. I can dig up the details if anyone is interested.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate
Jurisprudence

SB 409

Carona

Relating to fees charged by a justice of the peace for certain documents in a criminal case.

Companions: [HB 588](#) Naishtat (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House
Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Prohibits a justice court from charging a fee for a copy of a document in a criminal case.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Comm. Dickey, and Comm. Cantrell 1/16/09. *Response Ronica Watkins 1/22/09 - Currently, Justice Courts do collect a fee for the copy of a document in a criminal case. Typically the charge is \$1.00 for first copy and .25 for additional page; \$2.00 for first copy and .25 for additional page certified. Criminal cases in justice courts represent approximately 10% of the copy fees collected, which is estimated about \$67,600 annually.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 412

Carona

Relating to the placement of a defendant on deferred disposition in a justice or municipal court.

Specific Remarks: Deferred disposition in JP cases.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 1/13/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1/15/09 - This bill changes the wording in the statute relating to deferred disposition in JP cases and adds the ability to include in any bond set "special expenses" in addition to potential fines. We should support this bill. I will send to the JPs to be sure they don't have additional comments.*

Track - Bring back with impact to Dallas County

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 413

Carona

Relating to the prosecution of a Class C misdemeanor offense for which the defendant does not appear.

Specific Remarks: Makes failure to appear in a Class C case the same as a guilty plea.

Sent to Ryan Brown, Mike Pappas, Traci Enna, Ron Stretcher, Comm. Dickey and Comm. Cantrell 1/16/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - I have forwarded this to Judges Cercone and Seider for their review and input. - Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - Please include Judge Seider's comments. I recommend that we oppose this bill. FYI - I explained to him how this review process works and assured him his input goes to the Commissioners. - Response Judge Seider 1/21/09 - 1. The amendment that I just saw does NOT regard a "Failure to Appear as the same as a Guilty plea."; 2. It will NOT speed up processing; 3. It WILL REQUIRE a COMPLAINT on all Not Guilty pleas (as is required NOW), as well as REQUIRE a COMPLAINT "when a Defendant fails to appear based on the written notice" This will create MUCH SLOWER processing of cases!! We can't even get Complaints NOW-- how do you think we would be at getting them on EVERY case where the Defendant misses their initial appearance???? This is a VERY, VERY BAD IDEA, given our current state of software and hardware -- hopefully in the near future it will not be as problematic as it is right now.*

Track**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 420

Carona

Relating to the performance evaluation criteria for judges employed by a municipality.

Specific Remarks: Repealing statute in Transportation Code prohibiting ticket quotas.

Sent to Ryan Brown and Ron Stretcher 1/13/09. Response Ron Stretcher 1/15/09 - This bill removes the prohibition against setting quotas for the issuance and collection of fines from traffic citations. The current statute allows us to consider projected amounts of fines to be collected for budgeting purposes. While I do not see Dallas County implementing formal quotas, removing this prohibition could improve our efforts to increase traffic collections by setting benchmarks for both issuance and citation. The Commissioners should make the decision on what position to take on this bill. I am going to forward this to the Constables, Sheriff and JPs for their input.

Track**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

SB 423

Carona

Relating to the conditions of community supervision to be imposed on a defendant who is a member of a criminal street gang.

Specific Remarks: Keeps members of a criminal street gang from communicating while on community supervision.

Sent to Mike Griffiths and Ron Stretcher 1/16/09. Response Ron Stretcher 1/21/09 - I forwarded this to Dr. Noyes and Dr. Williams for their review as it would add a condition of probation for adult offenders. - Response Dr. Noyes 1/21/09 - It can not be enforced. I would oppose.

Track**Track Name(s):** Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation and Homeland Security

SB 431

Wentworth

Relating to the enforcement of unpaid child support.

Companions: [HB 446](#) Villarreal (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House
Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Child support liens and enforcement.

Sent to Lori Bodino, Greg Allbright and Gary Fitzsimmons 1/13/09. -
*Response Greg Allbright 1/23/09 - The impact of this legislation is that it
extends the jurisdictional time for the court in its ability to rule on child
support matters. This will likely have an impact on the family court case
inventories as they may increase as a result.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-25-09 S Meeting set for 1:30 p.m. or adj., E1.012 Senate
Jurisprudence

[SB 469](#)

Carona

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the residence
homesteads of certain totally disabled veterans and to the amount of the
exemption to which a disabled veteran is entitled based on disability
rating.

Companions: [HB 742](#) Flores (Identical)
2-19-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House
Ways and Means

Specific Remarks: Increases the exemption allowances for disabled veterans.

Sent to Ken Nolan and Veterans Service Officer 2/02/09. - *Response Ken
Nolan 2/02/09 This bill provides for a total exemption for the homesteads
of disabled veterans who have a disability rating of 100%. The bill also
adjusts the amount of the exemption for lesser disability ratings to: 10-
29% = \$5,000 30-49% = \$7,500 50-69% = \$10,000 70% or greater =
\$12,000.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 471](#)

Carona

Relating to claims for excess proceeds of a tax sale of real property.

Companions: [HB 406](#) Rodriguez (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House
Ways and Means

Specific Remarks: See HB 406. Claims for excess proceeds of a tax sale of real property.

By Virginia Porter and Bob Schell 1/16/09 Response 1/20/09 - *Lori and Greg, I'm forwarding to you for any insight you may have. I believe the Tax court and District Clerk are closer to the process. The bill changes may stop/deter asset recovery attorneys. I did not note any language detrimental to the county. - Response Virginia Porter 1/20/09 - Lori and Greg, I'm forwarding to you for any insight you may have. I believe the Tax court and District Clerk are closer to the process. The bill changes may stop/deter asset recovery attorneys. I did not note any language detrimental to the county - Response Lori Bodino 1/20/09 - Thank you Virginia. I sent the bill to Judge Sims for comment. Per Lori Ann Bodino - After last weeks discussion in the legislative meeting, I once again requested a response from Judge Sims regarding SB 471. He commented that the bill would assist the taxpayer whose property was being auctioned in that it would limit third parties from collecting a percentage of the excess proceeds. These third parties are profit-oriented businesses that solicit individuals to contract them to collect the excess funds in exchange for a percentage of the funds. Judge Sims did foresee any financial impact on the County, however, he referred me to Linebarger for review and comment. Please see attached comments. Response from Linebarger - I spoke with DeMetris Sampson our Managing Partner and let her know of the County's request regarding the above bill. She wanted me to let you know that our firm's legislative committee has looked at this bill and has concluded that it will have no negative fiscal impact on the county. However, whether the county decides to actively support or simply decline to oppose is a decision that Craig Pardue needs to make. She stated that she can discuss with Craig if he so desires to do so in more detail.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 475

Wentworth

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of property owned by certain organizations engaged primarily in performing charitable functions.

Companions: [HB 1269](#) Hughes (Identical)
2-13-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Property tax exemption guidelines for charitable organizations.

Sent to Ken Nolan 1/16/09. Response Ken Nolan 1/16/09 - *This bill provides that a corporation that is not a qualified charitable organization is entitled to an exemption from taxation of property if: (1) the corporation is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity under Section 501(c)(2) of that code; (2) the corporation holds title to the property for, collects income from the property for, and turns over the entire amount of that income, less expenses, to a qualified charitable organization; and (3) the qualified charitable organization would qualify for an exemption from taxation of the property under this section if the qualified charitable organization owned the property. Before a corporation may submit an application for an exemption under this section, the qualified charitable organization for which the corporation holds title to the property must apply to the comptroller for the determination described with regard to the qualified charitable organization. The application for the determination must also include an application to the comptroller for a determination of whether the corporation meets the requirements described above. The corporation shall submit with the*

application for an exemption under this section a copy of the determination letter issued by the comptroller. The chief appraiser shall accept the copy of the letter as conclusive evidence of the matters in question as well as of whether the corporation meets the requirements set out above. In order for the corporation to continue to receive an exemption under this section after the fifth tax year after the year in which the exemption is granted, the qualified charitable organization for which the corporation holds title to property must obtain a new determination letter and the corporation must reapply for the exemption. The bill also repeals Section 11.184(b). There is no way to know the fiscal impact of this bill since these organizations are currently not tracked since they do not qualify for an exemption. The bill does take the decision making for this out of our hands and gives it to the comptroller.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 476

Nelson

Relating to staffing, overtime, and other employment protections for nurses.

Companions: [HB 591](#) Howard, Donna (Identical)
2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

SB 478

Carona

Relating to certain personal information contained in a decree of dissolution of a marriage or an order in a suit affecting the parent-child relationship.

Companions: [HB 914](#) Dutton (Identical)
1-30-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Excluding personal information from final divorce decrees.

Sent to Greg Allbright and Lori Bodino 1/16/09. Response Maria Sanchez 1/20/09 - This legislation is doing away with the requirement of including personal information (SS#'s, birth dates, bank account #'s) in orders for divorce cases and suits affecting the parent child relationship. This information will be required to be filed as a separate document, and this document will be considered confidential. This will likely have an impact on the family court as we will have to develop a protocol for dealing with the confidential document. Per Gary Fitzsimmons 1/30/09 Support.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Jurisprudence

SB 498

Wentworth

Relating to the release of a criminal defendant on partial bail and to the procedures governing a cash bond.

Specific Remarks: Releasing a defendant on partial bond.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 2/3/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 2/4/2009 - This bill will be opposed by the bail bond industry. There are states that have implemented this approach and it is considered a recommended practice by the American Bar Association and others. However, this bill would require a significant change in how we as a system handle release on bail. The local bail bond industry would have a much reduced role. I would expect that Dallas County would be expected to pick up much of those responsibilities, which would require a significant increase in staffing for our Pre Trial Release Unit. I do not see that we are equipped financially or logistically to implement such a change in approach. I recommend that we oppose this bill.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 502

Carona

Relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Transportation to enter into funding agreements to expedite an agency's environmental review duties related to transportation projects.

Specific Remarks: Authority of TxDOT to enter into funding agreements for agency environmental reviews related to transportation projects.

Sent to Comm. Cantrell, Traci Enna and Don Holzwarth 2/3/09. - *Response Don Holzwarth 2/03/09 - Recommend we support this bill. TxDOT has stated they need this authority to help in environmental clearance efforts. Often other federal or state agencies do not have the staff levels needed for more expeditious review. This would allow Tx DOT to provide some funding so they could staff up and in theory do more timely reviews.*

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-25-09 S Meeting set for 8:00 a.m., E1.016 Senate Transportation and Homeland S

SB 516

Harris

Relating to the filing of an affidavit stating that a plaintiff is not a vexatious litigant.

Specific Remarks: Affidavits stating plaintiff is not a vexatious litigant.

Sent to Dana Wrisner, Mikah Mitchell, Lori Bodino and Shawn Balusek 2/3/09. - *Response Martin Lowy 2/03/09 - Speaking only for myself, I would ask that Dallas County oppose this bill strongly. According to the current list posted on the Office of Court Administration website, fewer than 100 individuals statewide have been declared to be vexatious litigants. While there is no doubt that their cases can be a nuisance, I am confident that they represent an infinitesimal portion of the tens of thousands of civil cases filed each year. To require in each and every case an affidavit that the plaintiff is not a vexatious litigant would be an unjustifiable exercise in overkill. It would impose an unnecessary burden on litigants, lawyers, court staff, and judges, with attendant costs to the district and county clerks.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 528

Nelson

Relating to the penalties prescribed for committing prostitution within a certain distance of certain designated places.

Specific Remarks: Enhancing prostitution charges if committed within 1000 feet of a "protected premises" such as churches, schools, etc.

Sent to Ron Stretcher 2/3/09. *Response Ron Stretcher 2/4/2009 - At a first read, I recommend opposing this bill as it would require minimum periods of jail time. I have forwarded this to several Judges and Kerry Young for their review.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

SB 530

Patrick, Dan

Relating to the disposition of cash in possession of a deceased pauper.

Specific Remarks: If a County finds cash on a homeless person when he dies, the county can keep it to help pay for burial expenses.

Sent to Cathy Self 2/2/09. - *Response Cathy Self 2/03/09 - The proposed legislation would allow the County to use cash in the possession of an indigent decedent ("deceased pauper") to cover or help cover the actual cost of disposition. Any cash left over would be placed in a trust for approximately one year. The bill also enables the County to create a fund to be used to pay the costs of indigent dispositions, including the administration of indigent disposition activities. If funds placed in the trust are not claimed after one year, the County may transfer the monies to the indigent disposition fund. We have previously inquired about the legality of offsetting County indigent decedent disposition costs using cash found on the indigent decedent, and were advised that there was no legal authority for us to use any of the money for this purpose. Therefore, we routinely release cash and property found on indigent decedents to*

the legal next of kin, even if the County will be bearing the cost of disposition. The proposed bill will allow the County to offset a portion of the indigent burial cost by providing the legal basis to retain cash found on indigent decedents (in an amount sufficient to cover the disposition costs) and we recommend supporting this bill. At this time, I do not have an estimate regarding the financial impact, but I will ask our death investigation staff to review this matter.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Intergovernmental Relations

SB 533

Duncan

Relating to eminent domain, including certain limitations, procedures, and standards relating to the use of eminent domain.

Companions: **HB 4** Orr (Identical)
2-12-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Land and Resource Management

Specific Remarks: Eminent domain.

Sent to Don Holzwarth and Bob Schell 2/2/09. Response Don Holzwarth 2/11/2009 - Below represents the comments of our ROW professionals, those people who appraise & actually acquire. This seems to be another open season on agencies doing public works projects involving land acquisition. The challenges to project delivery are already many & varied. This kind of bill simply would add time and expense to our project delivery. If the legislators are targeting "bad" E.Ds, such as taking private property to enhance mall or sports development, they should bracket the bill to exclude normal ROW acquisition for road widening projects. Recommend the County oppose this bill as well as its companion, HB 4.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-17-09 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

SB 564

Jackson, Mike

Relating to exempting from ad valorem taxation property used by certain nonprofit community business organizations to provide services to aid in the economic development of local communities.

Companions: **HB 831** Taylor (Identical)
1-28-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Exemption from property tax for nonprofit organizations that provide services to aid in the economic development of the community.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 2/3/09. - Response Ken Nolan 2/03/09 - This bill amends Section 11.231, Tax Code to exempt Nonprofit Business Organizations Providing Economic Development Services to Local Communities. The bill defines these organizations and exempts the buildings and personal property they use. This is the companion bill to HB 831. We cannot determine the fiscal impact of this bill, since we do not know who these organizations are at this time.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-28-09 S Filed

SB 571

Hinojosa

Relating to a crematory establishment's authority to accept for cremation unidentified human remains.

Specific Remarks: Crematory acceptance of unidentified remains. Upon an order of a county commissioners court or a court located within the county .

Sent to Cathy Self 2/2/09. - Response Cathy Self 2/03/09 - The proposed legislation will amend Sec. 716.101 of the Health & Safety Code to override current crematory prohibitions regarding cremation of unidentified decedents (provided an order is issued by the county commissioners court or a court located in the county). It also appears the bill will override prohibitions in the Code of Criminal Procedure directed at Medical Examiners responsible for unidentified decedent death investigation and disposition (see relevant statute below): CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, TITLE 1. CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE, CHAPTER 49. INQUESTS UPON DEAD BODIES SUBCHAPTER B. DUTIES PERFORMED BY MEDICAL EXAMINERS, Art. 49.25. MEDICAL EXAMINERS. Disposal of Unidentified Body Sec. 10b. If the body of a deceased person is unidentified, a person may not cremate or direct the cremation of the body under this article. If the body is buried, the investigating agency responsible for the burial shall record and maintain for not less than 10 years all information pertaining to the body and the location of burial. Cremation is a lower cost disposition method than burial, and allowing cremation in lieu of burial for unidentified decedents would result in approximately \$5,000 in cost savings to Dallas County each year (disposition for 10 unidentified decedents @ \$300/ea instead of \$800). However, because burial of the unidentified decedents allows for continued recovery of available specimens, if needed, to assist with identification, we recommend burial as the appropriate disposition method for unidentified decedents. We do not oppose this bill, but we do not recommend cremation of unidentified decedents even if allowed by law.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-28-09 S Filed

SB 578

Wentworth

Relating to the authority of a county to regulate land development after a local option election.

Specific Remarks: Voters can elect to let the Commissioners Court control the development of the unincorporated land in the County.

Sent to Bruce Sherbet, Commissioners and Admin Assts 02/10/2009.
Response Comm. Price 2/11/2009 - I wish. This bill in DOA.

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 S Filed

SB 590

Jackson, Mike

Relating to a requirement that the board of directors of an appraisal district develop a plan for reappraising property after a natural disaster.

Companions: [HB 1287](#) Eiland (Identical)
 2-16-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Appraisal district board must have plan of reappraisal after natural disaster.

Sent to Ken Nolan 02/10/2009. *Response Ken Nolan 2/11/2009 - This bill mandates that in additi on to the current biennial reappraisal plan. The Board of Directors of an appraisal district must also adopt a reappraisal plan for the reappraisal of property after a natural disaster as authorized by Section 23.02, Tax Code, including an explanation of the process for reappraising property after a natural disaster and the method for paying for the reappraisal. The code provides for natural disaster reappraisal, but no specific plan is required to on file. Currently each taxing jurisdiction has to request the reappraisal and is responsible for paying for it.*

Track

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 01-29-09 S Filed

SB 648

Van de Putte

Relating to the right of an employee who is a parent of a child enrolled in a special education program to time off work to meet with certain persons affecting the education of the child.

Companions: [HB 615](#) Turner, Sylvester (Identical)
 2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry

Specific Remarks: Time off from work privileges fro parents of special ed children.

Sent to Mattye Taylor 1 /16/09. *Response Mattye Taylor 1/22/09 - Dallas County provides over a month of leave time to its employees, excluding holidays. If an employee has been with the county for over 1 year, they should have adequate leave to schedule meetings with school personnel. I do not see a need for additional mandated leave.*

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 02-03-09 S Filed

SB 654

Zaffirini

Relating to continued health coverage for employees of certain political subdivisions.

Specific Remarks: Adding appraisal districts to provide insurance after retirement.

Sent to Ken Nolan 2/10/2009. *Response Ken Nolan 2/10/2009 -This bill provides that an appraisal district must provide retiree medical insurance. This modifies the definition of political subdivisions and adds appraisal districts. The county is currently under this provision. This is a good bill.*

Track

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 02-03-09 S Filed

SB 700

Patrick, Dan

Relating to ad valorem tax relief.

Companions: [HB 1575](#) Isett (Identical)
2-20-09 H Filed

Specific Remarks: Appraisal reform – homestead exemptions for 5 years back, can only appraise home not best use, lowers rollback rate to 5%, electronic protests, appraisal protests to be heard in JP courts if tax dispute does not exceed \$5000.

Sent to Ken Nolan and John Ames 02/10/2009 . *Response from Ken Nolan 2/10/2009 - This bill provides for the following: 1) Homestead exemptions are effective Jan. 1 of the tax year when a property is acquired during the year; 2) Late applications for homesteads may be accepted if filed not later than December 31 of the fifth year after the year in which the exemption is claimed; 3) Appraisals will be based on current use and not highest and best use; 4) Appraisal notices shall include the appraised value of the property and the percent of increase or decrease for the last five years; 5) The rollback rate for the effective tax rate calculation is 1.05; 6) There is automatic election if a tax rate higher than the effective tax rate is adopted; 7) Appraisal districts in counties with a population over 500,000 must implement a system that allows the owner of a homestead property to file a protest, receive and review comparable sales, receive and accept or deny settlement offers electronically. If the chief appraiser determines that the property is in an area that the factors affecting market value are unusually complex, this option will not be made available; 8) An ARB order may be appealed to small claims court if the amount of taxes in dispute is \$5,000 or less. Judgments from this venue are non-appealable. Items # 1 is ok and makes homesteads consistent with senior citizen and disabled veterans exemptions. Item #2 could result in properties being valued at considerably less than market value. Item #5 only confuses the property owner in regards to the fair market value for the year in question. The percent of increase or decrease is irrelevant. Item #6 is a tax policy issue and as such we have no opinion. Item #7 is workable but will cause increased costs to the appraisal district. Item #8 will cause the number of cases in JP court to rise dramatically.*

Oppose**Track Name(s):** Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)**Bill History:** 02-06-09 S Filed

SB 746

Wentworth

Relating to the permissible uses of the state highway fund.

Companions: [HB 1047](#) Deshotel (Identical)

2- 4-09 H Filed

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-10-09 S Filed

SB 919

Harris

Relating to an administrative fee for defendants required by a court to perform community service in lieu of serving a term of confinement in county jail.

Companions: [HB 483](#) Pierson (Identical)

2-18-09 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence

Specific Remarks: Creates an administrative fee that will be charged to persons who perform community service in lieu of jail time.Sent to Ryan Brown, Ron Stretcher 01-09-09. *Response Ron Stretcher 01-12-09 - We should support this bill as it would provide additional revenue to offset the cost of administering the community service program.***Support****Track Name(s):** Dallas County Support List(Support), Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-17-09 S Filed

SB 984

Davis, Wendy

Relating to the jurisdiction of a court to conduct placement review hearings for a child in the managing conservatorship of the state after the child's 18th birthday.

Companions: [HB 704](#) Rose (Identical)

1-21-09 H Filed

Track Name(s): Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results**Bill History:** 02-19-09 S Filed

SJR 10

Nichols

Relating to limiting the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes to 105 percent or less of the appraised value for the preceding tax year.

Specific Remarks: Appraisal caps to 105% of previous year's value.

Sent to Ken Nolan 11-22-08 -Response Ken Nolan 11-24-08- This amendment lowers the homestead cap from 10% to 5%. The Commissioners Court of a county may call an election to raise the 5% cap to no greater than 10%. Again this is another attempt to lower the appraisal cap on residential homesteads. This will cause additional revenue loss. Currently Dallas County lost \$17,781,190,050 due to the 10% homestead cap. The worst case scenario is that the amount would double to \$35,562,380,100. However in the current economy, with values decreasing, it is doubtful that the amount would increase to that degree.

Oppose

Track Name(s): Leg. Briefing Meeting Results, Dallas County Oppose List(Oppose)

Bill History: 11-10-08 S Filed

SJR 16

Carona

Relating to exempting from ad valorem taxation a high-speed passenger rail facility.

Specific Remarks: Property tax exemption for high speed rail facilities.

Sent to Ken Nolan, Traci Enna and Comm. Cantrell 1/13/09. Response Ken Nolan 1/14/09 - This amendment exempts from ad valorem taxation a high-speed passenger rail facility. Since there are no such facilities it is impossible to know how much value would be exempted. Forwarded to Mike Pappas 1/22/09. - Response Mike Pappas 1/22/09 - This is a good bill and should be supported. Though there would be a concern to exempting anyone from ad valorem taxes. This could be one way of attracting a CDA to help fund High Speed Rail. The opportunity to be one of the first regions to utilize this form of transportation would be a potentially huge boost to the region and definitely to Dallas County's economy.

Support

Track Name(s): Dallas County Support List(Support), Dallas County Track List, Leg. Briefing Meeting Results

Bill History: 12-15-08 S Filed

- End of Report -