HB 2153 Bock

DIGEST: This bill adds Comal County to the list of counties having veto power over proclamations of the Parks and Wildlife Commission regulating hunting and fishing. Parks and Wildlife proclamations will not be effective in Comal County unless approved by the county commissioners court. If the commissioners court disapproves a proclamation, the taking of wildlife in the county will be governed either by general law or by proclamations of the previous year.

REASONS FOR VETO: Statewide laws should either be applicable to all or applicable to none. It is better for them to applicable to all. The Legislature should repeal the veto power now held by some counties. The state should regulate the taking of wildlife in Texas.

REACTION: More than 20 counties in Texas now have similar statutes. This issue is most appropriately dealt with at the local level. The sponsor is "a very strong advocate of leaving as much local control over government as possible."

COMMENTARY: On May 15 the Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto of HB 2153. This was the first time since 1941 that the Legislature has passed a bill over a veto. The vote on passage of HB 2153 was 130-0 in the House and unanimous in the Senate. The vote to override was 90-42 in the House and 25-6 in the Senate.

HB 2165 Hernandez

DIGEST: This bill would allow the county or justice's court in a county of over 500,000 population to order the detention of a child for violation of truancy laws. Detention would not exceed one day, or, if the truancy is habitual, three days.

REASONS FOR VETO: The bill conflicts with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Its passage would make Texas ineligible for the receipt of federal funds under the Act.

REACTION: Teachers were very interested in getting this bill passed. Representative Hernandez was not aware of any conflict that this bill would have with federal law. His staff is checking to see if there is indeed a conflict.

HB 2167 Whitehead

DIGEST: This bill amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt Houston County from the Uniform Wildlife Regulatory Act.

REASONS FOR VETO: If we continue to remove counties from the Uniform Wildlife Act, then before long there will be no "uniform" act. This bill is even more severe than HB 2153, the Comal County bill.

REACTION: The sponsor is "very unhappy" with the veto. If the Legislature