NOTES: Officials at the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation said they were unable to find anyone at the FHWA in Washington who would confirm plans to make an exception for state laws requiring yellow school crosswalks. The FHWA in Austin, however, has said it would have challenged such a law.

The House Study Group analysis of HB 2349 appeared in the May 9 Daily Floor Report.

Sunnyvale Municipal Utility District No. 1
(HB 2377 by A. Hill)

DIGEST: HB 2377 would have created a conservation and reclamation district in Dallas County, the Sunnyvale Municipal Utility District No. 1, with full authority to issue bonds and levy taxes. The bill described the district boundaries and gave the district all rights, powers, privileges, authority, and functions conferred on municipal utility districts by Chapter 54 of the Water Code. In addition, the bill would have permitted the district to divide into two or more new districts if it had no outstanding bond debt and was not levying a property tax. (Fresh-water supply districts are allowed to divide in this manner under Chapter 53 of the Water Code.) Interim directors were named pending a confirmation election.

GOVERNOR'S REASONS FOR VETO: The Governor said the bill granted special and unusual powers to the Sunnyvale Municipal Utility District No. 1, separating it from other applicants, by authorizing the district to divide into two or more districts prior to issuing bonds and levying a property tax. He noted that a utility district can be created either by the Water Commission through a hearings process or by the Legislature through the legislative process. In either case, standard procedures are applied to all applicants, with no special advantage given to any applicant. He said these procedures were necessary "to insure a sound legal and financial policy for all parties concerned, including the state." He objected to HB 2377 because he said it would have granted the Sunnyvale MUD No. 1 a privilege not available to other utility districts.

SPONSOR'S VIEW: Rep. Anita Hill said she could not understand why the Governor would veto the bill. It did not grant any special privilege to this district by allowing it to divide into two or more districts, she said, because the procedure for such a division is already provided for in Chapter 53 of the Water Code.

NOTES: The House Study Group analysis of HB 2377 appeared in the May 13 Daily Floor Report.

Williamson County Court at Law jurisdiction
(HB 2419 by Riley)

DIGEST: This bill would have raised from $10,000 to $50,000 the maximum amount in controversy over which the county court at law in Williamson County would have jurisdiction. It would also have expanded the court's jurisdiction to include certain family-related suits.

GOVERNOR'S REASONS FOR VETO: The Governor said the county commissioners court, the county judge, and the county-court-at-law judge in Williamson County all opposed this bill as unnecessary and "extremely costly to the taxpayers...."

SPONSOR'S VIEW: Rep. Riley said "there wasn't any reason in the world" for the Governor to veto this bill, and noted that most other counties were seeking to expand county-court-at-law jursidiction. Rep. Riley said that Williamson County officials will probably realize that he was right and "support it next time."

Denton County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1
(HB 2439 by Campbell)

DIGEST: HB 2439 would have validated the creation of the Denton County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1. The district could have been divided into two or more new districts if it had no outstanding bond debt and was not levying a property tax at the time it was divided. The district could have annexed any territory if the owner petitioned for annexation. Qualifications and compensation would have been set for certain district officials. The district would have been granted the authority to act as a road utility district.