

Current Articles & Research Resources, September 26

Posted At : September 26, 2019 3:15 PM | Posted By : TexasLRL

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In this weekly post, we feature helpful research tools and recent articles of interest to the legislative community.

- Explore statistics and data about the U.S. **Hispanic** population. (Pew Research Center, September 16, 2019)
- See which states incorporate citizen input into the **redistricting** process. (National Conference of State Legislatures, September 2019)
- Consider the FDA's role in regulating **e-cigarettes**. (Health Affairs Blog, September 17, 2019)
- Check to see whether a motor carrier business is properly **licensed** in Texas. (Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, ©2019)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below **here** or by calling 512-463-1252.

- "**When Medicaid takes everything you own.**" By Rachel Corbett. *Atlantic Monthly*, October 2019, pp. 72-79.
Examines the Medicaid Estate Recovery Program, which allows states to seek repayment for Medicaid debt by seizing assets, including houses from the estates of Medicaid recipients. Argues this program strips property from people who can least afford the loss, thereby pushing displaced families back into the welfare system.
- "Why insurtech startups are flourishing." By Will Anderson. *Austin Business Journal*, September 13, 2019, p. 22.
Profiles insurtech companies relocating to Austin, companies that construct technology platforms aiming to lower health insurance costs while decreasing risks for self-employed freelance workers and small businesses.
- "Drug shortages." *Economist*, September 14th-20th, 2019, pp. 57-58.
Examines the causes and consequences of an increasing worldwide shortage of medicines and medical supplies.
- "Are schools required to be trauma-sensitive?" By Sarah D. Sparks. *Education Week*, September 4, 2019, pp. 1, 18-19.
Discusses three active lawsuits that challenge how public schools are addressing student disabilities resulting from trauma.
- "Quality counts 2019: Educational opportunities and performance in Texas." *Education Week*, September 4, 2019, pp. 1-7.
Assesses the educational opportunities and performance of Texas and compares them with the national average. Grades and ranks Texas in three categories: chance for success, school finance, and K-12 achievement.
- "**Post-Harvey auto sales back on track: Texans are on the road again.**" By Jackie Benton. *Fiscal Notes*, September 2019, pp. 1-2.
Discusses the effect of Hurricane Harvey on automobile sales. Charts Texas motor vehicle sales tax collections from fiscal years 2015-2018.

- "The dynamics of Medicaid enrollment, employment, and beneficiary health status." By Jessica P. Vistnes and Steven C. Hill. *Health Affairs*, September 2019, pp. 1491-1495.
Notes that 13.9 percent of new, nonelderly adult Medicaid beneficiaries in 2015-2016 had experienced a decline in health before enrollment, and 14.1 percent had jobs that ended before they enrolled. Advises careful design of Medicaid work requirement policies that consider exemptions, reasonable accommodations, and gaps in employment.
- "How states can improve America's immigration system." By John Hudak and Christine Stenglein. *Internet Resource*, September 10, 2019, pp. 1-14.
Outlines the role states can play in reforming immigration policy. Includes discussion of immigration detention facilities in Texas.
- "Should failing schools be closed? What the research says." By Marcus A. Winters. *Issue Brief (Manhattan Institute)*, September 17, 2019, pp. 1-10.
Relies on available research to argue that it is better for school systems to close persistently ineffective schools that do not show improvement after receiving additional resources and interventions.
- "Prescriptions on demand: The growth of direct-to-consumer telemedicine companies." By Tara Jain, Richard J. Lu, and Ateev Mehrotra. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, September 10, 2019, pp. 925-926.
Addresses the increasing popularity of direct-to-consumer [DTC] drug telemedicine and considers potential strengths and weaknesses of this health care model.
- "Using telemedicine to treat opioid use disorder in rural areas." By Rita Rubin. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, September 17, 2019, pp. 1029-1031.
Describes how telemedicine has been employed to treat opioid use disorder [OUD] patients in rural areas. Notes the regulatory and reimbursement issues that have slowed progress in implementing telemedicine for treating OUD.
- "EIA [Energy Information Administration]: Global oil market expected to remain in balance in second half." *Oil and Gas Journal*, September 2, 2019, pp. 45-46.
Summarizes the U.S. Energy Information Administration's latest [Short-Term Energy Outlook](#).
- "Municipal annexation reform in Texas: how a victory for property rights jeopardizes the state's financial health." By Julie Polansky Bell. *St. Mary's Law Journal*, Vol. 50, No. 2, 2019, pp. 711-738 (Note Length).
Provides an overview of municipal annexation. Examines the legislative history of recent reforms enacted by [SB6](#), 85th Legislature, 1st C.S. - the *Municipal Annexation Right to Vote Act*. Considers the future impact of these reforms on cities and the state.
- "To rein in cities, Texas tries to ban their lobbying." By David Montgomery. *Stateline (Pew Charitable Trusts)*, September 17, 2019, pp. 1-7.
Discusses proposed legislation from the 86th Legislature ([SB29](#) and [HB281](#)) that would have affected lobbying activities by cities, counties, and other local governments. Explains that the legislation did not pass, but may come up in a future legislative session.
- "State, fed authorities work on hemp regulations, information." By Jessica Domel. *Texas Agriculture*, September 6, 2019, p. 10.
Outlines the responsibilities that the Texas Department of Agriculture must contend with now that the 2018 Farm Bill and [HB1325](#), 86th Legislature, have

legalized hemp cultivation. Summarizes various aspects hemp farmers must address, such as crop insurance, pesticides, and hemp in food products and supplements.

- "Rounds: News from America's best medical society." By Amy Lynn Sorrel and Joey Berlin. *Texas Medicine*, September 2019, pp. 14-16.
Notes Representative John Zerwas' retirement from the legislature and new role as executive vice chancellor for health affairs with The University of Texas System. Discusses rulemaking phase of implementing [SB1264](#), 86th Legislature, relating to surprise billing.

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