

House Committee Resources: International Relations & Economic Development, Natural Resources

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Related Categories: Committee Resources, 86th Session

Friday, August 14

Committee Resources

The committees have requested written submissions on the following topics. Below are resources related to those topics.

- [House Committee on International Relations & Economic Development](#)
- [House Committee on Natural Resources](#)

House Committee on [International Relations & Economic Development](#)

Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- [HB 680](#), which relates to reporting requirements for the [Texas Workforce Commission](#) (TWC) and local workforce development boards regarding the provision of child care. Monitor the TWC's and local workforce development boards' reporting of certain metrics related to the type and quality of child care being provided. Examine the information provided by the TWC to recommend strategies to increase access and participation in the [Texas Rising Star](#) program.
- [Child Care Program](#), Texas Workforce Commission
- [Child Care by the Numbers](#) (Child care statistics by local workforce development boards), Texas Workforce Commission
- [SB 753](#), which relates to wage requirements for certain community rehabilitation programs employing people with disabilities. Examine the process by which state agencies collaborate, plan, and implement strategies to assist community rehabilitation programs in creating a minimum wage plan. Monitor the process and circumstances that allow for certain community rehabilitation programs to be exempted from the minimum wage plan requirements.
 - [Amendments to Chapter 806: Purchases of Products and Services from People with Disabilities – Policy Concept](#) (Implementation of Senate Bill 753),

Commission Meeting Agenda Item #12, Texas Workforce Commission, July 7, 2020

Charge 2: Study Texas' current and future workforce pipeline structure, with a focus on input from the state's largest industries and middle skill employers. Examine what skill gaps exist within our state; identify methods of improving regional coordination and alignment between industry, the public workforce system, public schools, higher education institutions, and community-based organizations to create college and career pathways; and provide recommendations to overcome barriers in the workforce pipeline and to enhance career path options.

- *Prosperity Requires Being Bold: A Progress Report* (Report to the Office of the Governor), Texas Education Agency / Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board / Texas Workforce Commission, February 2020
- *Interim Report to the 86th Texas Legislature* (Charge 3 – Workforce needs), House Committee on Economic and Small Business Development, November 2018
- *Texas Workforce Consolidated 2021-2025 Strategic Plan*, Texas Workforce Commission

Charge 3: Study the state's seaport infrastructure and the infrastructure at land ports of entry to facilitate international trade and economic growth. Examine seaport infrastructure and the auxiliary rail and roadway needs connected to each port as well as the port's ability to keep pace with oil and gas production. Make recommendations to maximize the economic flow of goods and products to and from seaports and study the feasibility and economic impact of dredging and widening Texas ports in order to remain competitive in international trade. Examine the infrastructure at international border ports of entry in Texas and identify transportation-related impediments to international trade that negatively impact the state. Make recommendations to reduce border wait times, facilitate economic growth, and expedite trade. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Transportation)

- *Texas Port Profiles*, Texas Department of Transportation, updated March 2020
- *Interim Report to the 86th Legislature* (Funding Opportunities for Texas Ports), Senate Committee on Transportation, December 2018
- *Interim Report to the 86th Texas Legislature* (Charge 7 – Infrastructure at shipping ports and border ports of entry), House Committee on Transportation, November 2018
- *Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Legislative Report – 86th Legislature*, Texas Department of Transportation, Maritime Division, approved October 25, 2018
- *Ship Channel Improvement Report: 2020-2021 Texas Port Mission Plan*, Texas Department of Transportation, Maritime Division
- *Texas Port Mission Plan: Investment Strategy, 86th Legislative Session*, Port Authority Advisory Committee
- *2020-2021 Texas Port Capital Program, 86th Legislative Session*, Port

Authority Advisory Committee

- *Port Connectivity Report: 2020-2021 Texas Port Mission Plan*, Texas Department of Transportation, Maritime Division

Charge 4: Examine and report on policy proposals from business, labor, and other states that utilize portable platforms to address the growing number of independent contractors and employees in the "gig economy." Study the effects and implementation of the new rules adopted by the TWC related to the "gig economy."

- "U.S. Job Losses Pass 22 Million With Gig Workers Waiting for Aid," *Houston Chronicle*, April 16, 2020
- *Improving the Federal Tax System for Gig Economy Participants*, Tax Foundation, October 2019
- *The Gig is Up: The New Gig Economy and the Threat of Subminimum Wages*, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United / Food Labor Research Center (UC Berkeley), March 2019
- "Marketplace Platforms" and "Employers" Under State Law – Why We Should Reject Corporate Solutions and Support Worker-Led Innovation, National Employment Law Project, May 2018
- *Raising Pay and Providing Benefits for Workers in a Disruptive Economy: State and Local Policies to Support Independent Contractors*, Center for American Progress, October 2017
- *The Gig Economy: Research and Policy Implications of Regional, Economic, and Demographic Trends*, Future of Work Initiative (Aspen Institute) / American Action Forum, January 2017
- "'Dependent Contractors' in the Gig Economy: A Comparative Approach," 66 *American University Law Review* 635 (2017)
- *40 Texas Administrative Code § 815.134*, Employment Status: Employee or Independent Contractor

Charge 5: Review the connection between the economic vitality of business and industry and the economic vitality of our military veterans transitioning into the workforce. Specifically, the committee should analyze barriers to military veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian life, the effectiveness of government transition and training benefits, and current and ongoing demand for veteran and military spouse employment from industry in Texas. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs)

- *Resources for Military and Veteran Family Members*, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, updated April 30, 2020
- "Employment Situation of Veterans -- 2019" (News Release), U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 19, 2020
- *2019 Report on the Transition from Military Service to Employment*, Texas Workforce Commission, July 24, 2019

- "Barriers to Work: Veterans and Military Spouses," National Conference of State Legislatures, July 17, 2018
- *Veterans Workforce Services in Texas*, Texas Workforce Investment Council, June 2018
- *Veterans in Workforce Development: Participation and Labor Market Outcomes*, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, June 13, 2017
- *US Military Veterans' Difficult Transitions Back to Civilian Life and the VA's Response*, Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Costs of War Project, February 2017
- *Exploring The Economic & Employment Challenges Facing U.S. Veterans: A Qualitative Study of Volunteers of America Service Providers & Veteran Clients*, University of Southern California, School of Social Work, May 2015
- *Just for Veterans*, Texas Workforce Commission

Charge 6: Monitor the *State Auditor's* review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

House Committee on *Natural Resources*

Charge 1: Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 86th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following:

- *HJR 4*, *SB 7*, and *SB 8*, which relate to statewide and regional flood planning and mitigation. Monitor the progress of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and other entities to provide for the planning, development, and financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects statewide to strengthen the state's infrastructure and resiliency to future floods.
- "'Future-Proofing' Texas Against Natural Disaster: The State Plans for the Next Storm," *Fiscal Notes*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, May 2019
- *State Flood Assessment: Report to the 86th Texas Legislature*, Texas Water Development Board, January 2019
- *TWDB Flood Programs* (Flood Infrastructure Fund, Flood Planning, Flood Protection Grant Programs), Texas Water Development Board
- *HB 720*, which relates to appropriations of water for recharge of aquifers and use in aquifer storage and recovery projects. Monitor the rulemaking process for the permitting of unappropriated flows for aquifer storage and recovery projects by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).
- *Adopted Rules*, 30 Texas Administrative Code § 39.651, *Public Notice*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / Texas Secretary of State, *Texas Register*, May 22, 2020

- **Adopted Rules, 30 Texas Administrative Code § 281.19, Applications Processing**, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / Texas Secretary of State, *Texas Register*, May 22, 2020
- **Adopted Rules, 30 Texas Administrative Code §§ 295.158, 297.41-297.43, and 297.1, Water Rights**, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / Texas Secretary of State, *Texas Register*, May 22, 2020
- **Adopted Rules, 30 Texas Administrative Code §§ 331.2, 331.7, 331.9, 331.131, 331.262-331.267, and 331.19, Underground Injection Control**, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / Texas Secretary of State, *Texas Register*, May 22, 2020
- **HB 721**, which relates to reports on aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects. Monitor the implementation by the TWDB of legislation to encourage the development of **aquifer storage and recovery** and aquifer recharge projects, including the completion of a **statewide study** of the state's aquifers' suitability for aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge projects.
- **HB 722**, which relates to the development of brackish groundwater. Monitor the designation of **Brackish Groundwater Production Zones** by the TWDB and the adoption of rules by groundwater conservation districts for the production of brackish groundwater from those Zones.
- **HB 807**, which relates to the state and regional water planning process. Monitor the appointment of the **Interregional Planning Council** by the TWDB and the Council's progress toward increasing coordination among Regional Water Planning Groups.
 - **Adopted Rules, 31 Texas Administrative Code §§ 357.10, 357.11, 357.21, 357.31, 357.33, 357.34, 357.42, 357.43, and 357.45, Regional Water Planning** Texas Water Development Board / Texas Secretary of State, *Texas Register*, June 21, 2020
 - **"Texas Water: Planning for More," Fiscal Notes**, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, April 2019
 - **Water Resources Planning** (State Water Plan, Regional Water Planning), Texas Water Development Board

In conducting its oversight functions, the Committee will also monitor:

- **HB 723**, which relates to the requirement that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality obtain or develop updated water availability models for certain river basins.
- Updates to **Groundwater Availability Models** by the Texas Water Development Board

Charge 2: Study the efforts of the TCEQ, the TWDB, and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to incentivize, promote, and preserve regional projects to meet water supply needs and encourage public and private investment in water infrastructure. Identify impediments or threats to regionalization with special emphasis on:

- Prioritization in planning and implementing the State Water Plan, Regional Water Plan, and other recommended water supply projects;
 - *Fiscal Size-Up: 2020-21 Biennium* (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Water Development Board, and Public Utility Commission of Texas), Legislative Budget Board, May 2020
 - *Water Quality: Rivers, Lakes, and Estuaries* (Surface Water Quality Standards), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - *Water Quality Program Successes*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - *Surface Water Rights and Availability*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - *Water Resources Planning* (State Water Plan, Regional Water Planning), Texas Water Development Board
- Barriers to private investment and the development of public-private partnerships to implement needed water supply projects, including the retail water and wastewater industry, to address the state's growth challenges;
 - *Improve Viability of Small Public Water Systems*, Legislative Budget Board, April 2019
 - *Financial Assistance*, Texas Water Development Board
 - *31 Texas Administration Code Chapter 363*, Financial Assistance Programs, Texas Water Development Board
- Public water and wastewater systems that are unable to meet federal and state standards due to inadequate operational capacity and factors that prevent such systems from being integrated into larger systems and processes that more easily facilitate the sale, transfer, or merger of systems;
 - *Standards and Reporting Requirements for Public Water Systems*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Water Supply Division, revised December 2019
 - *Water and Sewer Utilities*, Public Utility Commission of Texas
- State agency authority to regulate regional water supply pricing.
 - *Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Water Supply Division, revised December 2019
 - *Texas Water Code Chapter 13*, Water Rates and Services
 - *16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 24*, Substantive Rules Applicable to Water and Sewer Service Providers, Public Utility Commission of Texas

Charge 3: Monitor the joint planning process for groundwater and the achievement of the desired conditions for aquifers by groundwater conservation districts.

- *Priority Groundwater Management Areas and Groundwater Conservation Districts: Report to the 86th Texas Legislature* (IV. – District Management Plans and Joint Planning Activities), Texas Commission on Environmental Quality / Texas Water Development Board, January 2019
- *Interim Report to the 85th Texas Legislature* (Charges 1 and 6 – State and regional planning and processes), House Committee on Natural Resources, December 2016.

- *Interim Report to the 82nd Texas Legislature (Charge 1 – Groundwater management planning and development of desired future conditions)*, House Committee on Natural Resources, December 2010
- *Interim Report to the 81st Legislature: Implementation of House Bill 1763 and Groundwater Management in Texas*, Senate Committee on Natural Resources, February 2009
- *Groundwater Conservation Districts*, Texas Commission on Environmental Equality
- *Desired Future Conditions and Desired Future Conditions Documents*, Texas Water Development Board
- *Texas Aquifers*, Texas Water Development Board
- *Texas Water Code Chapter 36*, Groundwater Conservation Districts
- *Texas Water Code § 36.108*, Joint Planning in Management Area

Charge 4: Monitor the *State Auditor's* review of agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. The Chair shall seek input and periodic briefings on completed audits for the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years and bring forth pertinent issues for full committee consideration.

In conducting its oversight functions, the Committee will specifically monitor the following reports by the State Auditor's Office:

- *An Audit Report on Selected Groundwater Conservation Districts*
- *A Summary Report on Senate Bill 1289 Provisions Related to the Water Development Board's Financial Assistance of Construction Projects*

The committee also seeks written submissions on the following topics:

- Emerging issues in groundwater and surface water interaction, in particular in areas of increasing competition for scarce resources.
- The status of water markets in Texas and the potential benefits of and challenges to expanded markets for water.