

Interim Hearings – Week of January 29, 2018

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Related Categories: 85th Session, Interim hearings

[Today's Committee Meetings](#) on the LRL website is a calendar of interim committee hearings with links to agendas. Below are resources related to upcoming Interim Hearings.

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January 29

Senate Committee on [Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs](#) (Wharton)

Topic: Impact to agriculture and rural communities from Hurricane Harvey

- [Texas Agricultural Losses from Hurricane Harvey Estimated at More Than \\$200 Million](#) (Press Release), Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, October 29, 2017
- ["Digging Out with Fewer Hands: Recovery Is No Sure Thing in the Small Texas Towns Wrecked by Hurricane Harvey"](#) (La Grange, Columbus, Sargent)," *Austin American-Statesman*, September 21, 2017
- ["Federal Agricultural Recovery Resources for Hurricane-Related Losses,"](#) *CRS Insight*, Congressional Research Service, September 8, 2017
- [Hurricane Harvey Response](#), Texas Department of Agriculture

Charge: Water infrastructure projects in the State Water Plan to mitigate flooding, possible third reservoir in addition to Addicks and Barker, flood mitigation infrastructure and restoration of critical dam infrastructure

- [Living With Dams: Extreme Rainfall Events: An Informational Booklet for Policymakers, Dam Owners and Downstream Communities](#), Association of State Dam Safety Officials, 2015
- ["Developing Storm](#) (Parts 1 – 7)," *Houston Chronicle*, December 7 – 24, 2017
- [2017 State Water Plan: Water For Texas](#), Texas Water Development Board, adopted May 19, 2016, with amendments approved July 7, 2016, and December 7, 2017
- [A Guide to Public Alerts and Warnings for Dam and Levee Emergencies](#), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Risk Management Center, June 5, 2015
- [Flooding Impacts in Connection with the Reservoirs](#) (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers information, ground elevation and water levels of Addicks and Barker Reservoirs), Harris County Flood Control District
- [Flood Protection Grant Programs](#), Texas Water Development Board
- [Subdivisions Impacted by Rising Barker and Addicks Reservoir](#)

Levels (Interactive map), Houston Chronicle

January 30

Senate Committee on Finance

Charge: Trauma funding

- "Should Texas Kill the Controversial Driver Responsibility Program?, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, April 6, 2017
- *Interim Report to the 85th Legislature* (Charge 5 – Evaluate necessity of the Driver Responsibility Program), Senate Transportation Committee, November 2016
- *Texas Trauma System Funding: Presentation to the House Appropriations & House Public Health Committees* (With handouts), Legislative Budget Board, July 2016
- *Texas' Trauma System* (Funding and Driver Responsibility Program), Teaching Hospitals of Texas, May 2016
- *Interim Report to the 84th Legislature* (Charge 4 – Improvement of Driver Responsibility Program), House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety, January 2015
- "Bleeding Money: Texas Trauma Center Funding is in Jeopardy," *Texas Medicine*, July 2010
- *Texas Health & Safety Code § 780.002*, Certain Deposits to Account (Driver Responsibility Program, Trauma Fund)
- *Texas Transportation Code §§ 708.001-708.159*, Driver Responsibility Program

Charge: Texas Emission Reduction Plan (TERP)

- "Texas Collects Fees from Residents to Clean Up the Air: Why Won't Lawmakers Use It?," *Texas Observer*, April 13, 2017
- *Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Biennial Report (2015-2016): A Report to the 85th Texas Legislature*, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, December 2016
- *Interim Report to the 85th Legislature* (Charge 2 – Texas Emissions Reduction Plan), Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, November 2016
- "Talking TERP – The Texas Approach to Clean Air (Part 2)" (Addresses whether program has been a good investment), *Texas Clean Air Matters* (Blog), Environmental Defense Fund, November 3, 2016
- "Talking TERP – The Texas Approach to Clean Air (Part 1)" (Overview), *Texas Clean Air Matters* (Blog), Environmental Defense Fund, October 31, 2016
- *Texas Emissions Reduction Plan: Issue Brief*, Legislative Budget Board, April 2013
- *Texas Health & Safety Code §§ 386.001-386.252*, Texas Emissions Reduction Plan

Charge: Fee structure review

- "Further Reduce Reliance on General Revenue-Dedicated Accounts for Certification of the State Budget," *Legislative Budget Board Staff Reports*, Legislative Budget Board, January 2017
- *Actions Taken by the Legislature to Reduce Reliance on General Revenue-Dedicated Balances*, Legislative Budget Board, May 18, 2016

Charge: Request to exceed review: Review all riders requiring interim action by the Legislative Budget Board to reduce the number of times interim budget modification is necessary.

Topic: Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery

- "How Much Has Been Raised for Harvey Relief – and How's It Being Spent?," *Texas Tribune*, November 28, 2017
- *Updated Hurricane Harvey's Fiscal Impact on State Agencies* (Presented to Senate Finance Committee), Legislative Budget Board, December 5, 2017

January 31

House Committee on **Investments & Financial Services**

Charge: Impact of Hurricane Harvey on financial institutions

- "Hurricane Harvey Wreaks New Damage on Texas Homeowners as Mortgage Delinquencies Soar," *San Antonio Express-News*, January 15, 2018
- *Hurricane Harvey: Information for Consumers and Bankers in the Affected Areas*, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), last updated September 8, 2017
- *After the Storm: The Impact of Recent Hurricanes* (Impact of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria on banks and customers), *American Banker*, August-October 2017
- *Harvey Information* (Press releases, industry notice, proclamations), Texas Department of Banking

Charge: Mortgage licensure requirements

- *Statutes and Rules*, Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending

Senate Committee on **State Affairs** (San Marcos)

Charge: Freedom of speech on campus

- *The State of Free Speech and Tolerance in America: Attitudes About Free Speech, Campus Speech, Religious Liberty, and Tolerance of Political Expression* (Section V - campus speech), Cato Institute, October 31, 2017
- "Flip-Flopping on Free Speech: The Fight for the First Amendment, On Campuses and Football Fields, From the Sixties to Today," *The New Yorker*, October 9, 2017
- *Campus Free Speech: A Legislative Proposal*, Goldwater Institute, January 30, 2017
- *Campus Free Speech Protection: A Policy White Paper*, Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute, January 2017
- *The ALT-Right on Campus: What Students Need to Know*, Southern Poverty Law Center, 2017

February 1

House Committee on **Homeland Security & Public Safety** (Tyler)

Topic: Comprehensive review by the Department of Public Safety on various agency matters, including but not limited to: Driver license operations, Texas/Mexico border security and operations, East Texas Gang/Cartel activity, Safety factors with respect to sedan vs. SUV patrol units, CUP appropriations for FY 18/19 and retire/rehire program

- "Criticism Builds for Texas DPS Decision to Lay Off 117 Older Officers," *Texas Tribune*, January 11, 2018
- *Need-Based Dismissal Report* (Interoffice Memorandum), Texas Department of Public Safety, December 18, 2017
- *Compassionate Use Program (News & Updates)*, Texas Department of Public Safety, December 2017
- *Texas Gang Threat Assessment*, Texas Department of Public Safety, July 2017
- *Texas Border Security Monthly Brief*, Texas Department of Public Security, June 2017
- *State Funding for Border Security* (Presented to the House Appropriations Committee), Legislative Budget Board, February 2017
- "Improve Transparency and Oversight of the Driver License Improvement Program," *Legislative Budget Board Staff Reports*, Legislative Budget Board, January 2017
- *Agency Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2017 to 2021*, Texas Department of Public Safety, 2017
- *Texas Homeland Security Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, Texas Office of Homeland

Security, September 30, 2015

Topic: Interactions between law enforcement and citizens including an update on enactments of new law

- "Should Public Schools Teach Kids How to Interact with Police?," *Governing*, October 6, 2017
- "Texas Teens to be Trained Next Year on Police Interactions," *Texas Tribune*, September 22, 2017
- *Texas Education Code § 28.012*, Instruction on Interaction with Law Enforcement

Topic: Junior college campus security

- *Texas Public Junior Colleges Safety and Security Needs Assessment Report 2017*, Texas School Safety Center, Texas State University, 2017
- "Campus Carry in Spotlight After Police Officer's Death," *Inside Higher Ed*, October 11, 2017
- "Community Colleges Face Big Security Risks with Few Resources," *Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 2, 2015

Senate Committee on **Natural Resources & Economic Development** (Houston)

Charge: Hotel occupancy taxes

- *Texas Hotel Performance Research*, Prepared for Texas Tourism, Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism, JLL, March 2017
- "The Hotel Occupancy Tax: A Short History of a Complex Levy," *Fiscal Notes*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, June-July 2016
- *Hotel Occupancy Tax, Municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax Reporting*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Charge: Regulatory barriers, including permitting or registration requirements and fees

- "Texas Ranks Near the Top (Again) for Economic Freedom" (Blog), Texas Public Policy Foundation, January 8, 2018
- *License to Work: A National Study of Burdens from Occupational Licensing*, 2nd Edition, Texas state profile, Institute for Justice, November 2017
- *Economic Freedom of North America 2017*, Fraser Institute, 2017
- *Interim Report to the 85th Legislature* (Charge 3 – Economic development incentives, modification of existing administrative or regulatory barriers; Charge 4 – Expedited permitting), Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development, November 2016
- *Enemy of the People: How Government Barriers to Competition Hurt the*

Public and Subvert the Constitution, Texas Public Policy Foundation, April 2014Senate Select Committee on *Property Tax Reform* (Houston)

Charge: How property tax law could better advance disaster recovery after Hurricane Harvey while ensuring that taxpayers are protected from excessive taxation and wasteful spending

- "*Harvey's Next Blow: Home Values, Tax Collections Expected to Drop*," *Texas Tribune*, October 20, 2017
- "*Houston-Area School Districts Give Property Owners Tax Relief After Hurricane Harvey*," *Houston Chronicle*, October 19, 2017
- *Declared Natural Disasters and Emergencies Tax Help: Property Taxes in Disaster Areas*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- *Texas Tax Code § 23.02*, Reappraisal of Property Damaged in Natural Disaster Area

Charge: Statutory changes necessary, if any, for a municipality to be able to redirect revenue from Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) for a set period of time to assist in paying the costs associated with recovery and rebuilding necessary infrastructure following a disaster declaration by the Governor or President

- *Biennial Registries of Reinvestment Zones for Tax Abatements and Tax Increment Financing 2016*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, December 2016
- *Texas Tax Code Ch. 311*, Tax Increment Financing Act (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones)
- *Tax Increment Financing Act, Tax Code Chapter 311 Overview*, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts