

## Interim Hearings - Weeks of August 20 and 27, 2012

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Related Categories: Interim hearings, 82nd Session

[Today's Committee Meetings](#) on the LRL website is a calendar of interim committee hearings with links to agendas. The following may be helpful resources for upcoming hearings.

### August 22nd

#### House Committee on [Defense & Veterans' Affairs](#)

Charge: Federal military installations and civilian encroachment

- ["Selma Subdivision Plan Draws Objection from Military,"](#) *San Antonio Express News*, April 17, 2012
- ["Texas Military Bases Battle Encroachment of Cities,"](#) *Texas Tribune*, November 28, 2011
- ["State Policy Options: A Report of the National Conference of State Legislatures Task Force on Military and Veterans Affairs,"](#) National Conference of State Legislatures, July 2011
- ["Military Installation Sustainability,"](#) National Conference of State Legislatures, updated June 18, 2010
- ["Report and Recommendation to the 81st Legislature"](#) (Interim Charge No. 4), Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations, December 2008

Charge: Texas military installations and recent reductions in federal defense spending

- ["Federal Budget Cuts May Slice 160,000 Jobs in Texas Economy,"](#) *San Antonio Express-News*, July 24, 2012 and ["The Economic Impact of the Budget Control Act of 2011 on DOD and Non-DOD Agencies,"](#) Aerospace Industries Association, July 17, 2012
- ["Study: Across-the-Board Defense Cuts Could Cost 1 Million Jobs,"](#) *Washington Post*, June 21, 2012 and ["Defense Spending Cuts: The Impact on Economic Activity and Jobs,"](#) National Association of Manufacturers, June 21, 2012
- ["Federal Budget Cuts Will Likely Hit Texas Military Bases,"](#) *Houston Chronicle*, updated February 19, 2012

Charge: [Texas Military Preparedness Commission](#), [HB 2546 \(81R\)](#), and military preparedness

- ["Annual Report 2009-2010: Texas Military Preparedness Commission,"](#) Office of the Governor, September 2010
- ["Military Preparedness Commission: Sunset Final Report,"](#) Texas Sunset Advisory Commission, July 2009

August 24th

House Committees on [Appropriations - S/C on Articles I, IV, & V](#) and [Homeland Security & Public Safety](#) (Joint Hearing, 10:00 AM)

Charge: Driver's license improvement plan, feasibility of privatization to minimize wait times

- ["More States Outsource Driving Tests," USA Today](#), August 6, 2012
- ["DPS Hopes to Speed Driver's License Process With Megacenters," Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#), June 14, 2012
- [Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Outsourcing and Privatization Options of Driver Licensing Services](#), Florida Legislature, Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, December 7, 2007

House Committee on [Appropriations - S/C on Articles I, IV, & V](#) - on adjournment of 10:00 AM hearing

Charge: Correctional health care system

- [Audit Reports on Correctional Managed Health Care at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#), State Auditor's Office, February 2011
- [The Cost of Correctional Health Care: A Correctional Institution Inspection Committee Summary of Ohio's Prison Health Care System](#) (includes comparison of 2009 prison health care spending in California, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas), Ohio Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, December 15, 2010
- [Texas Correctional Managed Health Care Committee](#)

House Committee on [Homeland Security & Public Safety](#) - on adjournment of 10:00 AM hearing

Charge: Digital emergency public service messaging network on evacuation routes

- ["Digital Billboards to Alert Texas Counties in Emergencies," Government Technology](#), May 16, 2012
- ["New Tool for Emergency Messaging: Digital Billboards," Emergency Management](#), June 20, 2011
- ["Highway Funds at Risk?," San Antonio Express-News](#), April 20, 2011 and [House Bill 1765, 82nd Legislature, 2011](#), Relating to an emergency public service messaging network, (Last Action: 04/29/2011 H Committee report sent to Calendars)

Charge: Law enforcement personnel at school district and post-secondary campuses

- "Pasadena ISD Officer Shooting of Teen Under Investigation," *Houston Chronicle*, May 1, 2012 and *Use of Force in Texas Public Schools: The Case for Transparency, Accountability, and Decriminalization*, American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, March 2011
- *Education Under Arrest: The Case Against Police in Schools*, Justice Policy Institute, November 2011
- "On Campus, a Law Enforcement System to Itself," *New York Times*, November 11, 2011
- *Texas School Safety Center*, Texas State University – San Marcos

Senate Committee on Education

Charge: Charter schools

- "Education: Charting a Better Course: Charter Schools Raise Educational Standards For Vulnerable Children," *The Economist*, July 7, 2012
- "Open-Enrollment Charter Schools vs. Traditional School Districts: A Comparison of TEA Data," *Texas Lone Star*, Texas Association of School Boards, July 2012
- *Charter-School Management Organizations: Diverse Strategies and Diverse Student Impacts*, National Charter School Research Project, Inside Charter Schools Initiative, January 2012
- *Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter School Laws, 2012*, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, January 2012

Charge: School choice, education tax credits

- "Education Tax Credits Aren't New and Aren't Just a Work-Around for Voucher Failure," *CATO @ Liberty*, CATO Institute, May 29, 2012
- "Public Money Finds Back Door to Private Schools," *New York Times*, May 21, 2012, and related report, *A Failed Experiment: Georgia's Tax Credit Scholarship for Private Schools*, Southern Education Foundation, 2011
- *The Fiscal Effects of School Choice Programs on Public School Districts*, Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, March 2012
- *The Fiscal Impact of a Large-Scale Education Tax Credit Program*, CATO Institute, July 1, 2008
- *Choice of Schools* (what other states are doing, pros and cons, selected research), Education Commission of the States

August 27th

## House Committee on **Business & Industry**

Charge: Existing lien laws

Charge: Impact of property tax liens on title and Texas real estate market

- ***Texas Property Tax System***, Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University, July 2011

August 28th

## Senate Committee on **Veteran Affairs & Military Installations**

Charge: Texas veterans employment

- **"Texas in Line for \$750,000 Grant to Help Army Veterans Find Work,"** *Houston Chronicle*, July 24, 2012
- **"Texas Program Links Veterans to Jobs,"** *USA Today*, May 11, 2012
- ***Employment Situation of Veterans - 2011***, U.S. Department of Labor, March 20, 2012

Charge: Veterans in higher education

- **"Veterans Find a Home at Texas A&M University,"** *TAMU Times*, August 14, 2012
- ***From Soldier to Student II: Assessing Campus Programs for Veterans and Service Members***, American Council on Education, July 2012
- ***Report on Student Financial Aid in Texas Higher Education for Fiscal Year 2011***, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, July 2012
- **"Colleges Pay for Growth in Texas Veterans Tuition Program,"** *Houston Chronicle*, March 19, 2012
- **"Texas Colleges Work to Improve Veterans' Experience,"** *Texas Tribune*, September 11, 2011

Charge: Monitor implementation of legislation

- **"College Credit for Heroes Successfully Helping Veterans Launch Civilian Careers,"** Texas Workforce Commission, May 18, 2012
- **Texas Coordinating Council for Veterans Services** (contains meeting agendas and minutes)

August 29th

Senate Committee on **Finance**

Charge: State spending limits

- **TABOR Calculator**, Tax Foundation (allows users to generate charts showing how restricting state budget growth would affect expenditures over time)
- **Trends in Texas Government: Local Government Spending**, Texas Public Policy Foundation, April 2012

Charge: Funding for law enforcement training and retention

- **"Bonds Would Help Fund Fort Worth Public Safety Center,"** *Fort Worth Business Press*, July 11, 2012
- **"Texas Forensic Science Academy Receives \$425,000 Grant to Train Crime Scene Investigators,"** Texas Engineering Extension Service, June 12, 2012
- **"Texas Communities Struggle to Fund Public Safety,"** *Texas Tribune*, July 14, 2011

Charge: Monitor implementation of legislation, especially regarding state tax equity and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces

- **"House Committee Approves Stronger Penalties for Sex Offenses Against Minors,"** *Youth Today*, July 11, 2012
- **Location Matters: A Comparative Analysis of State Tax Costs on Business**, Tax Foundation, March 2012
- **2012 State Business Tax Climate Index**, Tax Foundation, January 2012

August 30th

Senate Committee on **State Affairs**

Charge: Allowing purchase of health insurance across state lines

- **Allowing the Purchase of Health Insurance from Out-of-State Insurers**, National Conference of State Legislatures, Updated June 2012
- **"Will Buying Health Insurance Across State Lines Reduce Costs?"** (including Georgia's interstate experience), *Forbes*, May 12, 2012
- **"No Out-of-State Insurers Offer Plans in Georgia,"** *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, April 30, 2012
- **The Perils of Health Insurance Sold Across State Lines**, Families USA, July 2011

- [Expanding Health Care Options: Allowing Americans to Purchase Affordable Coverage Across State Lines](#) (Background Memo, Witness Testimony), U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce, May 25, 2011

Charge: Statute of limitations on a cause of action relating to consumer debt

- [Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code, Section 16.004, Four-Year Limitations Period](#)
- [Consumer Protection: Debt Collection](#), Attorney General of Texas

Charge: Liability protection for private companies and individuals when commissioned by the Texas Forest Service to assist in fighting a fire; volunteer firefighter termination by employer

- ["Drought-Killed Trees Could Become Liability Issues For Landowners,"](#) Texas Forest Service, July 5, 2012
- [House Bill 1205, 80th Legislature, 2007](#), Relating to the prohibition of certain employment discrimination regarding an employee who is a volunteer emergency responder ([Vetoed](#) by the Governor)