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

- Look ahead to the expected winter weather outlook. (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, October 19, 2017)
- Read about EPA Administrator Pruitt’s meeting related to cleanup of the San Jacinto Superfund site. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, October 20, 2017)
- Consider the manufactured home industry’s role in providing affordable housing. (Stateline, October 24, 2017)

Members of the Texas legislative community may request the articles below [here](#) or by calling 512-463-1252.

Explain unemployment is down, but in spite of some personal improvement, many workers still experience great anxiety about what their employment future holds.

Interviews Phillip Rocco, a political scientist at Marquette University, regarding the social science research calling attention to efficiency gaps in state redistricting plans.

Discusses Jeff Bezos’ growing influence on lawmakers and public policy in Washington, D.C., noting Amazon’s increasing lobbying expenditures has placed the company on the top 20 list of biggest lobbying spenders nationwide.

Questions whether the Trump administration is negotiating in good faith, describing the latest set of trade demands as "so extreme that they allow no room for negotiation."

Discusses current hurricane recovery efforts of schools in Florida and Texas. Addresses the challenges faced by Aransas County and Port Aransas school districts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Highlights education-related cases the United States Supreme Court will hear in the current term.

- "Gone to Texas: migration." By Kevin McPherson and Bruce Wright. *Fiscal Notes*, October 2017, pp. 1, 3-7.
Explores Texas' migration patterns historically and identifies net domestic migration trends since 2010. (See: https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/fiscal-notes/2017/october/migration.php#article)


- "Freestanding emergency departments preferentially locate in areas with higher household income." By Cedric Dark, Yingying Xu, and Vivian Ho. Health Affairs, October 2017, pp. 1712-1719. Finds that freestanding emergency departments are more likely to be in areas that could yield higher profit, rather than areas of high demand. Notes that Texas is the epicenter of the freestanding emergency room movement.

- "Mitigating the mental and physical health consequences of Hurricane Harvey." By James M. Shultz and Sandro Galea. JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), October 17, 2017, pp. 1437-1438. Highlights the likely long-term health concerns Hurricane Harvey survivors may face and discusses ways Texas could create a recovery and reconstruction plan that strengthens public mental health.

- "Ten steps the federal government should take now to reverse the opioid addiction epidemic." By Andrew Kolodny and Thomas R. Frieden. JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association), October 24/31, 2017, pp. 1537-1538. Suggests ten steps to address the opioid epidemic, broken into two categories: preventing opioid addiction and overdoses and treatment and harm reduction for current users. (See: http://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jama.2017.14567)


- "Oil pipeline profits soar, natgas net softens." By Christopher E. Smith. Oil and Gas Journal, October 2, 2017, pp. 66-84. Examines the United States' regulated interstate oil and natural gas pipeline system for 2016. Includes analyzed data that are compiled from annual and periodic reports filed with FERC [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission].

- "For teachers, a better kind of pension plan." By Marcus A. Winters. Phi Delta Kappan, October 2017, pp. 32-36. Explains the advantages and disadvantages of the widely used defined benefit retirement plans offered to public school teachers.

- "High Texas student loan delinquency rates underscore deeper challenges." By Wenhua Di and Stephanie Gullo. Southwest Economy (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas), Third Quarter 2017, pp. 14-17. Examines the increase in Texas student loan delinquencies, student and consumer debt levels and patterns, and issues with difficult student loan repayment terms. (See: https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/swe/2017/swe1703e.pdf)
• "Texas taxes: who bears the burden?" By Jason L. Saving. Southwest Economy (Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas), Third Quarter 2017, pp. 3-7. Discusses Texas' relatively low per-capita tax burden, carried in large portion by low-income households, and the implications for lawmakers in setting tax policy and delivering state services. (See: https://www.dallasfed.org/~media/documents/research/swe/2017/swe1703b.pdf)

• "The audacious launch of the city of Houston: capital of the Republic of Texas." By Stephen C. Cook. Southwestern Historical Quarterly, October 2017, pp. 122-144. Presents an adaptation of Texas State Historical Association President Stephen C. Cook's presidential address in March 2017, exploring the founding of the city of Houston in August 1836, Houston's site selection at the confluence of the Buffalo and White Oak Bayous, and its designation as the capital of the Republic. Mentions the devastating flooding in August 2017 due to Hurricane Harvey.


The Legislative Reference Library compiles this weekly annotated list of Current Articles of interest to the legislative community. Professional librarians review and select articles from more than 300 periodicals, including public policy journals, specialized industry periodicals, news magazines, and state agency publications. Members of the Texas legislative community may request articles using our online form.