

Interim Hearings - Weeks of October 15 and 22, 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. Below are resources related to upcoming Interim Hearings, and a list of upcoming Budget Hearings.

October 15th

House Committee on [Public Health](#)

Charge: Texas Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Medicaid 1115 Waiver

- ["Medicaid Waiver May Bring in Federal Dollars for Health Initiatives,"](#) *Austin American Statesman*, September 27, 2012
- [Medicaid Transformation Waiver](#) including overview, timeline, background resources, and proposed rules, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- [Medicaid 1115 Waiver - Texas Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program](#), Texas Hospital Association

Charge: Delivery of dental services in Medicaid

- ["Bridging the Dental Divide,"](#) *Austin American Statesman*, September 29, 2012
- ["Whistleblowers Help Texas in Medicaid Fraud Cases,"](#) *Texas Tribune*, September 27, 2012
- [Medicaid Dentistry Tackles Patient Abandonment After Investigation](#), WFAA-TV News, July 27, 2012
- [Uncovering Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in the Medicaid Program](#) (see Case Study #3: Medicaid Fraud in Dental Services in Texas on p. 16), U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, April 25, 2012

Joint Committee on [Cruise Industry Development](#)

Charge: Cruise industry in South Texas

- ["Port Officials Mull Borrowing \\$12 Million for Upgrades,"](#) *Galveston Daily News*, September 16, 2012
- ["Texas No. 4 for Cruise Industry Expenditures, Study Says,"](#) *Houston Business Journal*, September 6, 2012

- *2012 Cruise Industry Update* and *2012 CLIA Industry Update*, Cruise Lines International Association, February 2012

October 17th

House Committee on *Appropriations - S/C on Current Fiscal Condition*

Charge: Timing imbalance of state's revenues and expenditures, ways to minimize short-term borrowing need

- *"Texas Achieves Record Low Interest Rate on Short-Term Debt Sale," San Antonio Business Journal*, August 21, 2012
- *"Texas Short Term Notes Receive Highest Ratings," Texas Comptroller*, August 14, 2012
- *Texas by the Numbers: Revenue, Expenditures and Cash Condition*, Texas Comptroller, updated August 2012
- *"Documents Reveal Deficit in Texas State Budget," Texas Tribune*, August 18, 2010
- *"The Constitutional Law of State Debt," Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy*, 2012
- *Smoothing Out: Adjusting the Foundation School Program Payment Schedule*, Texas Association of School Boards, October 2008

Charge: Monitor performance of agencies, including operating budgets

October 18th

House Committee on *Culture, Recreation & Tourism*

Charge: Invasive aquatic species

- *The Texas State Comprehensive Management Plan for Aquatic Nuisance Species*, Texas Parks and Wildlife, September 11, 2012
- *Exotic and Invasive Species: A Threat to Texas Waterways*, Texas Parks and Wildlife
- *TexasInvasives.org*, Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Council
- *National Invasive Species Information Center* (Texas), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Charge: Effect of drought and wildfires on tourism and recreation

- "Drought Curbs Tourism as Boat Docks Stand on Dry Ground in Texas," *Bloomberg Businessweek*, August 7, 2012
- Texas State Legislative Priorities (Witness testimony on Interim Charge # 4 for House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism), The Nature Conservancy, January 24, 2012
- Global Warming's Impact on the Drought and Wildfires (Written testimony on Interim Charge #4 for House Committee Culture, Recreation & Tourism), Environment Texas, January 24, 2012

Charge: Implementation of HB 3726 (administration of the Alamo)

- "A New Era at the Alamo," KXAN, October 7, 2012 (video report)
- "Alamo Gift Shop Will be Placed Under Private Management," *San Antonio Business Journal*, September 26, 2012
- "Decision to Allow Alcohol at Alamo Sites Riles Heritage Group," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 16, 2012
- *Alamo Annual Management Plan*, The Alamo, June 2012
- *Interim Management and Operating Agreement Between Texas General Land Office and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas*, Texas General Land Office, November 7, 2011

Topic: Status of Battleship Texas

- "'Hard Hat' Tours Will Reveal Seldom-Seen Portions of Battleship Texas," *Houston Chronicle*, October 8, 2012
- "Dry Berth for USS Texas Off the Table, for Now," *Houston Chronicle*, July 20, 2012
- "Old Battleship Reopens, Its Future Course Unclear," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 8, 2012
- Battleship Texas Dry Berth Project - Reports and Correspondence, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, May 2012

Senate Committee on State Affairs CANCELLED

Charge: State authority and protection from federal overreach

- *State Sovereignty and Nullification Legislation, State Legislation and Actions Challenging Certain Health Reforms, 2011-2012*, National Conference of State Legislatures, Updated September 10, 2012
- *"Facing Off With the Feds," State Legislatures*, National Conference of State Legislatures, February 2010

Charge: *Private Real Property Rights Preservation Act*

- *"Court Right to Side With Texas Property Owners," Austin American-Statesman*, March 11, 2012
- *Private Real Property Rights Preservation Act Guidelines*, Texas Attorney General, Revised May 3, 2011
- *Regulatory Takings: The Next Step in Protecting Property Rights in Texas* (discusses municipal exemption), Texas Public Policy Foundation, July 22, 2010

October 19th

House Committee on *Higher Education*

Charge: Master plan for higher education beyond 2015

- *Closing the Gaps Progress Report 2012*, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, June 2012
- *Closing the Gaps: The Texas Higher Education Plan (with Goals and Targets for 2000-2005)*, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2000
- *Master Plan for Higher Education in California*, University of California, 1960, and 2009-2010 review

Joint Committee on *Oversight of Windstorm Insurance* **CANCELLED** (meeting will be rescheduled)

Charge: Windstorm insurance in Texas

- *"TWIA Study Recommends Lowering Agent Commissions," Insurance Journal*, October 2, 2012; and related study, *Texas Windstorm Insurance Association: Restructuring Options Report*, Texas Department of Insurance/Alvarez & Marsal

Holdings, LLC, September 7, 2012

- "Joint Committee Considers Financial Solutions for TWIA," *Texas Tribune*, September 12, 2012 (summary of Joint Committee on Seacoast Territory Insurance hearing, September 12)
- "Windstorm Forum Raises Questions," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, September 6, 2012 (summary of Coastal Windstorm Task Force meeting, September 5)

October 22nd

House Committee on Ways & Means CANCELLED

Charge: Property tax administration

- Property Tax Basics, 2012 and Property Tax Assistance, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

Senate Committee on State Affairs CANCELLED

Charge: Texas Workers' Compensation system

- Dispute resolution process and benefits available from employers that do not subscribe to workers' compensation
 - Dispute Resolution for Injured Employees, Texas Department of Insurance – Division of Workers' Compensation, last updated October 15, 2012
 - Final Report: Division of Workers' Compensation – Texas Department of Insurance, Office of Injured Employee Counsel, Issue 1 – Dispute Resolution Process, Sunset Advisory Commission, July 2011
- Adequacy of income benefits in the workers' compensation system, specifically on high wage earners receiving the maximum compensation rate
 - Workers' Compensation Reform and Return to Work: The California Experience [see chapter 7], RAND Center for Health and Safety in the Workplace, January 2011
 - Income Replacement Adequacy in the Texas Workers' Compensation System, Texas Department of Insurance, August 2010
- Fatalities in the Workers' Compensation System, including the amount of death and burial benefits paid to beneficiaries and the Subsequent Injury Fund since 2000
 - Appeals Panel Decision Manual – Death Benefits Issues, Texas Department of Insurance – Division of Workers' Compensation, updated August 10, 2011
 - "\$17 Million in Death Benefits Bypassed Families," *Houston Chronicle*, May 13, 2007
- Return-to-work numbers and results for injured employees in the Workers'

Compensation System that are referred to the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

- *Return-to-Work Outcomes for Texas Injured Employees*, Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group, September 30, 2011
- *Statistics* (see Division for Rehabilitation Services), Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
- *Return to Work/Stay at Work*, Texas Department of Insurance – Workers' Compensation
- *New Approaches to Providing Vocational Rehabilitation Services to Injured Employees in the Texas Workers' Compensation System* (Joint Report to the Legislature), Texas Department of Insurance – Division of Workers' Compensation and Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, August 2006

Charge: Monitor the implementation of legislation, specifically, **SB 100**, 82nd Regular Session, relating to implementation and impact of the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act

- *Assessment of the Federal Voting Assistance Program Implementation of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act*, U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General, August 31, 2012
- *The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act: Overview and Issues*, Congressional Research Service, July 11, 2012
- *Democracy From Afar: States Show Progress on Military and Overseas Voting*, Pew Center on the States, January 27, 2012
- *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, Annual Report to Congress 2010*, U.S. Department of Justice, 2010
- *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act*, U.S. Department of Justice

October 24th

House Committee on **County Affairs**

Charge: Population growth in unincorporated areas and provision of services, including garbage disposal, fire protection, road maintenance, electricity, and water and wastewater service

- *"Give Counties Power Over Trash Pickup," San Antonio Express-News*, editorial,

October 5, 2012

- *County Fire Protection 2025: A Study Concept Guide* (future direction of fire protection services in unincorporated areas of Harris County), Harris County Fire Marshal, 2011

Charge: Monitor the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and 82nd legislation:

- *Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Medicaid 1115 Waiver*
 - *"Medicaid Waiver May Bring in Federal Dollars for Health Initiatives," Austin American Statesman*, September 27, 2012
 - *Medicaid Transformation Waiver* including overview, timeline, background resources, and proposed rules, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
 - *Medicaid 1115 Waiver - Texas Health Care Transformation and Quality Improvement Program*, Texas Hospital Association
- Councils of Governments (COGs)
 - *Region Map, Councils of Governments*, Texas Association of Regional Councils

House Committee on *State Affairs*

Charge: Resource adequacy in the Texas electricity market

- *Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy for the ERCOT Region: Fall 2012*, ERCOT, September 4, 2012
- *Annual Energy Outlook 2012*, U.S. Energy Information Administration, June 25, 2012
- *ERCOT Investment Incentives and Resource Adequacy*, The Brattle Group/ERCOT, June 1, 2012
- *Report on the Capacity, Demand, and Reserves in the ERCOT Region*, ERCOT, May 22, 2012
- *Texas Electricity Profile 2010*, U.S. Energy Information Administration, January 30, 2012

Charge: Inefficiencies in the regulation of public utilities to minimize cost to consumers

- *Consumer Expenditures on Utilities in 2010*, Institute on Public Utilities, March 2012
- *Electricity Regulation in the US: A Guide*, Regulatory Assistance Project, May

2011

- [Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications](#), National Consumer Law Center

Upcoming Budget Hearings

October 19th

Public Safety, Department of