

Current Articles & Research Resources, March 12

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

- See which states are considering or have enacted legislation related to [Daylight Saving Time](#). (National Conference of State Legislatures, March 4, 2020)
- Review federal and state laws that may have an impact on [workplace leave](#) for individuals affected by the coronavirus. (Congressional Research Service, March 6, 2020)
- Read about the 39-state [investigation](#) of Juul Labs. (Attorney General of Texas, February 25, 2020)
- Note that March is [Brain Injury Awareness Month](#). (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, March 6, 2020)

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

- 20.03.17 / "[An introduction to police and fire pensions](#)." By Jean-Pierre Aubry and Kevin Wandrei. *Center for Retirement Research at Boston College*, February 2020, pp. 1-7.
Compares the pension and retiree health benefits for police officers and firefighters with those of other local government employees. Finds police and fire retirement benefits are substantially more expensive due to earlier retirement ages, but still a very small share of total local government spending.
- 20.03.18 / "Unraveling the complexity of America's student debt." By Don Troop, Bennett Leckrone, and Danielle McLean. *Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 28, 2020, pp. A8-A11, A13.
Considers the student loan debt problem in terms of which groups are most likely to default, finding it is not necessarily those with the largest debt. Includes profiles of five individuals with debts from \$11,000 to \$93,000.
- 20.03.19 / "Trump budget 2021: Family First enhancements, block grants, unaccompanied minors." By John Kelly. *Chronicle of Social Change*, February 20, 2020, pp. 1-3.
Analyzes President Trump's [2021 budget](#) on child welfare programs, implementation of the *Family First Prevention Services Act*, block grants, and immigrant children. Includes Trump Budget 2021, a table of spending per program.
- 20.03.20 / "Privacy battles spread." By Copal Ratnam and Dean DeChiaro. *CQ Weekly*, February 10, 2020, pp. 28-30.
Examines data-privacy legislation being addressed at the state level. Reports tech companies are shifting their focus to the states to shape data protection legislation because the federal legislation has stalled.
- 20.03.21 / "Is explosive growth in Frisco creating Orange County 2.0?" By Bill Hethcock. *Dallas Business Journal*, February 28, 2020, pp. 10-12.
Highlights the drivers and demographics of the explosive growth in Frisco and

surrounding counties. Provides updates on high-profile projects underway in Frisco.

- 20.03.22 / "Covid-19 and market turmoil: Spread and stutter." *Economist*, February 29th-March 6th, 2020, pp. 55-56.
Considers how the covid-19 virus will impact financial markets, specifically the market's volatility and corporate debt. Suggests interest-rate cuts can help to soothe credit markets, but cannot do much to remedy the disruption.
- 20.03.23 / "[Young Texans: Demographic overview \(Part one of a two-part series\)](#)." By Olga Garza, et al. *Fiscal Notes*, February 2020, pp. 6-10.
Discusses demographic characteristics of young Texans and the primary drivers of under-eighteen population growth in the state.
- 20.03.24 / "The latest on homelessness." By Rick Mauch. *Fort Worth Business Press*, February 10-23, p. 26.
Examines recent data trends relating to the homeless population in Fort Worth and the city's continuum of care service areas.
- 20.03.25 / "How the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board went rogue." By Jeremy Bagott. *Houston Business Journal*, February 20, 2020, p. 46.
Questions the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board's practice of "incorporation by reference," which allows a nonprofit to draft and approve regulations that Texas real estate appraisers must follow.
- 20.03.26 / "[Lights out in Mexico's upstream market?](#)" By Mriam Grunstein. *Issue Brief (Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy)*, February 27, 2020, pp. 1-5.
Tracks the change in direction of Mexico's energy policy under President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and its effect on global investors.
- 20.03.27 / "Rebates — the little-known factor behind increasing drug list prices." By Rita Rubin. *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*, March 3, 2020, pp. 812-813.
Details the drawbacks of the [drug rebate model](#) that currently underlies much of the pharmaceutical market.
- 20.03.28 / "[Critical power: Supporting customers with medical needs](#)." By Susan Partain. *Public Power*, January/February 2020, pp. 14-19.
Highlights how several public power utilities have adapted for customers who depend on electricity for life support-related purposes.
- 20.03.29 / "[Reaching for the cure](#)." By Sean Price. *Texas Medicine*, February 2020, pp. 38, 40.
Observes that Texas' rules regarding Medicaid coverage for hepatitis C medications are among the nation's strictest. Notes that the 86th Legislature passed a budget measure and requested a feasibility study on new methods to make hepatitis C medications affordable for Medicaid patients.
- 20.03.30 / "[Home front](#)." By Joshua Roberson. *Tierra Grande*, January 2020, pp. 19-21.
Examines how military communities influence the housing markets in Texas.

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](#).

