Interim Hearings - Week of May 21, 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.

May 21st

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs & Military Installations (El Paso)

Charge: "Commander's Council" - allowing commanders of Texas' military forces and installations to coordinate and communicate with Texas Legislature and state leadership

- Resolution Supporting the Use of "Commanders Councils," Council of State Governments, December 6, 2010

Charge: Veterans courts

- "After the Parade: Courts Ease Homecoming for Troubled Vets," *Texas Observer*, January 2012
- "The Battle on the Home Front: Special Courts Turn to Vets to Help Other Vets," *ABA Journal*, November 2011 (includes Texas)
- *Veterans Defender Resource*, Texas Indigent Defense Commission, March 28, 2012 (overview of veterans court components, veteran defender models, directory of veterans courts in Texas)
- Veterans' Courts, Texas Public Policy Foundation, November 2009
- "Why Veterans Should Get Their Own Courts," *Atlantic Monthly*, December 2011 (includes Dallas County, Texas)

Charge: Veterans Housing Assistance Program - Texas Veterans Commission's Fund for Veterans' Assistance

- Veterans Home Loans, General Land Office

May 22nd

House Committee on Human Services and House Committee on Public Health (Joint Hearing)

Charge: Food insecurity

- Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, May 2012
- *The Grocery Gap: Who Has Access to Healthy Food and Why It Matters*, The Food Trust, March 2010
- Food Desert Locator, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- "More Healthy Options Are on School Cafeteria Menus," *Houston Chronicle*, April 17, 2012
- *Blueprint to End Hunger*, Texas Hunger Initiative, September 2011
- "Cottage Food Producers Wary of New Rules," *Austin American-Statesman*, February 12, 2012
- *Evaluation of the Impact of Incentives Demonstrations on Participation in the Summer Food Service Programs (SFSP), FY 2010: Arkansas and Mississippi*, U.S. Food & Nutrition Service, September 2011
- "Lawmakers Seek to Crack Down on Junk Food as Obesity Epidemic Worsens," *Austin American-Statesman*, April 19, 2011
- *Healthy Eating Habits Baseline Study for SNAP*, Texas Department of State Health Services, July 2009
- "Agriculture Chief: Delaying Farm Bill Would Hurt Rural U.S.," *USA Today*, April 27, 2012

May 23rd

House Committee on Transportation (Seabrook)

Topic: Port of Houston facilities tour

- Port of Houston Authority

May 24th

House Committee on Transportation (Houston)

Charge: State's preparedness for the expansion of the Panama Canal

- "Panama Canal Expansion to Boost Local Business," *Community Impact Newspaper*, April 13, 2012
- Port and Inland Waterways Modernization: Options for the Future and *Working Draft Report - Version 1 (April 2, 2012),* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- "Panama Canal Expansion Raises Expectations in Houston," *Texas Tribune*, February 20, 2012
- *Potential Effects of the Panama Canal Expansion on the Texas Transportation System: Final Report*, Texas Department of Transportation, October 2011

Topic: Transit services for Texans with disabilities

- *Human Service Transportation Coordination State Profile: Texas*, National Conference of State Legislatures, March 2012
- Human Services Transportation Coordination, National Conference of State Legislatures
- Public Transportation Programs (see Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), Texas Department of Transportation
- Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Application Information Guide, Texas Department of Transportation, Revised June 16, 2011
- Help for Texans - Transportation, Texas Department of Aging and Disabilities Services