

## February 9, 2009 - Legislative Update

### Texas Senate Committees Appointed

The Senate Committees for the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative session were announced last week. Here are the committees and members that will be reviewing bills which have been initiated by, have some effect upon, or are of interest to TSHA. (The House Committees assignments are to follow.)

**Senate Education:** Florence Shapiro, chair; Dan Patrick, vice-chair; Kip Averitt; Wendy Davis; Mario Gallegos; Steve Ogden; Leticia Van de Putte; Royce West; Tommy Williams.

**State Affairs** (Committee which discusses/reviews insurance matters): Robert Duncan, chair; Robert Deuell, vice-chair; John Carona; Rodney Ellis; Troy Fraser; Chris Harris; Mike Jackson; Eddie Lucio; Leticia Van de Putte.

**Senate Finance:** Steve Ogden, chair; Juan Hinojosa, vice-chair; Kip Averitt; Bob Deuell; Robert Duncan; Kevin Eltife; Chris Harris; Eddie Lucio Jr.; Jane Nelson; Kel Seliger; Florence Shapiro; Royce West; John Whitmire; Tommy Williams; Judith Zaffirini

**Health & Human Services:** Jane Nelson, chair; Bob Deuell, vice-chair; Joan Huffman; Robert Nichols; Dan Patrick; Eliot Shapleigh; Carlos Uresti; Royce West; Judith Zaffirini

**Government Organization:** Rodney Ellis, chair; Glenn Hegar, vice-chair; Joan Huggman; Eddie Lucio, Jr., Jane Nelson, Steve Ogden, John Whitmire

**Higher Education:** Judith Zaffirini, chair; Dan Patrick, vice-chair; Kip Averitt, Robert Duncan, Royce West

### Legislative Agenda Update

- \*\* HB 5/ SB 544 – Relating to the elimination of smoking in all workplaces and public places
- HB 787 – Relating to eligibility for the child health plan
- HB 952 – Relating to duty-free lunch period for public school nurses
- HB 963 – Relating to a criminal history evaluation letter determining occupational license eligibility
- HB 975 – Relating to drug testing of professional employees of public school districts
- SB 76 – Relating to authorizing a children's health benefit plan for certain small employers
- SB 78 – Relating to promoting awareness and education about the purchase and availability of health coverage
- SB 209 – Relating to the minimum salary schedule for certain public school employees

\*\* HB 5/ SB 544 – The TSHA Legislative team is interested in hearing the thoughts and opinions of the membership pertaining to this particular piece of legislation. Please send any thoughts or opinions regarding this bill to Bess Sirmon Fjordbak, PhD, CCC-SLP, Vice President of Social & Governmental Policy at [bess.fjordbak@txsha.org](mailto:bess.fjordbak@txsha.org).