

February 16, 2009

81st Legislative Session Update

The Texas House of Representatives committees were announced last week, and committees that will be reviewing bills initiated by, that affect, or are of interest to TSHA and its Legislative Agenda are listed below.

Public Education: Rob Eissler (chair); Scott Hochberg (vice-chair); Alma A. Allen; Jimmie Don Aycock; Harold Dutton; Joe Farias; Dora Olivo; Diane Patrick; Jim Jackson; Mark Shelton; Randy Weber

Public Safety: Tommy Merritt (chair); Stephen Frost (vice-chair); Joe Driver; Lon Burnam; Phil King; Hubert Vo; Tryon D. Lewis; Barbara Mallory Caraway; Eddie Rodriguez

Insurance: John T. Smithee (chair); Trey Martinez Fischer (vice-chair); Joe Deshotel; Craig Eiland; Kelly Hancock; Todd Hunter; Carl Isett; Larry Taylor; Senfronia Thompson

State Affairs: Burt Solomons (chair); Jose Menendez (vice-chair); Bryon Cook; Tom Craddick; David Farabee; Pete Gallego; Charlie Green; Patricia Harless; Harvey Hilderbran; Delwin Jones; Rene Oliveira; Eddie Lucio III; Diana Maldonado; David Swinford; Sylvester Turner

For a list of all committees and their members, visit the Texas House of Representatives website at:

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/welcome.htm>

TSHA Legislative Agenda Updates

Here are the latest updates to bills being monitored by the TSHA Legislative Team, and the committees to which they have been referred:

- ** HB 5/ SB 544 – Relating to the elimination of smoking in all workplaces and public places – ***Referred to State Affairs***
- HB 85 – Relating to the salary paid to certain professional employees of public schools – ***Referred to Public Education***
- HB 130/ SB 21– Relating to an enhanced quality full-day prekindergarten program provided by public schools in conjunction with community providers – ***Referred to Public Education/ Education***
- HB 160- Relating to the creation and administration of community-based at-risk youth programs – ***Referred to Corrections***
- SB 49 – Relating to certain requirements applicable to the State Center for

Early Childhood Development – ***Referred to Education***

- SB 76 – Relating to authorizing a children’s health benefit plan for certain small employers – ***Referred to State Affairs***
- SB 78 – Relating to promoting awareness and education about the purchase and availability of health coverage – ***Referred to State Affairs***
- SB 100 – Relating to professional development institute for public school teachers and paraprofessionals regarding education of students with disabilities – ***Referred to Education***
- SB 209 – Relating to the minimum salary schedule for certain public school employees – ***Referred to Education***
- SB 290 – Relating to the creation and implementation of the health professional education grant program – ***Referred to Higher Education***
- SB 336 – Relating to closing state schools – ***Referred to Health & Human Services***

These are newly presented bills that may affect the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology in the state of Texas.

- HB 1057 – Relating to family care leave for certain employees; providing a civil penalty
- SB 692 – Relating to family care leave for certain employees; providing a civil penalty.
- SB 705 – Relating to the Medicaid consolidated waiver program and other Medicaid long-term care waiver programs.
- SB 706 – Relating to incentives to recruit and retain allied health education program faculty.
- SB 816 – Relating to the Texas Teach Corps Scholarship Program for college graduates who agree to teach in Texas public schools that have shortages of teachers in math and science.