



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 20, 2015

One of the many great membership benefits of the TADC is the active legislative program the Association maintains. Any proposed bill with implications to the civil justice system is monitored from filing until the end of session. Legislation will vary as to impact, ranging from local jurisdiction issues to statewide implications. Legislation of major import is analyzed and your officers and directors are prepared to testify before the appropriate committee on the appropriate bill at a moment's notice.

This Session, the TADC is monitoring over 300 bills. In an effort to keep every member informed as to where bills are in the process, and at the same time not inundating everyone with email every day, the TADC will send a progress report every Friday. This will be in addition to the regular monthly E-Update and any important legislative alerts.

The report each Friday will indicate any movement on TADC tracked bills for the week. Be advised, the caption of the bill may not adequately describe in enough detail what the bill actually does!

Each bill listed is linked so that you may see the proposed legislation in full.

Please do not hesitate to contact the TADC should you have any concerns about any bills filed this session.

[TADC tracked legislation movement - March 16-20, 2015:](#)

- [HB 230](#) [Farrar, Jessica \(D\)](#) Relating to recovery of attorney's fees in certain civil cases.
- Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably from the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*
- [HB 323](#) [Guillen, Ryan \(D\)](#) Relating to tort liability arising from a volunteer's operation of a Parks and Wildlife Department motor-driven vehicle or motor-driven equipment.
- Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably from the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism*
- [HB 520](#) [Moody, Joe \(D\)](#) Relating to the assignment of certain judges as a visiting judge.
- Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*
- [HB 801](#) [King, Ken \(R\)](#) Relating to planning for the use of and liability resulting from prescribed burns by the Parks and Wildlife Department.
- Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably as substituted from the House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism*
- [HB 968](#) [Hernandez, Ana \(D\)](#) Relating to civil liability of shareholders and members of certain legal entities that engage in the trafficking of persons.
- Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably as substituted from the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*
- [HB 1040](#) [Paddie, Chris \(R\)](#) Relating to the liability of certain sports officials and organizations.

Last Action Taken: *3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*

[HB 1050](#) [White, James \(R\)](#) Relating to liability of food donors.

Last Action Taken: *3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*

[HB 1116](#) [Sheffield, J.D.\(R\)](#) Relating to the liability of certain social workers who provide volunteer health care services to charitable organizations.

Last Action Taken: *3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*

[HB 1122](#) [Clardy, Travis \(R\)](#) Relating to the number of jurors required in certain civil cases pending in a statutory county court. *Senate companion legislation, SB 824 by Senator Joan Huffman is set for hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee on 3-23-15*

Last Action Taken: *3-17-15 Voted favorably as substituted from the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*

[HB 1129](#) [Sheets, Kenneth \(R\)](#) Relating to an exemption from the attorney occupation tax for attorneys exclusively offering pro bono legal services.

Last Action Taken: *3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence*

[HB 1203](#) [Murr, Andrew \(R\)](#) Relating to limited liability for an agritourism entity involved in an agritourism activity.

Last Action Taken: *3-18-15 Committee Action Pending in the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock*

<u>HB 1265</u>	<u>Wu, Gene (D)</u>	Relating to a deceptive act or practice related to an unsolicited advertisement of goods and services sent by mail.
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on Business and Industry</i>
<u>HB 1288</u>	<u>Simmons, Ron (R)</u>	Relating to the elimination of straight-party voting.
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-16-15 Committee action pending in the House Elections Committee</i>
<u>HB 1353</u>	<u>Geren, Charlie (R)</u>	Relating to a certificate of merit in certain actions against certain licensed or registered professionals.
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Committee action pending in the House Committee on the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence</i>
<u>HB 1603</u>	<u>Villalba, Jason (R)</u>	Relating to the creation of the chancery court and the chancery court of appeals to hear certain cases. <i>The TADC is opposed to this legislation</i>
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-19-15 Committee hearing set in the House Committee on Business and Industry for 3-24-15</i>
<u>SB 7</u>	<u>Nelson, Jane (R)</u>	Relating to decreasing the rates of the franchise tax.
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably as substituted from the Senate Finance Committee</i>
<u>SB 8</u>	<u>Schwertner, Charles</u>	Relating to the total revenue exemption for the franchise tax.
		<i>Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Reported favorably from the Senate Finance Committee</i>

[SB 267](#) [Perry, Charles \(R\)](#) Relating to the regulation by a municipality or county of the rental or leasing of housing accommodations.

Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Voted favorably as amended from the Senate Business and Commerce Committee

[SB 306](#) [Zaffirini, Judith \(D\)](#) Relating to the information included in the annual report of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Last Action Taken: 3-18-15 Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar

[SB 381](#) [Uresti, Carlos \(D\)](#) Relating to tort liability arising from a volunteer's operation of a Parks and Wildlife Department motor-driven vehicle or motor-driven equipment.

Last Action Taken: 3-18-15 Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar

[SB 534](#) [Watson, Kirk \(D\)](#) Relating to the oath of a person admitted to practice law in the State of Texas. *Lawyers Civility Oath - TADC Testified in support of this bill*

Last Action Taken: 3-18-15 Placed on the Senate Intent Calendar

[SB 610](#) [Perry, Charles \(R\)](#) Relating to limited liability for an agritourism entity involved in an agritourism activity.

Last Action Taken: 3-18-15 Passed in the Senate

[SB 774](#) [Fraser, Troy \(R\)](#) Relating to a study on periodic rate adjustment by electric utilities.

Last Action Taken: 3-17-15 Committee action pending in the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee

REGISTER NOW!

For the 2015 TADC Spring Meeting

**Join the TADC in Galveston, Texas – April 29-May
3, 2015**

*A program for the practicing trial lawyer
offering 10.5 hours CLE, including 2.0 hours ethics*

Topics Including:

- ~ Nabors: The Supremes Got It Right!*
 - ~ Voir Dire and Technology: So Help Me Google*
 - ~ Recruiting and Retaining Clients: Rebooting Your Legal Self*
 - ~ Deconstruction of the Discovery Rule*
 - ~ Electronic Discovery: Wake Up! It's a New Century*
- ...and much more!*

Hotel Reservation cut-off is April 15, 2015

REGISTRATION MATERIALS

