



March 7, 2017

## Legislative Update to City Council Members

### **Overview**

In this report, the Government Relations Team seeks to provide information on when important hearings will be occurring in the House and Senate, progress on the City of Houston's Legislative Priorities, and how you can help advocate for legislation.

### **Pension Bill Update**

We anticipate the final language for the pension bill will be complete soon. House Bill 43 is scheduled for a hearing of the House Committee on Pensions on Monday, March 20.

The pension bill is the City's most critical legislative priority, and a finding recently reached by Controller Chris Brown illustrates why: If pension reform is not passed, it will cost Houston taxpayers \$1 million per day. [Click here](#) to watch Controller Brown discuss his findings.

If you or your staff have notified Kris Banks of your intent to lobby members of the Legislature, you will be hearing from our office soon. If you have not notified Kris and wish to go, our team is happy to assist scheduling meetings. Please contact Kris at [kris.banks@houstontx.gov](mailto:kris.banks@houstontx.gov) or at 832.393.1080.

### **Behavioral Health Advocacy**

As part of the Mayor's 6 Point Plan to address Homelessness in Houston, specific advocacy is needed for increased capacity for Mental Health and Substance Use funding. Fortunately, many of our local state officials sit on the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Health & Human Services (Article II). They are as follows:

- Rep. Sarah Davis, Chair
- Rep. Greg Bonnen, Vice Chair
- Rep. Dawnna Dukes
- Rep. Sergio Munoz
- Rep. Kevin Roberts
- Rep. J.D. Sheffield
- Rep. Gene Wu

In addition, the Government Relations Team is working with other advocacy organizations involved in behavioral health legislation. Our office is updating the list of bills moving related to behavioral health reforms, including an update meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> with Rep. Four Price, Chairman of the House Public Health Committee. Rep. Price chaired the House Select Committee on Mental Health during the Interim, and the committee's report can be found [here](#).

We hope you can join us in Austin to advocate for Houston!

### **How We Can Help Your Office**

For every bill on the Legislative Priorities list, the Government Relations Team can provide background from city departments and where the bill is in the legislative process. If your office would like to write a letter of support, visit with offices of members in Austin, or testify for a measure, please contact Kris Banks to help coordinate. We are happy to help with anything from scheduling to submitting testimony. In fact, our office has worked to produce a list of overlap for every District Council Member and your member of the State House and State Senate. For a full list of those representing your Council District to the State Legislature, contact Ande Mattei.



March 7, 2017

## **House and Senate Committee Schedule**

Committees for both the House and the Senate were set earlier this session (Senate committee membership can be viewed [here](#) and House committees can be viewed [here](#)). Committees are now meeting weekly, and sometimes twice weekly.

Agendas for the committee meetings are available on Telicon. Notice of what is being heard in these meetings may occur fairly late – occasionally the morning of the hearing.

Some days are designated as “overflow days.” These are days on which the committee will consider items on a previous primary bill hearing day that they did not reach.

Some meetings are scheduled “upon adjournment.” These meetings occur the latest of the listed time or when the Chamber adjourns for the day. Earlier in the session, these are likely to occur at or close to their scheduled time. As the session progresses, these meetings are likely to take place later and later, some very late at night.

Additionally, as we get later in the session, committees may be called at times other than their regularly scheduled time.

Senate hearings may be watched via livestream [here](#). House hearings can be livestreamed [here](#).

## **Senate Schedule**

### **Monday**

*Health and Humans Services @ 8am (overflow day)*

[State Affairs](#) @ 9am (primary bill hearing day)

[IGR](#) @ 9am (primary bill hearing day)

[Finance](#) @ 11am or upon adj. (primary bill hearing day)

[Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.

### **Tuesday**

[Business and Commerce](#) @ 8am (primary bill hearing day)

*Education @ 8:30am (overflow day)*

[Natural Resources and Economic Development](#) @ 9am (primary bill hearing day)

[Criminal Justice](#) @ 1:30pm or upon adj.

### **Wednesday**

[Transportation](#) @ 8am

[Health and Human Services](#) @ 8am (primary bill hearing day)

[Higher Education](#) @ 9am

*IGR @ 9am in E1.028 (overflow day)*

*Finance @ 9am in E1.036 (overflow day)*

[Veteran Affairs & Border Security](#) @ 1:30pm or upon adj.

### **Thursday**

*Business & Commerce @ 8am (overflow day)*

[Nominations](#) @ 8am

[Education](#) @ 8:30am (primary bill hearing day)

*Natural Resources & Economic Development @ 9am (overflow day)*

*State Affairs @ 9am (overflow day)*



March 7, 2017

## **House Schedule**

### **Monday**

[Appropriations](#) @ 7:30am  
[Human Services](#) @ 9am  
[International Trade & Governmental Affairs](#) @ 10am  
[Local & Consent Calendars](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Business & Industry](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Criminal Jurisprudence](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Elections](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Energy Resources](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Government Transparency & Operations](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Licensing & Administrative Procedures](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Pensions](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.  
[Texas Ports, Innovations & Infrastructure, Select](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.

### **Tuesday**

[Environmental Regulation](#) @ 8am  
[Homeland Security & Public Safety](#) @ 8am  
[Insurance](#) @ 8am  
[Public Health](#) @ 8am  
[Rules & Resolutions](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Urban Affairs](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Culture, Recreation & Tourism](#) @ 2:30pm or upon adj.  
[Investments & Financial Services](#) @ 2:30pm or upon adj.  
[Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence](#) @ 2:30pm or upon adj.  
[Public Education](#) @ 2:30pm or upon adj.

### **Wednesday**

[Agriculture & Livestock](#) @ 8am  
[Ways & Means](#) @ 8am  
[Defense & Veterans' Affairs](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Higher Education](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Juvenile Justice & Family Issues](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Natural Resources](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[State Affairs](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Land & Resource Management](#) @ 2pm or upon adj.

### **Thursday**

[Economic & Small Business Development](#) @ 8am  
[Special Purpose Districts](#) @ 8am  
[State & Federal Power & Responsibility, Select](#) @ 8am  
[Transportation](#) @ 8am  
[Corrections](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[County Affairs](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[General Investigating & Ethics](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.  
[Redistricting](#) @ 10:30am or upon adj.

## **Update on Legislative Priorities**

For an update on the City's legislative priorities, please reference the chart on the following page.

Bill	Author	Subject	Progress
HB 43	Rep. Flynn	<b>Pensions:</b> Relating to the public retirement systems of certain municipalities.	Referred to Pensions 2/13/17
HB 1368	Rep. Israel	<b>Speed Limit:</b> Relating to the prima facie speed limit in an urban district.	Referred to Transportation 2/27/17
HB 998	Rep. Alvarado	<b>Campaign Report:</b> Relating to the confidentiality of certain information stored as part of the preparation of campaign finance reports required to be filed with the clerk of certain	Referred to General Investigation & Ethics 2/28/17
HB 256	Rep. Hernandez	<b>TABC:</b> Relating to the authority of a city attorney to seek an injunction to abate a common nuisance under the Alcoholic	Referred to Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence 2/21/17
HB 2476	Rep. Davis	<b>Contingency Fee:</b> Relating to approval by the comptroller of public accounts of certain contingent fee legal services contracts entered into by public agencies.	Filed 2/27/17
HB 1749	Rep. Thompson	<b>Expunction:</b> Relating to the expunction of arrest records and files relating to an offense punishable by fine only; authorizing	Filed 2/10/17
N/A	Rep. Allen	<b>48 Hours:</b> provide a 48 hour window for presenting the person to a magistrate; clarify that the 10-day clock for a person arrested on an out-of-county warrant who also has a local charge/local warrant begins once the local warrant has	Drafting
HB 812	Rep. Wu	<b>Panhandling:</b> Relating to standing in a roadway; amending provisions subject to a criminal penalty.	Referred to Transportation 2/21/17
HB 913	Rep. Alvarado	<b>Pipe Bombs:</b> Relating to the prosecution of the criminal offense of the possession, manufacture, transport, repair, or sale of certain prohibited explosive weapons.	Referred to Criminal Jurisprudence 2/21/17
HB 2046	Rep. Walle	<b>Tippling Fee:</b> Relating to the amount of the solid waste disposal fee and the allocation of revenue from that fee.	Filed 2/17/17
SB 570	Sen. Rodriguez	<b>Scrap Tires:</b> Relating to the regulation of the retention, storage, transportation, and disposal of used or scrap tires; providing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.	Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Dev. 2/8/17
HB 2477	Rep. Davis	<b>Towing:</b> Relating to the authority of certain municipal employees to request the removal and storage of certain illegally parked or operated vehicles.	Filed 2/27/17
HB 714	Rep. Wu	<b>Yard Parking:</b> Relating to the authority of certain municipalities to create a presumption in a prosecution for certain offenses involving the parking of a motor vehicle.	Referred to Urban Affairs 2/20/17