

**Interim Committee Charges**  
**Texas House of Representatives**  
**84th Legislature**



**Speaker Joe Straus**  
**November 2015**

## House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock

1. Evaluate policy challenges to the state's agriculture and livestock industry, including long-term impacts of price declines in oil and natural gas; the availability of natural resources, including water, necessary to operate the industries; and the mitigation of and preparation for potential future hazards to the industries caused by natural disaster, drought, or disease.
2. Determine the sources of water used by Texans in the production of food and fiber, and examine current water delivery methods and water conservation goals for agricultural use. Evaluate whether there are more efficient and effective water-usage management practices that could be employed in the agricultural industry, and determine the impact of crop insurance requirements on producers. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Natural Resources)*
3. Evaluate ways in which Texas can continue to promote our domestic agricultural products, across the nation and internationally, and to strengthen our state's international ties for the purpose of exporting Texas food and fiber. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs)*
4. Study the impacts of windblown trash on agriculture and ranching.
5. Study the appraisal of agricultural land for taxation and related issues, including the change-of-use "rollback" provision. Examine the impact of the current appraisal system of agricultural land for taxation on rural economic development.
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Appropriations

1. Evaluate potential fiscal policy challenges or economic disruptions in the 2016-17 biennium, including the long-term impact of price declines in oil and natural gas on the Texas economy and any fiscal implications for the state budget. Examine options to mitigate the risk of unexpected downturns in state revenue. Examine further progress made during the 84th legislative session to reduce reliance on general revenue dedicated accounts for budget certification. Recommend new or alternative methods to further reduce reliance on dedicated accounts for budget certification purposes and maximize usage of dedicated funds for their intended purposes. Examine other accounts and funding streams utilized by state agencies and institutions of higher education for opportunities to further increase budget transparency.
2. Develop recommendations to codify the Strategic Fiscal Review process. Conduct additional Strategic Fiscal Reviews of selected state agencies to further examine and assess agency performance, and ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently and effectively.
3. Examine Texas constitutional spending limits compared to limits utilized in other states, evaluate their effectiveness in maintaining fiscal discipline, and recommend potential modifications, if needed.
4. Evaluate deferred maintenance and physical plant needs of state buildings. Evaluate the appropriate funding mechanisms and timing that should be used to address the ongoing maintenance needs of state assets.
5. Monitor the accumulation of available funds within the Texas Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF), particularly in light of the passage of HB 903 (84R). Determine the accuracy of prior ESF revenue predictions, the feasibility of long-term projections for the fund, and the effectiveness of proposed investment strategies utilized by the Comptroller of Public Accounts. Study the impact, if any, on the state's credit rating when the ESF is utilized at various thresholds including usage for one-time expenses versus recurring costs. Examine potential limits in utilizing the ESF for specific uses, such as addressing unfunded liabilities or retiring state debt.
6. Monitor the implementation of HB 9 (84R) and study updated projections towards actuarial soundness of the Employees Retirement System. Examine issues and costs associated with granting cost of living adjustments or "13th Checks" to retired state employees and teachers.

7. Monitor the implementation of HB 2 (84R) as it pertains to the short-term funding provided to TRS-Care. Evaluate additional methods to address the health care needs of retired teachers in light of the current health insurance market, including the feasibility and costs associated with retired teachers not eligible for Medicare remaining on a school district's health care plan until Medicare eligible.
8. Monitor the ongoing implementation of SB 20 (84R) and Article IX, Sec. 7.12 of the General Appropriations Act, HB 1 (84R). Study trends in state contracting as developed by the Legislative Budget Board and recommend new and/or modified strategies to ensure all contracting is executed in a transparent and judicious manner.
9. Review hospital reimbursement methodologies, including supplemental payments and the Medicaid add-on payments directed by HB 1 (84R) for safety-net and trauma facilities. In the review, include reimbursement methodologies for rural and children's hospitals. Also, monitor the extension of the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement 1115 waiver.
10. Review the Texas Medicaid programs providing long-term services and support to adults or children with medical, physical, or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Study reimbursement methodologies, the historical appropriated slot allocation compared to the actual fill rate, the procedure of releasing slots to providers, and the impact and timeline of carving services into Medicaid managed care. Identify potential obstacles for the delivery of community long-term services and support, including the availability of community care workers. Make any needed recommendations to improve community long-term services and supports.
11. Study the trauma system in the State of Texas, including financing, service delivery, planning, and coordination among Emergency Medical Services providers, Trauma Services Area Regional Advisory Councils, The Emergency Medical Task Force, and hospitals. Determine strengths and weaknesses including challenges for rural areas of the state. Make recommendations to reduce any duplicated services, improve the coordination of services, and advance the delivery of trauma services in Texas. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Public Health)*
12. Examine the historical growth of the Texas Medicaid program, including factors affecting caseload and cost trends. Review legislative or policy initiatives created to detect or deter waste, fraud and abuse; to reduce cost; or improve the quality of healthcare in the Texas Medicaid program. Evaluate the effectiveness of, and identify savings associated with, these initiatives.

13. Conduct a review of current public education programs administered by the Texas Education Agency that are funded outside of the Foundation School Program. Make recommendations to increase, decrease, or eliminate programs based on measurable performance and effectiveness.
14. Conduct a review of current funding formulas for community colleges. Specifically, focus on the elements of the instructional funding structure created by the 83rd Legislature: core operations, student success points, and contact hour funding and also the adequacy of state funding to sustain community colleges in light of the variance in resources available to individual colleges. Make recommendations for possible changes to the funding structure of community colleges or changes in the levels of current funding given the future workforce and higher educational needs of the state. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Higher Education)*
15. Examine the formulas used to fund institutions of higher education. Study the initial development of the formulas and the underlying assumptions used. Make recommendations for new discipline weights, if necessary, evaluating any discrepancies in formula funding for the same program offered at different types of institutions and the inclusion of new medical schools on general academic campuses.
16. Evaluate the effectiveness of the Department of Public Safety's use of funds appropriated during the 84th legislative session for border security operations. Examine existing data and reporting on border security metrics, and recommend improvements to ensure the availability of accurate information in considering sustaining or increasing border security funds.
17. Review historic funding levels and methods of financing for the state parks system. Study recent legislative enactments including the General Appropriations Act (84R), HB 158 (84R), and SB 1366 (84R) to determine the effect of the significant increase in funding, specifically capital program funding, on parks across the state.
18. Study the various methods of funding the state's transportation network including recent legislative enactments such as Proposition 1 (83(3)) and Proposition 7 (84R). Review the current budget structure for the Texas Department of Transportation as it relates to transportation funding categories and make recommendations for future allocations to accurately address the transportation needs in the state.
19. Monitor the performance of state agencies and institutions, including operating budgets, plans to carry out legislative initiatives, planned budget reductions (if directed), caseload projections, performance measure attainment, implementation of all rider

provisions, and any other matter affecting the fiscal condition of the agencies and the state. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:

- a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Business & Industry

1. Study Texas businesses' utilization of the Federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit, and the associated state tax refund under Subchapter H, Labor Code, in employing those who are receiving government benefits and/or have consistently faced significant barriers to employment. Conduct a cost/benefit analysis of the tax credit vis-a-vis savings in federal and state public assistance programs. Make recommendations to remove any unnecessary administrative obstructions and expand Texas business owners' use of the program.
2. Identify and address potential gaps in Texas businesses' cybersecurity policies and ensure that Texans' personal information held by these businesses is secure.
3. Evaluate how Texas can support shared economy growth in the state. Determine how the state can ensure customer security and satisfaction as well as consumer protections without enacting burdensome regulations. Additionally, study the effects of a growing portion of the state's workforce seeking full-time vs. supplemental part-time employment with related technology-based businesses. Analyze recent debate and legal precedent regarding the classification of these employees.
4. Examine the regulatory powers of property owners associations, and the procedures available to home owners when an association restricts individual or property rights. Review current best practices to help clarify the balance of property rights, transparency in governance, and the best interests of property owners in the state.
5. Study the impact of recent Texas cases related to the rights and remedies of shareholders of Texas corporate forms, including the impact of those decisions on the legal rights of both Texas corporations and shareholders and any impact on the Texas business climate.
6. Study the requirement for state agencies and entities to purchase insurance through the State Office of Risk Management (SORM), and the agencies and entities that are exempt from this requirement. Examine the costs and benefits of each approach, and the waiver process by which SORM can allow agencies to purchase insurance on their own.
7. Study the following aspects of the designated doctor process in the Texas workers' compensation system:
  - a. the Division of Workers' Compensation's (DWC's) processes for educating, monitoring, and evaluating designated doctors;

- b. whether the DWC requires additional authority to regulate designated doctors or entities providing services for designated doctors; and
  - c. any unique issues with "traveling" designated doctors.
- 8. Examine the adequacy of benefits for injured employees in the Texas workers' compensation system who qualify for Lifetime Income Benefits, and for the beneficiaries of employees who receive Death Benefits. In particular, examine the application of benefit caps for those benefit types and the termination of Death Benefits to surviving spouses on remarriage.
- 9. Analyze recent data attributing the decline in domestic manufacturing to a consistent trade deficit caused by steady increases in net imports. Study how expanding trade and investing in manufacturing communities' partnerships can grow the state's skilled workforce and production as well as increase net exports and develop a trade balance. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs)*
- 10. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.



## House Committee on Corrections

1. Examine fees and revocations for those on probation and parole; examine effectiveness of fees imposed as a condition of probation and parole; study technical revocations in adult probation to identify drivers of revocations, disparities across the state, and strategies for reducing technical revocations while ensuring program effectiveness and public safety. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence)*
2. Study recidivism, its major causes, and existing programs designed to reduce recidivism, including a review of current programs utilized by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and the Windham School District for incarcerated persons. Examine re-entry programs and opportunities for offenders upon release. Identify successful programs in other jurisdictions and consider how they might be implemented in Texas.
3. Study incarceration rates for non-violent drug offenses and the cost to the state associated with those offenses. Identify alternatives to incarceration, including community supervision, that could be used to reduce incarceration rates of non-violent drug offenders.
4. Study inmate release policies of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, including the release of inmates directly from administrative segregation. Identify best practices and policies for both the transitioning of these various inmate populations from the prison to appropriate supervision in the community. Identify any needed legislative changes necessary to accomplish these goals.
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
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  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on County Affairs

1. Study the effectiveness and efficiency of current programs in Texas as well as best practices to determine how to decrease the risk and mitigate the impact of wildfires, floods, and other natural hazards in the wildland-urban interface. Examine the duties, performance, and jurisdictions of water districts, municipalities, Emergency Services Districts, other similar districts, and state offices like the Fire Marshal and Extension Services. Evaluate current regulations and identify best practices. Recommend approaches for hazard mitigation and response to natural disasters. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Urban Affairs)*
2. Identify and address potential gaps in counties' cybersecurity policies and ensure that personal information held by counties and other local governmental entities is secure.
3. Evaluate the Texas Commission on Jail Standards to determine if the Commission has the resources and structure to provide sufficient oversight, regulation, and enforcement over Texas county jails.
4. Review pretrial service and bonding practices throughout the state. Examine factors considered in bail and pre-trial confinement decisions, including the use of risk assessments; assess the effectiveness and efficiency of different systems in terms of cost to local governments and taxpayers, community safety, pretrial absconding rates and rights of the accused. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence)*
5. Study the implications and effects on law enforcement agencies and individuals that stem from the publication, republication, or other dissemination for public internet access of mug shots and other criminal history information regarding involvement of an individual in the criminal justice system.
6. Study statutorily mandated services provided by sheriffs and constables, and determine whether fee schedules allow cost recovery without placing undue burdens on recipients of those services.
7. Study the effect of Proposition 5 (SJR 17 (84R)) on the quality of private roadways in counties with a population of less than 7,500. Make recommendations to ensure the amendment does not result in undue competition between counties and private industry, and whether additional counties could benefit from a similar authorization.

8. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
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  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence

1. Examine the feasibility of utilizing GPS monitoring in protective orders as a tool to help reduce family violence; study programs and identify best practices focused on the intervention and prevention of family violence and consider statutory changes needed to further deter the offense of family violence and domestic abuse.
2. Review pretrial service and bonding practices throughout the state. Examine factors considered in bail and pre-trial confinement decisions, including the use of risk assessments; assess the effectiveness and efficiency of different systems in terms of cost to local governments and taxpayers, community safety, pretrial absconding rates and rights of the accused. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on County Affairs)*
3. Examine the use of asset forfeiture in this state, including data reporting on forfeiture actions and procedures from seizure through forfeiture in both contested and uncontested cases. Make recommendations for improving these systems that balance law enforcement needs, private property rights, and government transparency.
4. Study the constitutional requirements and local practices for the appointment of counsel to indigent defendants and the operation of innocence projects at the state's six public law schools. Compare different indigent defense plans and the innocence projects across the state and identify best practices for system management, including appointment methods and timing, cost effectiveness, timeliness of case disposition, compensation of counsel, quality of representation, and protection of procedural rights. Consider the effectiveness of each of the programs currently funded and the funding strategy as a whole.
5. Examine fees and revocations for those on probation and parole; examine effectiveness of fees imposed as a condition of probation and parole; study technical revocations in adult probation to identify drivers of revocations, disparities across the state, and strategies for reducing technical revocations while ensuring program effectiveness and public safety. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Corrections)*
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;

- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
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- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Culture, Recreation, & Tourism

1. Monitor the repair of state parks from damage caused by natural disasters, including flooding and wildfires. Review the status of securing federal relief funds to offset state costs. Study current programs in Texas, as well as programs in other states, to determine how to mitigate and prepare for potential future hazards in the wildland-urban interface.
2. Study and make recommendations regarding the improvement and expansion of the state parks system, pursuant to the passage of HB 158 (84R). Examine options such as conservation easements that can maintain private ownership and working lands while also preserving open space.
3. Study and make recommendations regarding decreasing illegal behavior, improving public safety, protecting private property rights, and protecting environmental quality on the San Marcos River.
4. Explore ways to promote and improve tourism, youth education and economic development through heritage, cultural, recreational, historical, and nature programs and preservation practices. Consider the long-term economic impact of state parks and state and local historic sites, the Texas Heritage Trails Program, the Alamo Mission Complex, and rural community revitalization in promoting recreation and heritage tourism.
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs

1. Explore how encroachment (environmental, technological, and architectural) impacts the vital missions of our military bases in Texas and which policies can be put into place while retaining respect for private property rights, economic growth, and the operation of military facilities.
2. Explore adding notifications to the Texas Real Estate Commission Seller Disclosure Form, as well as a notification to buyers of new home construction, in order to inform buyers that a property may be located near a military installation or a military airport and could be affected by high noise or its air installation compatible use zones, or other operations.
3. Study the long-term viability of the Hazlewood Act, in particular the legacy tuition exemption provision. Review eligibility requirements and recommend changes to ensure that the program can remain solvent. Examine the costs of the program to institutions of higher education, including foregone tuition, additional infrastructure, administrative and instructional support costs, and the financial impact on nonveteran/legacy students. Analyze and report any effect changes to this program would have for veterans and their families. Review current data systems related to this exemption and recommend improvements to ensure quality and accuracy of information. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Higher Education)*
4. Assess ways the State of Texas can further aid our federal military installations and their communities in order to minimize the negative consequences of a potential forthcoming BRAC round by the federal government.
5. Assess the continuing effect and the impact of sequestration and federal defense spending on Texas military bases, soldiers and their families, base communities, and Texas defense contractors. Identify solutions to address issues raised by federal policy.
6. Analyze whether unnecessary, redundant or punitive barriers exist for Texas Veterans pursuing educational or occupational careers upon completion of their military service. Study and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to allow veterans to receive the maximum college credit benefit for their service-related training in the armed forces.
7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:

- a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.



## House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development

1. Study the impacts of the declining price of oil and the continuously depressed price of natural gas on the Texas economy and the fiscal implications for the Texas budget. Consider impacts on local communities most dependent on oil and gas activity, including impacts on supporting economies such as retail, manufacturing, housing industries, etc. Recommend strategies for sustained energy development and workforce growth during times of depressed energy prices. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Energy Resources)*
2. Evaluate what local governments are doing to attract businesses to their communities and examine ways the state can leverage these practices and provide support. Include ways to improve local economic development programs to ensure a continued return on investment for taxpayers. In addition, study the authority, financial accountability, and types of statutorily allowed expenditures of economic development corporations. Provide analysis of 4A and 4B sales tax programs and determine if they are still meeting their intended purpose effectively.
3. Study opportunities and financial incentives for expansion and growth of small businesses in Texas. Examine if adequate resources and capital exist for small businesses. Include analysis of any regulatory or tax hurdles and provide recommendations to alleviate these burdens. Furthermore, review programs available to provide training and support to develop business management and finance skills. Consider financial incentives that would incentivize expansion of existing small businesses and growth for new small businesses.
4. Oversee implementation of HB 26 (84R). Review best practices for measuring success of economic development incentives. Consider general metrics or principles to aid the Legislature in determining viable and sustainable incentive programs that provide a "Return on Investment" for taxpayers.
5. Evaluate Texas's competitiveness with other states in recruiting and cultivating high-growth, high-tech industries, fostering economic development, and creating new jobs. Examine if current incentives and regulations assist or hinder the state's ability to compete with other states for economic growth and sustainability.
6. Examine if the state has an adequately diversified economic foundation and make recommendations on how to better achieve diversification. Look at ways to achieve balance between rural and urban economic development. Consider methods to improve workforce development initiatives and incentives that will improve re-employment after

layoffs and release from incarceration as well as methods to improve employment rates for recent graduates.

7. Evaluate how Texas can support shared economy growth in the state and include implications of such growth on existing, traditional businesses. Develop characteristics by which to classify "shared economy" business and determine how the state can ensure customer security and satisfaction as well as public health without enacting burdensome regulations.
8. Examine partnerships between higher education institutions, public school districts, and workforce that promote postsecondary readiness. Provide coordination recommendations to ensure vocational, career, and technical education programs are more accessible. Determine the most effective ways to invest in these partnerships and programs to direct at-risk students to stable career paths. Examine current rules and laws limiting employers from providing meaningful internships, apprenticeships, and other opportunities. Consider new methods to finance workforce training programs and associated assets in high schools and postsecondary schools, including ways to reduce or eliminate these costs and options to incentivize businesses to invest in training equipment for schools. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Public Education)*
9. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.
  - e. monitor the impact of major economic development legislation passed by the 84th Legislature.
  - f. include updates regarding transfer of duties and services from health and human services agencies to the Texas Workforce Commission, including implementation

of SB 208 and SB 212. Coordinate with the Legislative Oversight Committee constituted by SB 208, when necessary.

- g. evaluate the impact of incentive reform legislation, including the elimination of the Emerging Technology Fund and the transition of contracts to the Comptroller's office.

## House Committee on Elections

1. Examine the petition process for addressing local ordinances, the time necessary to prepare a petition, the collection of signatures, and the enforcement of local standards required for a petition to be valid. Make necessary recommendations to clarify the petition process to ensure accountability.
2. Study and develop recommendations to improve the integrity of Texas voter registration rolls in an effort to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date voter registration rolls, including but not limited to: the interstate voter registration crosscheck program SB 795 (84R), the process by which voters are removed from the registration rolls, the impact being removed from jury duty due to citizenship status has on an individual's voter registration, and ways to educate voters about updating their address when they move. Make appropriate legislative recommendations.
3. Evaluate options to improve the transparency of local bond elections, including but not limited to: current processes used to educate voters about how tax dollars will be spent, the time of year bond elections are held, and the description of bond proposals on the ballot. Make appropriate legislative recommendations.
4. Examine mail-ballot fraud in Texas. Review recent legislative efforts to address mail-ballot fraud in Texas as well as in other states, and make appropriate legislative recommendations.
5. Identify policy options to improve compliance with campaign finance reporting laws by local officials and candidates for local office.
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In addition to general oversight, the Committee should specifically:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs; and

- e. examine the methods by which local election officials are informed about changes to election law, and potential improvements that would assist these officials in learning of and complying with these changes.

## House Committee on Energy Resources

1. Study the impacts of the declining price of oil and the continuously depressed price of natural gas on the Texas economy and the fiscal implications for the Texas budget. Consider impacts on local communities most dependent on oil and gas activity, including impacts on supporting economies such as retail, manufacturing, housing industries, etc. Recommend strategies for sustained energy development and workforce growth during times of depressed energy prices. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development)*
2. Examine whether current statutes are adequate for the successful prosecution of oilfield theft. Consider the potential economic impact of increasing penalties for oil and gas theft and make recommendations establishing an effective law enforcement response.
3. Study current renewable energy regulations in Texas in order to more effectively balance federal, state and local regulations. Review the rights of Texas landowners who receive royalties, operating fees or monthly production payments to ensure fairness. Explore opportunities to maximize existing wind infrastructure toward the promotion of additional renewable energy development such as co-location for generation and transmission. In addition, consider policy solutions to incentivize collocation of simultaneous surface electricity and mineral energy production.
4. Study enforcement policies of the Railroad Commission of Texas. Consider the effectiveness of maximum fines as a deterrent of violation, the economic benefit of non-compliance, and greater accessibility to enforcement and complaint data for the public.
5. Review how the Mexican energy transformation has bolstered or diminished the energy economy in Texas. Explore opportunities that would encourage binational exchange and commerce of oil, gas, and oilfield materials. Discuss how a competitive market across the border will affect supply, market price, reliability of Texas oil, gas and energy markets, pipeline build-out as well as other economic factors such as workforce and local economy sustainability. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs)*
6. Determine if sufficient safety standards exist to protect groundwater contamination from disposal and injection wells. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Natural Resources)*

7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs;
  - e. monitor the impact of major energy legislation passed by the 84th Legislature including the implementation of regulated surface activity on oil and gas sites; and
  - f. review seismic research needs for the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology and any response to research findings by the Railroad Commission of Texas.

## House Committee on Environmental Regulation

1. Review the varied regulatory schemes for household hazardous waste disposal and recommend if more uniform guidelines could improve legal disposal habits. Determine any opportunities or incentives for consumers and retailers that would promote proper hazardous waste disposal in a cost-effective manner.
2. Review the compliance practices of surface water management entities with state rules regarding the aesthetic condition of waterways and the prevention or removal of human-made floating trash and debris. Provide recommendations on how state and local authorities could coordinate to better achieve these goals.
3. Monitor initiatives at the local level to regulate environmental issues. Consider if legislative changes are needed to resolve ambiguous regulations regarding the priority of state or local authority.
4. Study the effectiveness of current state programs to address scrap tire management and disposal methods, including the incidence of scrap tires and rubber debris on roadways and in watercourses. Include analysis of disposal fee collection and management as well as local funding allocations. Provide incentive or enforcement recommendations for ongoing clean-up efforts, abatement of identified tire dump sites, and means of ensuring accurate record keeping and reporting.
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs; and
  - e. monitor implementation of major environmental regulation legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, including recent reforms that provide for streamlined environmental permitting.



## House Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

1. Examine the ethics laws governing public officers and employees in this state and identify areas in which the laws are inadequate to maintain the public's trust and confidence in government. Assess whether required financial disclosures by those making governmental decisions adequately inform the public of potential conflicts of interest.
2. Study the contracting practices at major state agencies to determine if additional reforms are needed to maintain public confidence and trust in the expenditure of state funds.
3. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
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  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation

1. Identify and address potential gaps in the state's cybersecurity policies and ensure that personal information held by state agencies is secure. Address whether industry-accepted cybersecurity standards have been met by state agencies and state data centers and determine ways to promote a culture of cybersecurity awareness among users of state information resources.
2. Examine purchasing practices by state agencies to ensure such practices are efficient and transparent.
3. Study issues related to access to public information held outside of the custody or control of the governmental body by current or former officers or employees. Assess whether the Public Information Act's procedures for response to repetitious or redundant public information requests adequately protect small governmental bodies from the financial burdens imposed by such requests.
4. Study the use of commercial cloud computing by state agencies and institutions of higher education, including efficiencies surrounding a utility-based model, security impacts of transitioning to cloud computing, and cost-savings achieved by the utilization of commercial cloud computing services.
5. Review the process of dissemination by public entities of criminal records containing incomplete or inaccurate information, assess options for the subjects of such records to correct the misinformation specifically as it interferes with their ability to obtain employment, and determine the need for greater regulations over this process. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety)*
6. Study the impact of emerging technologies used by law enforcement and issues related to appropriate dissemination of the data provided by those technologies, including the impact of technologies on the operation of law enforcement agencies, the operation of the Public Information Act, and any appropriate safeguards for citizens and law enforcement officers who interact with those technologies or whose data is recorded. *(Joint charge with the House Select Committee on Emerging Issues in Texas Law Enforcement)*
7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;

- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Higher Education

1. Conduct a review of current funding formulas for community colleges. Specifically, focus on the elements of the instructional funding structure created by the 83rd Legislature: core operations, student success points, and contact hour funding and also the adequacy of state funding to sustain community colleges in light of the variance in resources available to individual colleges. Make recommendations for possible changes to the funding structure of community colleges or changes in the levels of current funding given the future workforce and higher educational needs of the state. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Appropriations)*
2. Review the state's community college system, including a discussion of taxing districts, service areas and any barriers to access. Examine the governance structure to ensure that campuses in multi campus districts that are outside of a college taxing district receive fair and equitable treatment. Review the accounting and reporting requirements of community college districts to ensure open government and transparency. Study ways community colleges could offer accessible and affordable baccalaureate degree programs in areas where the state has a significant workforce shortage without compromising quality of education and training. Make recommendations to maximize efficient student pathways and to offer more affordable educational opportunities such as through dual credit and early college start programs.
3. Study the affordability and accessibility of undergraduate college education in Texas, including a focus on middle-class students. Analyze the cost of attendance and tuition rates, comparing Texas institutions to their national peers. Review the availability and effectiveness of financial aid programs, and analyze student debt and default rates. Study and recommend ways to promote timely and cost efficient graduation.
4. Study current policies and initiatives at institutions of higher education, including community colleges, and make recommendations toward the prevention and elimination of sexual assault on college campuses. Identify, evaluate, and recommend reporting mechanisms to ensure that students have safe, appropriate, and accessible avenues for reporting sexual assault. Study the existing campus support systems in place for students who are victims of assault, and provide recommendations of best practices. Evaluate the effectiveness of current policies and make recommendations to support the prevention and elimination of sexual assault at institutions of higher education in Texas.
5. Study the long-term viability of the Hazlewood Act, in particular the legacy tuition exemption provision. Review eligibility requirements and recommend changes to ensure

that the program can remain solvent. Examine the costs of the program to institutions of higher education, including foregone tuition, additional infrastructure, administrative and instructional support costs, and the financial impact on nonveteran/legacy students. Analyze and report any effect changes to this program would have for veterans and their families. Review current data systems related to this exemption and recommend improvements to ensure quality and accuracy of information. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Defense & Veterans' Affairs)*

6. Review educational opportunities for non-traditional students, including adult learners who did not complete a secondary education credential. Recommend possible funding options to promote degree, credential, and/or certification completion. Develop recommendations to promote programs that simultaneously allow adult learners to complete degrees, credentials, and/or certifications for the purpose of promoting and increasing workforce ready graduates.
7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, including HB 700, SB 18, HB 100, and the new higher education strategic plan for Texas as proposed by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, 60x30TX. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

1. Review the functions of the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the state's natural disaster preparedness planning efforts to determine their effectiveness at addressing a growing range of threats. Identify best practices to ensure coordination between municipalities, counties, and state agencies.
2. Review the current penalties for operating a commercial motor vehicle that is in violation of state or federal safety standards. Evaluate the role of state and local law enforcement agencies in enforcing commercial motor vehicle standards, and make recommendations to ensure the safety of the traveling public.
3. Monitor the implementation of the "two steps, one sticker" program as it relates to passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, light duty trailers, and other vehicles. Recommend measures to ensure an efficient transition to this system and improve the ease of use for consumers.
4. Review the process of dissemination by public entities of criminal records containing incomplete or inaccurate information, assess options for the subjects of such records to correct the misinformation specifically as it interferes with their ability to obtain employment, and determine the need for greater regulations over this process. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation)*
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, including legislation that expanded the ability to carry handguns openly and on the campuses of institutions of higher education and legislation that allows for the compassionate use of certain medically prescribed oils for intractable disorders. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

### **House Committee on House Administration**

1. Review the artistic, social, and historical intent and significance of the statuary on the Capitol grounds, with particular focus on the historical context represented, and provide recommendations to the State Preservation Board.
2. Identify and address potential gaps in the Legislature's cybersecurity policies and ensure the governmental and personal information held by the legislative or legislative service agencies is secure. Address whether industry-accepted cybersecurity standards have been met by the legislative and legislative service agencies and determine ways to promote a culture of cybersecurity awareness among users of legislative information resources.

## House Committee on Human Services

1. Study the ten year anticipated growth, the geographic distribution, and the projected economic impact of aging Texans. Review state services and programs available to seniors, including independent living services, and determine the capacity and effectiveness of the programs. Determine if Texas is prepared for the increased demands of aging Texans.
2. Investigate the operation and regulation, including a review of standards, monitoring, and enforcement, of boarding homes in municipalities and unincorporated areas of counties. Identify communities that have adopted local standards, and review procedures for investigating and closing unlicensed facilities that are providing services which require state licensure. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Urban Affairs)*
3. Examine the Department of Family and Protective Services' policies and procedures, including prevention measures and resources, dedicated to eliminating child abuse and fatalities within the foster care system; explore ideas and strategies to increase the number of foster families and improve the delivery of services to children with high needs; review adoption policies, including disruptions, and make recommendations for possible improvements. Also, monitor and assess the continuation of foster care redesign.
4. Review the Health and Human Services Commission's Medicaid managed care organizations policies and procedures including a review of quality initiatives. Study contract management and assess the Vendor Drug Program drug formularies and current function. Identify the savings achieved by moving Medicaid into managed care. Determine what mechanisms or policies could be modified or strengthened to encourage increased participation or retention of health care providers in the Medicaid managed care system.
5. Study and evaluate the practice of youth being recruited into human trafficking. Specifically, evaluate the scope of the pipeline of potential victims from foster care, including methods and means used to lure youth into trafficking. Evaluate the types of services that are available to support children and youth in the conservatorship of DFPS who are victims of human trafficking. Make necessary recommendations to assist DFPS in identifying, recovering, serving, or caring for children and youth who are victims of human trafficking prior to placement in foster care. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues)*



6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Insurance

1. Examine available data on the cost of weather-related property insurance claims and the incidence of litigation of these claims. Study whether these data reveal trends or patterns over time and what the drivers of these trends might be. Identify impacts on the property insurance market and on consumers from claims litigation.
2. Examine the effectiveness of previous legislative efforts to encourage transparency and adequacy of health care networks, and of legislation to protect consumers from the negative impacts of disputes over out-of-network services. Study whether enhancements in transparency or regulation are necessary.
3. Evaluate the statutory penalty calculations under Texas's prompt payment laws regarding health care claims. Include an analysis of whether the proper benchmarks are used to establish penalties commensurate with an improper payment and the effect of the abolition of the Texas Health Insurance Pool on the use of funds collected under the statute.
4. Study the Texas credit for reinsurance statutes and how they affect market capacity, the cost of regulatory compliance, and the prospect of federal preemption of the state's ability to regulate reinsurance. Examine how alternative credit for reinsurance statutes in other jurisdictions function, including in the regulatory and legal systems of those jurisdictions.
5. Monitor the implementation of SB 900 (84R), including the rulemaking process by the Texas Department of Insurance and the adoption of an updated plan of operation by the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association.
6. Examine the effectiveness of residual market programs in the insurance industry in Texas, as well as approaches used in other states.
7. Review the implementation of HB 2929 (83R). Examine the bill's impact and compliance among affected health plans. Examine the costs incurred by the Employees Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, and any other affected state health plans as a result of the legislation.
8. Review current statutory provisions regarding the prosecution of workers' compensation insurance fraud. Examine ways to maintain or enhance fraud prosecution while ensuring a fair process for all parties involved.

9. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on International Trade & Intergovernmental Affairs

1. Identify vulnerabilities in Texas's trade infrastructure due to the threat of extreme weather events and natural disasters. Recommend options available to address and reduce any vulnerability.
2. Study how proposed trade agreements would affect Texas. Consider the implications any agreement may have on the freight infrastructure and ports throughout the state as well as any anticipated impact on Texas based industries, including expected job creation and economic expansion.
3. Evaluate ways in which Texas can continue to help promote our domestic agriculture products, both across the nation and internationally, and to strengthen our state's international ties for the purpose of exporting Texas food and fiber. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock)*
4. Review how the Mexican energy transformation has bolstered or diminished the energy economy in Texas. Explore opportunities that would encourage binational exchange and commerce of oil, gas, and oilfield materials. Discuss how a competitive market across the border will affect supply, market price, reliability of Texas oil, gas and energy markets, pipeline build-out as well as other economic factors such as workforce and local economy sustainability. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Energy Resources)*
5. Analyze recent data attributing the decline in domestic manufacturing to a consistent trade deficit caused by steady increases in net imports. Study how expanding trade and investing in manufacturing communities' partnerships can grow the state's skilled workforce and production as well as increase net exports and develop a trade balance. *(Joint charge with Committee on Business & Industry)*
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In addition to general oversight, the Committee should specifically:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;

- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs

## House Committee on Investments & Financial Services

1. Study the current state of cybersecurity of financial institutions in Texas. Review state and federal laws, and evaluate what additional steps need to be taken to make financial institutions in Texas more secure.
2. Examine the short-term lending industry in Texas. Study the adequacy of consumer access to credit and the effectiveness of consumer protections, specifically reviewing the consistency and coordination of state law with federal law and local ordinances. Review data-reporting requirements for credit-access businesses and make appropriate recommendations.
3. Evaluate what policies are currently in place to prevent the financial exploitation and financial abuse of aging Texans, and determine what changes need to be made to strengthen protections for this vulnerable population.
4. Study the impact on local communities when community banks are consolidated and how this changes the landscape of banking in Texas. Evaluate how the state can help expand charter opportunities in Texas.
5. Examine the current investment climate and resources available to businesses in Texas. Analyze the effectiveness of existing programs and whether current investment tools are bringing new businesses and new jobs to Texas, and determine whether the current programs are helping established businesses in Texas create jobs. Identify barriers to investment opportunities faced by businesses and investors. This analysis should include but not be limited to: angel investing, crowdfunding, micro-lending, private equity, venture capital, and mezzanine investing. Make appropriate recommendations to ensure investment tools in Texas continue to evolve to help bring jobs to Texas and meet the needs of new and existing businesses in Texas.
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In addition to general oversight, the Committee should specifically:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;

- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

1. Study the recently enacted Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act and determine how Texas's anti-trafficking laws could benefit from the Act. In addition, examine strategies for tracking the demand for commercial sex in Texas and the feasibility of creating a statewide trafficking reporting system.
2. Examine whether family law statutes and those affecting the parent-child relationship provide sufficient guidance to Texas judges as to the appropriate application of foreign law. Consider whether additional statutory provisions regarding application of foreign law could provide useful guidance while preserving judges' ability to consider the circumstances of each case and not needlessly prolonging litigation.
3. Evaluate recent efforts to make the court system more accessible for self-represented litigants, and make recommendations on how the courts can more effectively interact with unrepresented parties and increase access to legal information, assistance, and representation. Examine similar efforts in other states.
4. Examine issues related to jury service in Texas, including participation and response rates, the accuracy of jury wheel data, and possible methods to improve response and participation.
5. Study the implementation of the expedited action provisions of HB 274 (82R), and examine whether these provisions have been effective in encouraging the prompt and efficient resolution of cases.
6. Examine the rights, duties, remedies, and procedures available to consumers under Subchapter M, Chapter 2301, Texas Occupations Code (the Texas "Lemon Law"). Monitor the results of complaints filed under this subchapter and how these rights, duties, remedies, and procedures compare to those in other states.
7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;



- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Juvenile Justice & Family Issues

1. Study and evaluate the practice of youth being recruited into human trafficking. Specifically, evaluate the scope of the pipeline of potential victims from foster care, including methods and means used to lure youth into trafficking. Evaluate the types of services that are available to support children and youth in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) who are victims of human trafficking. Make necessary recommendations to assist DFPS in identifying, recovering, serving, or caring for children and youth who are victims of human trafficking prior to placement in foster care. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Human Services)*
2. Examine data collection and sharing practices between the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS), the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD), and local juvenile probation departments regarding youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Determine any new data that should be collected and make recommendations to improve data-sharing between DFPS, TJJD and local juvenile probation departments that will improve delivery of services and outcomes.
3. Examine evidence-based practices around early education and parenting support and education programs. Assess the current capacity of community-based parent support programs, including funding sources, curricula, effectiveness, systems of delivery and cost effectiveness. Monitor the implementation of HB 2630 (84R) and assess the availability of parenting support and education programs and resources around the state.
4. Monitor juvenile justice regionalization planning and implementation of SB 1630 (84R). Identify appropriate outcome measures to evaluate success of keeping more youth closer to home. Make recommendations to increase community and regional options and strengthen community services to reduce commitments to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department.
5. Review juvenile justice penalties and sanctions determined by or disallowed by age of the juvenile. Identify best practices in other states relating to juvenile age. Determine if alternatives or changes, based on age or other factors, are required to address penalties and sanctions in the juvenile age population.
6. Examine the Texas Family Code's treatment of grandparents in the parent-child relationship, including Chapters 32, 34, 153, 161, and 162 and suggest any changes that may be useful to address the growing population of grandparents and the best interests of Texas children and families.

7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Land & Resource Management

1. Study state preparedness and response to natural disasters including but not limited to: an evaluation of risks to the state, emergency planning efforts, first response efforts, coordination between the General Land Office, the State Emergency Operation Center, and other state, local, and federal resources. Make appropriate recommendations to ensure Texas has the proper programs, resources, and personnel in place to respond to natural disasters.
2. Examine the rate of erosion along Texas's coast and the effects of coastal erosion on public beaches, natural resources, coastal development, public infrastructure, and public and private property. Analyze current programs related to coastal erosion and examine their effectiveness. Make appropriate recommendations.
3. Study the effectiveness of the implementation of SB 695 (84R) and examine the feasibility and desirability of creating and maintaining a coastal barrier system.
4. Examine current regulatory authority available to municipalities in their extraterritorial jurisdiction. Study current annexation policies in Texas. Make necessary legislative recommendations to ensure a proper balance between development, municipal regulations, and the needs of citizens in Texas.
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, and specifically:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures

1. Identify all occupations licensed by the state to determine if they are necessary for public safety and health. Determine if any criminal penalties associated with licensure are unnecessarily punitive, recommend methods to improve reciprocity with other states, and determine if a mandatory certification program could be used in lieu of mandatory licensure.
2. Identify regulatory functions across all agencies and departments. Make recommendations for possible consolidation, and study any effort that could make processes more efficient, reduce regulatory burden, and make effective use of taxpayer funds.
3. Explore the increasing incidence of powdered alcohol, its impact on underage drinking, and regulations in other states that have appropriately addressed the various impacts of the product.
4. Examine the effect of Proposition 4 (HJR 73 (84R)) on charitable enterprises associated with professional sports teams. Review the statutory limitations to ensure that only qualified, established organizations are allowed to hold raffles authorized in the amendment and the proceeds of the raffles are used for charitable purposes.
5. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed or considered by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Natural Resources

1. Examine the regional and state water planning processes, with emphasis on the following:
  - a. the integration of HB 4 (83R);
  - b. the appropriate role of the state in ensuring that the process both supports regional goals and priorities and the water needs of the state as a whole, and how the state might encourage strategies to benefit multiple regions;
  - c. the structure and operation of the regional planning groups;
  - d. the interaction between the planning process and groundwater management;
  - e. whether the "drought of record" remains the appropriate benchmark for planning; and
  - f. any impediments to meeting the conservation, agricultural, and rural project goals set by HB 4 (83R), and possible new approaches to help meet these goals.
2. Evaluate the status of water markets in Texas and the potential benefits and challenges of expanded markets for water. Include an evaluation of greater interconnections between water systems through both engineered and natural infrastructure. Examine opportunities for incentives from areas receiving water supplies to areas providing those supplies that could benefit each area and the state as a whole.
3. Analyze the factors contributing to freshwater loss in the state, including evaporation, excess flows into the Gulf of Mexico, and infrastructure inefficiencies, and examine techniques to prevent such losses, including aquifer storage and recovery, off-channel storage, and infrastructure enhancements.
4. Evaluate the progress of seawater desalination projects near the Texas coast as a means of increasing water supplies and reducing strain on existing supplies, building on the work of the Joint Interim Committee to Study Water Desalination (83rd session). Examine the viability of the use of public-private partnerships and of methods by which the state might facilitate such a project.
5. Monitor the use of funds made available to Texas in relation to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Consider approaches to maximize the benefit of these funds for the long-term stability of the coastal economy and ecosystems.

6. Evaluate the status of legislation to encourage joint groundwater planning, including HB 200 (84R), and monitor ongoing legal developments concerning ownership and access to groundwater and the impact of these developments on property rights and groundwater management.
7. Determine the sources of water used by Texans in the production of food and fiber, and examine current water delivery methods and water conservation goals for agricultural use. Evaluate whether there are more efficient and effective water-usage management practices that could be employed in the agricultural industry, and determine the impact of crop insurance requirements on producers. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock)*
8. Determine if sufficient safety standards exist to protect groundwater contamination from disposal and injection wells. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Energy Resources)*
9. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs; and
  - e. review the surface water permitting process in Texas, including previous legislative attempts to modify the process, and assess the potential effects of these and other changes.

## House Committee on Pensions

1. Study the impact that fluctuations in global financial markets have had on public pension funds. Analyze assumed rates of return on investments, structures among asset classes, long-term and shorter-term investment goals, and make appropriate recommendations to ensure the investment structure of public pension funds are meeting fiduciary responsibilities.
2. Examine Texas pension funds' compliance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Financial Reporting Statements 67 and 68, and identify the effect the reporting requirements are having on the state's pension systems.
3. Examine the immediate and long-term fiscal impact to the state of the unfunded liabilities for the Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOS) as part of the Employees Retirement System of Texas (ERS). Make appropriate legislative recommendations.
4. Examine the fiscal and policy impacts of structural reforms that would increase state public pension plans' ability to achieve and maintain actuarial soundness. Evaluate the feasibility, costs, and benefits of utilizing one-time funding increases to reduce or eliminate unfunded liabilities.
5. Evaluate the investment performance benchmarks utilized by the state's pension funds and the impact portfolio diversification and short- and long-term market assumptions have had on achieving expected investment returns. Analyze the fee structure and investment strategy for various investment classes to ensure the costs are reasonable and competitive versus other large public and private pension trust funds.
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and



- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Public Education

1. Examine the effectiveness and efficiency of the Cost of Education Index (CEI). Determine if other mechanisms or methodologies could better achieve the intended purpose of this public school finance driver. Make recommendations for improvements or elimination of the CEI.
2. Evaluate the current state of school district facility needs and debt. Determine what constraints or limitations exist across the state, particularly in communities experiencing rapid growth, to fund facilities at the local level. Examine state laws, rules and best practice models for facility efficiency and long term taxpayer savings. Review the current facility funding programs, the Instructional Facilities Allotment (IFA) and the Existing Debt Allotment (EDA), to address school districts' facility needs and provide property tax relief.
3. Examine the accessibility to broadband services for schools, libraries, and institutions of higher education. Study the feasibility and affordability of providing scalable broadband to schools and other public institutions. Research federal and state funding opportunities to support increased access to broadband. Review innovative efforts by school districts to integrate technology in the classroom. Explore ways to enhance high-tech digital learning opportunities in the classroom to improve student achievement and fulfill future workforce demands.
4. Review current policies and rules to protect students from inappropriate teacher-student relationships. Examine efforts by the Texas Education Agency, school districts, law enforcement and the courts to investigate and prosecute educators for criminal conduct. Recommend needed improvements to promote student safety, including examining current criminal penalties, superintendent reporting requirements, teacher certification sanctions and the documentation provided in school district separation agreements. Review school employee training and educational efforts to promote student safety.
5. Examine partnerships between higher education institutions, public school districts, and workforce that promote postsecondary readiness. Provide coordination recommendations to ensure vocational, career, and technical education programs are more accessible. Determine the most effective ways to invest in these partnerships and programs to direct at-risk students to stable career paths. Examine current rules and laws limiting employers from providing meaningful internships, apprenticeships, and other opportunities. Consider new methods to finance workforce training programs and associated assets in high schools and postsecondary schools, including ways to reduce

or eliminate these costs and options to incentivize businesses to invest in training equipment for schools. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development)*

6. Review the state's current education policies and initiatives regarding middle grades. Make recommendations to ensure a comprehensive, research-based state strategy for preparing students at the middle grades for high school retention, success, and postsecondary readiness. This review should include an examination of school-based strategies and best practices that encourage at-risk youth to finish school.
7. Review current public education programs that address the needs of high performing students. Identify the adequacy of these programs statewide in meeting the needs of this specific student group and explore additional means to promote high quality programs designed to meet the educational needs of these students. Study ways to increase the recognition of the performance of higher performing students on test-based and non-test based measures. Examine whether the current and proposed state accountability systems adequately promote districts' addressing the needs of students across the performance spectrum, including those students significantly outperforming their peers. Recommend whether the academic performance of high achieving students should be specifically addressed as a separate indicator in the accountability system.
8. Study ways to increase parental choice in education, and review the successes and failures of school choice programs in other states. Examine the benefits and costs of implementing such a program in Texas. Recommend whether an expansion of school choice in Texas is needed, and suggest ways to ensure that any school receiving public support is held accountable for its academic and financial performance.
9. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, specifically including HB 4, HB 743, HB 2205, and SB 149. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and

- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Public Health

1. Study and assess the state's preparedness for public health threats and emergencies including responding to natural disasters and highly infectious diseases. Review current protocols and examine public health resources to determine if they are sufficient. Identify weaknesses within the public health response framework and make recommendations for improvements.
2. Study the impact of chronic disease in Texas and identify the major regional chronic health challenges. Review the types of health data collected by the state related to chronic disease and how the data is utilized to improve health care. Study state programs targeting chronic disease, including the Texas Health Improvement Network, and identify the direct and indirect costs associated with obesity, tobacco, and other related chronic health conditions including impacts to Medicaid, Employees Retirement System, Teacher Retirement System, University of Texas System, and Texas A&M University System. Identify public health interventions for chronic disease and preventative healthcare services that improve health outcomes and reduce cost.
3. Examine the history of telemedicine in Texas and the adequacy of the technological infrastructure for use between Texas healthcare providers. Review the benefits of using telemedicine in rural and underserved areas and current reimbursement practices. Explore opportunities to expand and improve the delivery of healthcare and identify methods to increase awareness by provider groups, including institutions of higher education, and payers of telemedicine activities being reimbursed in Texas.
4. Review programs focused on improving birth outcomes including evaluating the effectiveness and identifying any cost avoidance associated with them. Study barriers pregnant women face enrolling in services and receiving regular prenatal care. Identify factors, including substance abuse, associated with preterm birth and review services available for mothers postpartum.
5. Study the trauma system in the State of Texas including financing, service delivery, planning, and coordination between Emergency Medical Services providers, Trauma Services Area Regional Advisory Councils, The Emergency Medical Task Force, and hospitals. Determine strengths and weaknesses including challenges for rural areas of the state. Make recommendations to reduce any duplicated services, improve the coordination of services, and advance the delivery of trauma services in Texas. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Appropriations)*

6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Special Purpose Districts

1. Study best practices in the creation, management, and expansion of Municipal Management Districts (MMD) and/or Improvement Districts in the state. Consider the economic impact of the taxation or assessment of local property owners through bonds issued by MMDs. The committee should specifically examine the mechanisms by which MMDs expand or limit their powers, MMD consistency in the use of eminent domain powers, transparency in MMD reporting requirements, and the mechanisms for voter approval of the creation and dissolution of MMDs. Develop and recommend standards for future district creation.
2. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of all special purpose districts under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to special district laws to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding special purpose districts that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether special purpose districts are operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline the purpose of multiple districts created within the same area, while maintaining the mission of special purpose districts.

## House Committee on State Affairs

1. Study if the state's infrastructure is adequately prepared for disasters, whether man-made or natural. Include preparedness assessments of the maintenance and recovery of vital infrastructure such as transportation and utility systems.
2. Examine procedures regarding contract monitoring, compliance, performance evaluation and notification requirements for state contracting procedures. Include recommendations to determine a "best value" for the state and prevent conflicts of interests. Evaluate guidelines regarding the state's participation in contracts funded by grants and suggest methods to ensure the best use of taxpayer funds.
3. Determine if the state has sufficient authority and the tools to ensure continued operation of the state's government and economy under existing budgetary and statutory authority. Make contingency recommendations to prevent collapse in the event of an economic disaster.
4. Study the policies used by research and medical entities to adhere to the highest ethical standards for acquiring human fetal tissue for medical and scientific purposes. Specifically, review compliance to ensure informed consent and that all state and federal laws sufficiently respect the dignity of the human body. Study criteria for which persons have standing when giving consent for the use of fetal remains and to investigate potential violations of state laws regulating organ/tissue donation. Determine whether additional disclosure and reporting requirements are necessary to ensure moral and ethical research practices. Review practices and statutes in other states regarding fetal tissue harvesting.
5. Study support mechanisms for the Small and Rural Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier - Universal Service Fund. Consider alternative funding mechanisms as well as necessary statutory changes to ensure reasonable cost of basic local phone service in high cost, rural areas without expanding the size of the Texas Universal Service Fund.
6. Evaluate the administrative process used to determine utility rates. Consider if sufficient opportunities exist to ensure customer representation. Also determine if additional legislative guidance is needed to ensure public notification and participation.
7. Examine how the Public Utility Commission of Texas, when applicable, and utility providers, whether vertically integrated, privately owned, or municipally owned, can ensure consumer protection regarding metering devices for water, gas, and electricity service. Review recent examples of inaccurate or confusing billings and offer



recommendations on appropriate consumer recourse and appeal. In addition, assess utility procedures regarding meter installation.

8. Examine state and local laws applicable to undocumented immigrants throughout the State of Texas and analyze the effects of those laws in conjunction with federal immigration laws and the policies and practices followed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
9. Examine payroll deductions from state or political subdivision employees for the purpose of labor organization membership dues or fees as well as charitable organization and nonprofit contributions. Determine if this process is an appropriate use of public funds.
10. Monitor the impact of major State Affairs legislation passed by the 84th Legislature, including updates regarding recent contracting reforms. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and
  - d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Transportation

1. Study the Texas Department of Transportation's role in responding to natural disasters, specifically reviewing contraflow lane plans for major routes and technology that can minimize evacuation and travel times.
2. Examine the current framework for designating a project as a tolled road. Consider ways to reduce or eliminate the role of tolled roads in providing congestion relief given recent transportation funding measures approved by the Legislature.
3. Review the state's statutory and budgetary requirements for design-build contracts, including cost and quantity restrictions, and consider the effect of removing those restrictions.
4. Review the functions of all departments in the Texas Department of Transportation related to alternative modes of transportation and make recommendations to improve their efficiency.
5. Evaluate local transportation funding mechanisms authorized by the state, such as transportation reinvestment zones, to determine their effectiveness. Identify methods for local entities to utilize these tools to improve congestion.
6. Study the current statutory requirements for utility relocation and recommend modifications that will minimize delay times while protecting taxpayers and ratepayers.
7. Review the areas currently designated as oversize or overweight corridors. Make recommendations to ensure that consistent measures are used to determine fee amounts, bond requirements, and gross weights allowable. Identify measures that may be taken to protect the quality of the roadway.
8. Examine innovative transportation technologies, such as autonomous vehicles, to evaluate potential cost savings and ways in which they may reduce traffic congestion, promote safety, and increase economic productivity.
9. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
  - c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner; and

- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Urban Affairs

1. Study the effectiveness and efficiency of current programs in Texas as well as best practices to determine how to decrease the risk and mitigate the impact of wildfires, floods, and other natural hazards in the wildland-urban interface. Examine the duties, performance, and jurisdictions of water districts, municipalities, Emergency Services Districts, other similar districts, and state offices like the Fire Marshal and Extension Services. Evaluate current regulations and identify best practices. Recommend approaches for hazard mitigation and response to natural disasters. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on County Affairs)*
2. Identify and address potential gaps in cities' cybersecurity policy and ensure that personal information held by cities and other municipal entities is secure.
3. Examine whether changes are needed to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs's (TDHCA) low-income tax credit program to ensure compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs et al. v. Inclusive Communities Project, Inc., et al.* on fair housing in Texas.
4. Review existing housing programs and policies in Texas to determine how to best comply with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's new Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rules.
5. Monitor and evaluate the availability of low-income housing in the State of Texas. Identify best practices to ensure that the agencies and local providers receiving state or federal funds for low-income housing are maximizing the number of units of housing available to Texans who need this program.
6. Investigate the operation and regulation, including a review of standards, monitoring, and enforcement, of boarding homes in municipalities and unincorporated areas of counties. Identify communities that have adopted local standards, and review procedures for investigating and closing unlicensed facilities that are providing services which require state licensure. *(Joint charge with the House Committee on Human Services)*
7. Conduct legislative oversight and monitoring of the agencies, including the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementing of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:

- a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
- b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;
- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.

## House Committee on Ways & Means

1. Review aspects of the property tax system that contribute to rising property tax levies and taxpayer dissatisfaction. Examine whether the current system allows taxpayers meaningful participation in determining local property tax rates. Explore changes to the appraisal process that could improve the accuracy of appraisals.
2. Assess the impact of a repeal of the franchise tax on the state's economy and on revenue stability for state government. The assessment should include a dynamic analysis of the economic impact.
3. Assess the impact of ongoing tax litigation, including *American Multi-Cinema, Inc. v. Hegar*, on the state's revenue stability.
4. Examine whether issues raised in the State Auditor's review of Chapter 313 agreements warrant action by the Legislature to improve accountability, transparency, and compliance. Examine special issues raised by Chapter 313 projects covering more than one school district.
5. Review current law and policy regarding sales and use taxes on information services and data processing services.
6. Assess the competitiveness of Texas's tax structure for marine goods and services as compared to other states.
7. Review the administrative hearings and judicial processes for contested state tax and fee cases.
8. Monitor implementation of the increased residence homestead exemption as approved by the voters in Proposition 1 (SJR 1 (84R)). Determine the amount of property tax relief for homeowners, taking into account increases in appraisals and local property tax rates. Additionally, determine the cost to the state to make up the revenue loss for school districts.
9. Monitor the agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction and the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 84th Legislature. Monitor the administration of taxes to ensure that it is consistent, fair, efficient, and expeditious.

## House Select Committee on Emerging Issues in Texas Law Enforcement

1. Study body camera policies and best practices to develop guidelines available for reference by agencies utilizing the funding grants provided by the state. Accordingly, review the issues of data storage, records retention, the Public Information Act, and evidentiary procedures. Determine if there is a need to expand on the minimum standards set by SB 158 (84R).
2. Study the impact of emerging technologies used by law enforcement and issues related to appropriate dissemination of the data provided by those technologies, including the impact of technologies on the operation of law enforcement agencies, the operation of the Public Information Act, and any appropriate safeguards for citizens and law enforcement officers who interact with those technologies or whose data is recorded.  
*(Joint charge with the House Committee on Government Transparency & Operation)*
3. Review the training and professional needs of law enforcement in the State of Texas, including the award and sufficiency of law enforcement training grants, methods of training, and types of training, including training in emerging or changing threats such as human trafficking, mental health crisis and confrontation, organized crime, and critical incident shooting.
4. Examine and address emerging use of new technologies by law enforcement in policing and community interaction, including advanced technologies used by federal agencies and the U.S. military, and the rise of various information technology collection and sorting systems.
5. Determine any changes necessary to assure that each Texas law enforcement officer is provided with the necessary and appropriate tools and protocols to increase public safety of all Texans, including the safety of Texas peace officers.
6. Conduct legislative oversight and monitor the implementation of relevant legislation, including implementation of the database established by HB 1036 (84R), passed by the 84th Legislature. In conducting this oversight, the committee should:
  - a. consider any reforms to state agencies to make them more responsive to Texas taxpayers and citizens;
  - b. identify issues regarding the agency or its governance that may be appropriate to investigate, improve, remedy, or eliminate;

- c. determine whether an agency is operating in a transparent and efficient manner;  
and
- d. identify opportunities to streamline programs and services while maintaining the mission of the agency and its programs.



### **House Select Committee on State & Federal Power & Responsibility**

1. Consider the extent to which state regulation and policy are influenced by mandates attached to federal funding. Specifically, identify areas in which benefits to federal funding are outweighed by compliance costs at the state level and areas in which federal mandates may be unconstitutional, and examine the success or failure of efforts by other states to cut ties to federal funding.
2. Identify the resolutions approved by the Legislature during recent legislative sessions calling on the federal government to take certain actions, and determine what, if any, actions were taken by the federal government pursuant to such resolutions. Study how these resolutions could be made more effective, and what other avenues may be available to the Legislature as an alternative to or in addition to these resolutions.
3. Examine the status of Texas statutes prohibiting or restricting investment in foreign nations. Determine whether and to what extent Texas has the authority to continue or renew its own economic sanctions in light of recent and potential future actions by the federal government.