



Capitol Update 1-31-13

Greetings from your Texas Capitol!

We're only a few weeks into the 140-day legislative session, but things are already moving at a fast pace. In the coming weeks I will be filing a number of bills on issues ranging from higher education to veterans issues to tax-increase constraints. My staff and I have worked hard to develop a legislative package that addresses significant matters impacting Senate District 22 and the state, and I'm looking forward to promoting these issues throughout the session.

Speaking of the legislative session, don't forget—the Texas Senate and House of Representatives is composed of the men and women who represent YOU in Austin. So as always, I encourage you to check in on what's happening day-to-day here at the Capitol by watching live video coverage of [House](#) and [Senate](#) activity.

I always enjoy this opportunity to provide topical and pertinent information to you, the citizens I serve, when I am unable to provide it in person. I sincerely hope you find it to be useful and beneficial, as communicating with constituents is one of my top priorities.

'Campus Personal Protection Act' (Senate Bill 182)

The first bill I proudly filed for this legislative session was the Campus Personal Protection Act. Designed to affirm an individual's U.S. and Texas Constitutional rights, SB 182 states that concealed handgun licensees (CHLs) may lawfully carry their self-defense handgun on the campuses of public institutions of higher education in Texas. The bill applies similarly to private institutions, yet upholds their private property rights by allowing them to create prohibitions and rules related to CHLs on campus. SB 182 also ensures that CHLs may not enter areas on campus that existing laws already prohibit, such as K-12 educational centers, hospital facilities, sports stadiums, etc. I authored this bill because we cannot continue to ignore the God-given, constitutional rights of law-abiding, adult Texans simply because they have stepped onto a college or university campus.

Drawing of a Four-Year Term

Last week I joined my Senate colleagues in drawing for two- or four-year terms, as is required by law after each decennial redistricting. The Secretary of the Senate called members one at a time to draw one of 31 unmarked envelopes—16 envelopes denoting four-year terms, 15 denoting two-year terms—and I can report

that I drew one of the four-year terms. Though the 2014 election cycle will be the first in which my name will not appear on the ballot, I can assure the citizens of Senate District 22 that I will remain fully accessible to each of you as I continue to travel the district and work rigorously on your behalf.

Committee Assignments

Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, President of the Texas Senate, recently made committee assignments for the 83rd Legislative Session. I was pleased to learn that I will continue serving as Vice-chair of the Veterans Affairs & Military Installations Committee, and that I will remain a member of the Higher Education, Economic Development and Government Organization Committees. Two special committees of which I will remain a member are the Joint Task Force on Human Trafficking and the Sunset Advisory Commission. You can read about all the Senate Committee assignments by [clicking here](#).

Texas Senate Honorary Page Program

The Texas Senate Honorary Page Program gives students (ages 6-18) an inside look at the lawmaking procedures of their state government. Students travel to the State Capitol and work under the direct supervision of an adult Senate Messenger for a half-day; either 9-12 or 1-4. Duties include but are not limited to: working on the Senate Floor during a legislative session, making deliveries to Senate offices, assisting with assignments from Senate offices such as making copies, attending legislative committee hearings, etc. There are a limited number of pages per shift, as well as certain dates that cannot be scheduled. As such, I highly encourage parents to contact Barbara Erickson in my Austin office (512-463-0122) to secure a date and time for their child to take part in this unique opportunity.

In the next Capitol Update, I'm excited to share with you details about some of the other legislation I'm filing this session, and much more. In the meantime, please take a moment to follow us on Twitter and 'Like' us on Facebook. My staff and I use these two social media outlets as a way to give quick day-to-day updates on what we're doing here in Austin.

As I noted in my January 13 Capitol Update, we are just at the start of session, and there is still a great deal of work to be done. I see each day in the Capitol as an opportunity to uphold the principles and policies I have always espoused. I continue to appreciate the privilege to represent the citizens of Senate District 22, and it remains my distinct honor to serve each of you in this capacity.

God Bless,



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