All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 41	Relating to the confidentiality of home address information of certain public officials and their spouses and to the immunity from liability of certain agencies
HB 76	Relating to the collection and analysis of information relating to certain sexual offenses.
HB 88	Relating to the evacuation and sheltering of service animals and household pets in a disaster
HB 109	Relating to eligibility for and information regarding the child health plan program
HB 178	Relating to the issuance and renewal of certain licenses for junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards
HB 195	Relating to the transfer of certain abandoned or forfeited property to county or municipal agencies or school districts
HB 198	Relating to the capacity of certain correctional facilities operated under contracts between the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and a private vendor or county commissioners court.
HB 246	Relating to reports on cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus infection
HB 343	Relating to notification of voter registrar by probate court clerk of recent deaths
HB 413	Relating to erecting certain signs on certain rights-of-way; providing penalties
HB 417	Relating to guardianship matters and proceedings.
HB 423	Relating to requiring that medical examiners and justices of the peace report certain deaths that result from a motor vehicle accident to the Texas Department of Public Safety
HB 425	Relating to the instructional requirements for education services provided in a juvenile residential facility operated by a juvenile board or under contract with the Texas Youth Commission.
HB 431	Relating to the release of a defendant convicted of a state jail felony on medically recommended intensive supervision.
HB 438	Relating to the limitation on the maximum percentage increase in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 485	Relating to the collection and amount of restitution authorized to be collected from persons charged with or convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses.
HB 492	Relating to the removal, transfer, or exclusion of territory in emergency services districts
HB 518	Relating to the detention and examination of certain persons for whom an application for emergency detention or a motion for an order of protective custody has been filed.
HB 530	Relating to the operation and funding of drug court programs
HB 539	Relating to the regulation of fireworks and fireworks displays
HB 604	Relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of certain land used for wildlife management under a conservation easement
HB 621	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of tangible personal property held temporarily at a location in this state for assembling, storing, manufacturing, processing, or fabricating purposes
HB 681	Relating to postconviction forensic testing.
HB 730	Relating to the notice of a municipality's or county's intention to issue certificates of obligation
HB 732	Relating to recording requirements for certain documents
HB 735	Relating to the discontinuation of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund
HB 764	Relating to the collection of a family protection fee
HB 892	Relating to the timely deposit of county funds received by the county treasurer
HB 923	Relating to the persons to whom an assessor for a taxing unit is required to mail an ad valorem tax bill
HB 1044	Relating to the delivery of voter registration certificates

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 1086	Relating to the discharge of an alternate juror in a criminal case
HB 1141	Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in local tax appraisal records regarding current or former peace officers and regarding a current or former employee of a prosecutor's office or of certain offices with jurisdiction over
HB 1204	Relating to donations of juror reimbursements
HB 1210	Relating to a refund of an overpayment or erroneous payment of ad valorem taxes
HB 1260	Relating to exempting certain military personnel from certain state and local governmental fees
HB 1267	Relating to appointment procedures concerning and compensation and reimbursement for counsel appointed to represent indigent defendants in certain criminal and post-conviction proceedings and to the creation of an indigent defense representation fund
HB 1268	Relating to the award of attorney's fees under the terms of certain contracts with a governmental entity
HB 1295	Relating to filing fees for certain actions filed in a court with probate jurisdiction.
HB 1303	Relating to certain requirements applicable to orders of expunction or nondisclosure of criminal history records and to the protection of information that is the subject of one of those orders; providing penalties
HB 1314	Relating to the regulation and financing of water and sewer utility systems in certain counties; providing a civil penalty
HB 1355	Relating to dog attacks on persons; creating an offense
HB 1380	Relating to court security and the use of money in courthouse security and municipal court building security funds
HB 1401	Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 402 regarding road projects; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
HB 1420	Relating to the removal of property from county roads by certain counties
HB 1446	Relating to the period for preserving precinct election records

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 1471	Relating to resource sharing among certain political subdivisions, including regional planning commissions, during a disaster
HB 1493	Relating to the establishment and operation of a severe storm research and planning center
HB 1497	Relating to the consequences of the failure by a person requesting information under the public information law to timely respond to certain written communications from a governmental body
HB 1522	Relating to parking a commercial motor vehicle on certain streets
HB 1560	Relating to liability of a governmental unit for certain recreational activities
HB 1572	Relating to an exception from civil discovery for certain records of a law enforcement agency
HB 1579	Relating to reimbursement for health care services provided at certain times to persons enrolled in the Medicaid managed care program.
HB 1585	Relating to administrative penalties imposed by a public health district or a county for violations of health and safety provisions relating to retail food service
HB 1587	Relating to participation and credit in, contributions to, and benefits and administration of the Texas County and District Retirement System
HB 1610	Relating to the requirement that a judge release on community supervision certain defendants convicted of certain state jail felonies.
HB 1623	Relating to certain offenses, fees, and penalties imposed for operating a motor vehicle or vessel in violation of law and to the use of the money collected.
HB 1678	Relating to the operation of a system of community supervision.
HB 1694	Relating to the boundaries of the Airline Improvement District in Harris County
HB 1717	Relating to the identification requirements for any device with the appearance of a fire hydrant that is nonfunctioning or otherwise unavailable for use in a fire emergency
HB 1763	Relating to the Harris County Board of Protective Services for Children and Adults.

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 1780	Relating to the audit of a county jail's commissary operations
HB 1852	Relating to the authority of a county to regulate the installation and use of lighting in certain areas
HB 1886	Relating to the procurement methods of certain political subdivisions and certain other entities for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of certain projects.
HB 1887	Relating to the punishment for and prevention of the offense of burglary of vehicles
HB 1910	Relating to the seizure of personal property for the payment of ad valorem taxes
HB 1919	Relating to health benefit plan coverage for treatment for certain brain injuries
HB 1921	Relating to the use of certain devices in a polling place
HB 1928	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain travel trailers
HB 1960	Relating to access to records or files concerning a child who is subject to the juvenile justice system.
HB 2061	Relating to the acquisition or disclosure of the social security number of a living person by a governmental body, including by a district or county clerk
HB 2090	Relating to the creation of a local government transportation corporation by a hospital district or hospital authority
HB 2168	Relating to the powers of municipal and county hospital authorities and hospital districts created under general or special law
HB 2188	Relating to the exception of certain ad valorem tax appraisal information from required disclosure under the public information law
HB 2210	Relating to law enforcement reports concerning the commission of certain offenses and the provision of certain information in those reports to victims of those offenses
HB 2248	Relating to the ability of a governmental body under the public information law to request a redetermination from the attorney general on dismissal of litigation relating to the same issue

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 2267	Relating to the suspension of sentence and deferral of final disposition in certain misdemeanor cases.
HB 2283	Relating to the suspension or removal of a deputy sheriff
HB 2359	Relating to the collection of certain filing fees by statutory probate courts for deposit in the judicial fund, the use of those deposits, and the remittance of the excess of those deposits.
HB 2365	Relating to financial accounting and reporting for this state and political subdivisions of this state.
HB 2385	Relating to the collection of fees by a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney for certain expenses related to pretrial intervention programs
HB 2391	Relating to the appearance of certain misdemeanor offenders before a magistrate.
HB 2439	Relating to the functions of local mental health and mental retardation authorities.
HB 2462	Relating to providing for the sale of certain gambling equipment seized by a law enforcement agency
HB 2468	Relating to the filing of financial statements by justices of the peace and candidates for justice of the peace in certain counties
HB 2489	Relating to registration and reporting requirements for lobbyists
HB 2524	Relating to the establishment of a pilot project to construct a public safety triage and detoxification unit and the provision of mental health and substance abuse treatment
HB 2541	Relating to emergency response costs and certain other requirements concerning solid waste facilities, including recycling facilities
HB 2564	Relating to the authority of a governmental body to require the payment of a charge before complying with certain requests for the production of public information or for copies of public information
HB 2591	Relating to county improvement of subdivision roads
HB 2618	Relating to authorizing political subdivisions to lease property owned by the political subdivision to other governmental entities without following competitive purchasing procedures

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 2625	Relating to the determination of prevailing wage rates in Texas counties
HB 2641	Relating to the selection of depositories for certain county funds, including funds held by a county or district clerk
HB 2653	Relating to emergency services districts
HB 2683	Relating to funding for programs that support the development of healthy marriages or the strengthening of families.
HB 2685	Relating to certain requirements for issuance of a marriage license, including an optional premarital education course.
HB 2691	Relating to grants provided to local guardianship programs.
HB 2694	Relating to the disaster contingency fund
HB 2703	Relating to interference with the duties of a public health professional; providing a criminal penalty
HB 2823	Relating to provisional voting by a person who applied for an early voting ballot by mail
HB 2884	Relating to juvenile delinquency; providing penalties.
HB 2926	Relating to using county election precincts in every county for any election held on the November uniform election date
HB 2944	Relating to permits for erecting certain outdoor signs or advertising
HB 2967	Relating to a performance bond required of a statutory probate court judge.
HB 2991	Relating to the control of access to highways within certain counties
HB 3011	Relating to the creation of ship channel security districts by certain populous counties

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 3105	Relating to a program allowing for countywide voting locations in certain elections
HB 3138	Relating to the authority to operate a mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment in certain counties
HB 3143	Relating to electioneering near a polling place
HB 3191	Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property used to provide low-income housing
HB 3195	Relating to the requirements of a municipal or county budget that raises more property taxes than in the previous year's budget
HB 3210	Relating to the authority of an investigator employed by a prosecuting attorney
HB 3211	Relating to access to criminal history record information by certain county attorneys.
HB 3270	Relating to authorizing the issuance of anticipation notes or other obligations by issuers located along the Gulf Coast in the event of an emergency.
HB 3439	Relating to county fiscal matters
HB 3495	Relating to the contents of the notice of the meeting at which the governing body of a taxing unit will vote on a proposed ad valorem tax rate that will result in a tax revenue increase
HB 3514	Relating to the disclosure by the Texas Department of Public Safety to appraisal districts of driver's license records and personal identification certificate records, or certain information in those records, for use in determining an individual's eligibi
HB 3517	Relating to competitive purchasing requirements for local governments.
HB 3560	Relating to transferring to the comptroller the duties of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission that do not primarily concern state facilities and renaming the commission the Texas Facilities Commission
HB 3581	Relating to county authority to abate nuisances
HB 3672	Relating to mobile food units in certain populous counties; providing a penalty.

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
HB 3692	Relating to the denial or revocation of bail for a person who violates certain court orders or conditions of bond related to victim or community safety and to the performance of community service by certain persons charged with certain alcohol-related off
HB 3694	Relating to the enterprise zone program
HB 3732	Relating to the implementation of advanced clean energy projects and other environmentally protective projects in this state
HB 3982	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 494; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain
HB 3988	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 438; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain
HB 3989	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 437; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain
HB 4004	Relating to the creation of the International Management District; providing authority to impose assessments and taxes and to issue bonds
HB 4017	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 510; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain
HB 4018	Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 416; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
HB 4038	Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 473; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
HB 4045	Relating to the creation of the Towne Lake Management District; providing authority to levy an assessment, impose a tax, and issue bonds
HB 4080	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 509; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain
HB 4110	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 9; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
HB 4134	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 10; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
HJR 40	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation is limited to the lesser of the most recent market value of the residence homestead as determined

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
SB 11	Relating to homeland security and protection of the public, including protections against human trafficking; providing penalties
SB 61	Relating to the performance of the functions of the governing body of a political subdivision in the event of a disaster
SB 66	Relating to cattle guards constructed on county roads
SB 90	Relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide a ballot by electronic mail to military personnel serving overseas
SB 91	Relating to point-of-sale health warnings for tobacco products
SB 143	Relating to fetal and infant mortality review and health warnings related to fetal and infant mortality; imposing a penalty.
SB 191	Relating to the demolition of certain sports and community venues.
SB 204	Relating to certain electronic medical records systems.
SB 229	Relating to the seal of a district court and the signature of the district clerk used on process issued by the court.
SB 235	Relating to the composition of a county bail bond board
SB 237	Relating to the supreme court's adoption of rules on the electronic filing of documents in civil cases in justice of the peace courts.
SB 254	Relating to the sale of live animals in certain counties on a public highway or road, the right-of-way of a public highway or road, or a parking lot
SB 288	Relating to the reporting of health care-associated infections at certain health care facilities and the creation of an advisory panel.
SB 336	Relating to the notice required for the lease of real property by certain counties when responding to particular emergency circumstances
SB 351	Relating to notice procedures for abatement of certain nuisances

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(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
SB 361	Relating to the deadline for submitting a federal postcard application to the early voting clerk
SB 369	Relating to an offense involving a motor vehicle with an altered or obscured license plate
SB 415	Relating to a risk assessment program for Type 2 diabetes and the creation of the Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Program Advisory Committee
SB 426	Relating to qualification for an ad valorem tax exemption for property used to provide low-income or moderate-income housing in the event of a change in ownership of the property as a result of a foreclosure sale
SB 493	Relating to the creation of a joint elections administrator; providing penalties
SB 560	Relating to reimbursement for and counseling related to jury service.
SB 600	Relating to compensation paid to statutory county court judges and certain court-related fees.
SB 618	Relating to the jurisdiction of and representation in the county, justice, and small claims courts in civil matters.
SB 671	Relating to territory included in, and the validation of acts of, the Greater Southeast Management District
SB 680	Relating to certain swimming pools as public nuisances in the unincorporated areas of counties
SB 699	Relating to the use of only parts of driver's license and social security numbers in certain court documents
SB 758	Relating to child protective services; providing penalties
SB 778	Relating to the use of certain technology to conduct certain mental health proceedings.
SB 792	Relating to the authority of certain counties and other entities with respect to certain transportation projects and to comprehensive development agreements with regard to such projects; authorizing the issuance of bonds; providing penalties
SB 813	Relating to child protective services

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
SB 821	Relating to the use of certain excess contributions to the judicial fund that are remitted to certain counties.
SB 831	Relating to energy savings performance contracts.
SB 867	Relating to procedures regarding criminal defendants who are or may be persons with mental illness or mental retardation.
SB 878	Relating to residential property exemptions from taxes, assessments, and impact fees in the Greater East End Management District
SB 909	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee, and to the functions of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.
SB 932	Relating to the required contents of a voter registration certificate
SB 948	Relating to the waiver of penalty and interest on a taxing unit's delinquent payment of its allocation of the budget of an appraisal district
SB 968	Relating to financing tools for certain obligations for public improvements.
SB 1106	Relating to county accounting procedures regarding certain audits, debts, and records
SB 1119	Relating to the authority of a local authority to implement a photographic traffic signal enforcement system; providing for the imposition of civil penalties.
SB 1123	Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 8; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds
SB 1127	Relating to the penalty for certain violations of county traffic regulations
SB 1196	Relating to access to criminal history record information by certain county attorneys
SB 1244	Relating to the authority of an investigator employed by a prosecuting attorney
SB 1264	Relating to the authority of a taxing unit to make a loan to the board of directors of a tax increment financing reinvestment zone for deposit in the tax increment fund for the zone

All Bills Analyzed Index

(click on bill number to go straight to bill analysis)

Bill	Summary
SB 1269	Relating to the performance of certain civil duties by officers in this state
SB 1306	Relating to the attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at certain events under the open meetings law
SB 1349	Relating to the annexation of certain municipally owned airports
SB 1404	Relating to criminal law hearing officers in certain counties.
SB 1405	Relating to the requirement that the chief appraiser of an appraisal district provide an estimate of taxable value and related assistance to certain taxing units
SB 1412	Relating to certain fees collected by justice courts and small claims courts.
SB 1413	Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed or removed from justice court.
SB 1416	Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed from small claims court.
SB 1499	Relating to the meeting notice that a governmental body may post in certain emergency situations
SB 1523	Relating to facilitating and supporting efforts of certain municipalities and counties to promote economic development, including hosting certain major sporting or athletic events
SB 1624	Relating to genetic testing in proceedings to declare heirship; providing a criminal penalty.
SB 1951	Relating to the creation, operation, and officers of certain courts and juvenile boards.
SB 1999	Relating to the creation of the NASA Area Management District; providing authority to impose an assessment, impose a sales and use tax, and issue bonds
SJR 13	Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 41	**Author:**	Paxton | Madden | Hughes
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the confidentiality of home address information of certain public officials and their spouses and to the immunity from liability of certain agencies

Bill Category

Open Records/Meetings

Public Information Requests

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code 13.0021 added

The bill is intended to provide similar protection to federal and state judges and their spouses as is provided to law enforcement, child protective services, and prosecutorial personnel with regard to the confidentiality of home addresses under the Public Information Act and other statutes. Section 1 of the bill defines the terms "federal judge" and "state judge", and requires a federal or state judge who wishes to have his/her residential address omitted from the voter registration list to provide an affidavit indicating the individual is a federal or state judge or his/her spouse.

Election Code 13.004 amended

Section 2 of the bill makes changes and additions that specify that the residential address of a federal or state judge or judge's spouse is confidential and does not constitute public information under the Public Information Act. Prohibits the voter registrar or other county official with access to the information contained on a voter registration application to post on a web site the residential address of a federal or state judge, or judge's spouse.

Election Code 15.0215 added

Section 3 of the bill adds a section of code called Notice of Federal Judge or State Judge Status, allowing a federal or state judge to provide an affidavit of their status as a judge to the voter registrar at any time.

Election Code 15.081 amended

Section 4 of this bill adds a subdivision that prohibits the suspense list from containing the residential address of a federal or state judge if an affidavit has been submitted to or received by the voter registrar indicating that the individual is a federal or state judge; defines the terms "state judge" and "federal judge".

Election Code 18.005 amended

Section 5 of the bill amends the section of code affecting the Supplemental List of Voters to make the requirements for confidentiality and non-posting of home addresses of state and federal judges included on such a list equivalent to the changes made in other sections of the Election Code to prevent the posting of home addresses of these judges.

Election Code 18.066 (b) amended

Section 6 of the bill amends the portion of code applying to the availability of a statewide computerized voter registration system to make conforming changes to those contained elsewhere that prevent the inclusion of home addresses of federal and state judges on the computerized statewide voter registration list that is widely available.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 41	**Author:**	Paxton | Madden | Hughes
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Election Code **63.0011 (a) amended**

Section 7 amends the section pertaining to accepting voters to vote to assure that the poll worker will ask any state or federal judge whose address is missing from the precinct list to confirm that the address on their registration certificate is accurate.

Government Code **411.171 (4-a) and (4-b) added**

Section 8 adds the subdivisions to define "federal judge" and "state judge".

Government Code **411.179 amended**

Section 9 amends the Government Code covering information required on a license to carry a concealed handgun to require that, for federal or state judges or spouses of same, the courthouse address where they or their spouse preside as judge may be substituted for the residence address of the license holder. Further requires DPS to establish a procedure to assure that sufficient documentation of the status of the license holder as a federal or state judge or spouse is provided.

Government Code **411.181 (a) and (b) amended**

Requires that a concealed handgun license holder must provide DPS with updated information if their status as a federal or state judge or judge's spouse changes, within 30 days of any such change. Also requires that the person whose status has changed must file for a duplicate license and must provide their residence address on the duplicate license application.

Tax Code **25.025 amended**

The final section of the bill adds "federal jusge" and "state judge" to those occupations covered by this section of the Code (Confidentiality of Certain Home Address Information), and defines those terms.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

The Assessor and Collector of Taxes has responsibility for holding information or providing facilitative services for all of the items contained in this bill. As Voter Registrar, it is the A&CT's responsibility to assure that the affidavits of federal and state judges and their spouses are properly processed to assure that the usually public information pertaining to home addresses is kept confidential. As the conduit for most applications for state licenses, including concealed handgun licenses, the A&CT is the office responsible for putting in place the means to assure that confidential information is kept confidential throughout the license application process.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County:	
	Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 41	**Author:**	Paxton | Madden | Hughes
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes:

It is thought that the bill, while making numerous changes to various Codes, will not have negative operations or fiscal impact for either the Assessor & Collector of Taxes (confidentiality of voter registration and concealed handgun license application information) nor the County Clerk (voter certificate verification). Requirements of the bill are expected to be absorbed within current budgeted resources for both departments.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 76	**Author:**	Naishtat
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Zaffirini
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the collection and analysis of information relating to certain sexual offenses.

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy

Code and Section

Government Code **411.042**

Requires the state to begin collecting family violence statistics. This bill will require law enforcement agencies to report offenses under Penal Code Sections 22.011 and 22.021 to the state in a manner and frequency to be determined by the Bureau of Identification and Records. The data shall include information regarding the victim, the offender and offender's relationship to the victim, weapons used in the offense, and any injuries sustained by the victim.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Information Tech - JIMS

Impact on Department Operations:

DIMS currently includes data fields for the majority of the information required by this bill, with the possible exception of the injuries sustained by the victim. To comply with this law, it is expected that JIMS will need to develop a report using DIMS data that sends the required data for all county law enforcement agencies.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Information Tech - JIMS

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$2,000	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$2,000	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	($2,000)	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Developing a report using DIMS data is expected to require approximately 40 hours of effort with little ongoing effort required. Because the Bureau of Identification hasn't determined exactly what information, format, and reporting frequency is required, it is possible that the required labor could be greater than currently anticipated.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

No significant ongoing costs are anticipated.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($2,000)**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Mike Shannon	(713) 755-7934	Discussion	Information Tech - JIMS

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 88	**Author:**	Branch
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the evacuation and sheltering of service animals and household pets in a disaster

Bill Category

Disaster Assistance

Code and Section

Government Code **418.043 amended**

The bill adds language to the Other Powers and Duties section covering emergency management by the Governor's Office to assure the provision of assistance to local political subdivisions for the humane evacuation, sheltering, and transport of service animals and household pets duing a disaster.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Emergency Services

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill would allow the County's Emergency Services people to request assistance from the Governor's Office to gather up, evacuate, transport, and temporarily shelter service animals used by the Sheriff and Constables, as well as household pets of those who will not evacuate in a disaster unless their pets will be cared for in their absence.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Emergency Services

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$15,000	$20,000
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$15,000	$20,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($15,000)	($20,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The incremental costs for the County are indeterminate, but it is thought they will be a very modest piece of the full cost of emergency relief. It is thought that these costs will, for the most part, be reimbursed by those whose animals are transported and sheltered.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See comments for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($15,000)**	**($20,000)**

Other Notes:

This act is to be called Simba's Law and recounts the refusal of numerous flood victims in the New Orleans area to evacuate during Hurricane Katrina because to do so would have required leaving their beloved pets behind.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 109	**Author:**	Turner | Davis, John
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Averitt
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to eligibility for and information regarding the child health plan program

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Section 62.002(4), 62.056, 62.101,62.102, …**

H.B. 109 reinstates 12 months of continuous coverage instead of six months, and reinstates "income disregards" expenses that drop a family's income to the eligibility level, such as child care expenses or work related expenses. This bill will also eliminate the assets test, and will reinstate a community outreach and education campaign to utilize school-based health clinics, community based organizations and coalitions to provide information and educate the community on CHIP, and eliminate the 90-day waiting period during all stages of the application process, unless the child was previously covered under another health benefits plan.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Child Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) restoration bill. Increases eligibility period from six months to 12 months, with income review after six months only for families with incomes over 185% of the federal poverty level. Reinstates child care expenses as an “income disregard” when determining eligibility based on income and eliminates an “assets test” by allowing a family to own at least $10,000 in allowable assets (with certain exemptions for vehicles). Reinstates the CHIP community outreach campaign to promote enrollment. Defines the required waiting period as 90 days after the last date on which the applicant was covered under a health plan - the waiting period applies to a child covered by a health plan at any time during the 90 days before the date of application for coverage under CHIP.

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 178	**Author:**	Bailey
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gallegos
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the issuance and renewal of certain licenses for junkyards and automotive wrecking and salvage yards

Bill Category

Fees/Other/Mandatory/Amount Change

Procedure Change - Mandated

Code and Section

Transportation Code 396.041

The bill permits the Harris County Commissioners Court to adopt an ordinance to collect a $500 fee for the issuance or renewal of a license for operating a junkyard or automotive wrecking and salvage yard.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

PHES-Environmental

Impact on Department Operations:

PHES estimates that there are as many as 300 salvage yards in the unincorporated areas of Harris County that will need to be licensed under the auto salvage licensing program and inspected for compliance with applicable laws. This will require 2 Field Investigators to conduct inspections, issue licenses, and collect fees. The department also will need 1 Compliance Services Coordinator to issue violations, prepare for JP hearings, and conduct license revocation hearings. Finally, 1 Support Services employee will be required to assist and administer the salvage yard program. The total annual cost of these 4 new positions is $205,000.

Note that these cost figures do not include any costs associated with the possibility that a Sheriff's deputy may be needed to accompany the PHES inspectors at times due to safety concerns.

The amount of new revenue that will be generated by the $500 license fees is somewhat difficult to predict, given the uncertainty over the number of salvage yards in unincorporated Harris County and their compliance with the program. If all 300 yards pay the $500 fee, the department would collect new revenue of $150,000. This would partially defray the cost of the licensing program.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

PHES-Environmental

Change to FTEs: 4

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$102,000	$205,000
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$102,000	$205,000
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$75,000	$150,000
Net Fiscal Impact	($27,000)	($55,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill becomes effective halfway through the fiscal year.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 178	**Author:**	Bailey
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gallegos
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Total Change in FTE's:	**4**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($27,000)**	**($55,000)**

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Email, Report, other	Public Health & Environmental Services
Raymond Anderson	(713) 956-3020	Discussion	PID Engineering Department

Other Notes:

There is some uncertainty about whether PHES has the legal authority to enforce the license fee. The department is working with the County Attorney's Office to clarify this issue as well as other related issues. Also, this analysis assumes licenses would need to be renewed annually, but the bill does not specify a license renewal frequency.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 195	**Author:**	Gonzalez Toureilles
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the transfer of certain abandoned or forfeited property to county or municipal agencies or school districts

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Optional

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 59.06 (b) amended

This bill allows a law enforcement agency to which property has been forfeited (such as a seized vehicle) to loan the use of the property to any municipal or county agency or school district that approved acceptance of the loan. The receiving agency is responsible for providing maintenance and repair to the loaned property, and the loaning agency is required to keep records of the loan, the fair market value of the loaned property, the agency or district to which it was loaned, and the location where it will be used.

The commissioners court may at any time cancel the loan upon 7 days notice to the agency or district borrowing the property.

Transportation Code 683.016 amended

In the event of seizure of an abandoned vehicle, the law enforcement agency seizing the vehicle may adopt it for agency use or loan it to a municipal or county agency or a school district for its use. Upon the stoppage of use by either the seizing agency, or the agency or district to which the abandoned vehicle was loaned, it must be sold at public auction.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill expands the Department's options with regard to the disposition of forfeited or seized vehicles, and may prove useful to other county agencies or to school districts with which the Sheriff has a working or contract patrol relationship.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There will be a fiscal impact for the Sheriff only if the Department chooses to enter into loan agreements with other agencies. However, the number of such agreements and their individual costs or savings is not available at this time. It is not known whether the Sheriff will be approached by agencies and districts that are eligible to

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 195	**Author:**	Gonzalez Toureilles
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

receive the loan of vehicles. It is known that some agencies or school districts could benefit from such a program if the Sheriff decides to undertake it. However, it appears that the benefit for the Sheriff Department is not substantive.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Danny Billingsley	Email, Report, other	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 198	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Deuell
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the capacity of certain correctional facilities operated under contracts between the Texas Board of Criminal Justice and a private vendor or county commissioners court.

Bill Category

Prison/Jail Overcrowding

Code and Section

Government Code **495.001; 495.007**

This bill would allow the Texas Board of Criminal Justice (TBCJ) to enter into contracts for an additional 1,000 prison beds and would allow a privately operated TDCJ facility to house up to 1,500 prisoners (vs. 1,000 currently).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

If the TBCJ elected to enter into contracts for this additional 1,000 beds, it can be assumed that Harris County would be able to transfer approximately 250 prisoners from Harris County jail to the newly contracted beds. The annual cost savings for Harris County would be $5,475,000 based on a daily cost of $60 to house, feed, and supervise a prisoner. However, should the TBCJ choose to leave things as they are in spite of a higher maximum number of contracted beds being authorized, then there would be No Fiscal Impact for Harris County.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill itself would not impact Harris County but it could set the stage for an expansion of TDCJ bed-space that could result in a lower county jail population.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 246	**Author:**	Alonzo
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Zaffirini
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to reports on cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus infection

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code 81.043 amended

The bill makes more frequent the required reporting of AIDS and HIV cases that have been reported to Public Health agencies, as reported to DSHS. Instead of monthly, the reports now will be required weekly. The report is required to indicate the infected person's gender, city and county of residence, ethnicity, age, race, national origin, and the means by which the infection was transmitted.

Health & Safety Code 81.044 amended

Amends the requirements of what information must be included in reports of AIDS and HIV cases.

Health & Safety Code 81.052 amended

Adds requirements for the contents and frequency of reports that DSHS must make availble to the public regarding AIDS and HIV cases. Some quarterly reports must be published within six months of the end of a quarter, and annually evaluate and publish a report of the data that highlights the age, gender, national origin, and city and county of residence of victims of the two diseases.

Requires that the DSHS prepare and deliver to both chambers of the state legislature, not later than January 1, 2009, a report addressing emerging technologies and advances in AIDS and HIV surveillance and epidemiology, including improvements to the testing for and reporting of AIDS and HIV; and, making recommendations for the state's use of the emerging technologies and advancements to enhance surveillance, treatment, and prevention of these two diseases.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

These bills codify current practice for the Harris County PH&ES Department with regard to reporting timelines and report contents.

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Email, Report, other	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 343	**Author:**	Naishtat
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to notification of voter registrar by probate court clerk of recent deaths

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **16.001 (b) amended**

While current law requires a monthly abstract be prepared by probate court clerks for use of the voter registrar of each application filed that month for probate of a will or administration of a decedent's estate, it omits from consideration two other types of filings that may indicate recent death of a voter: applications for determination of heirship and affidavits for the collection of small estates.

This bill adds the latter two types of filings to those for which abstracts must be provided monthly by probate court clerks.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Probate Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill simply extends the number of types of filings which must be monthly abstracted and reported to the voter registrar. There is thought to be no measurable operations impact.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 413	**Author:**	Eissler | Harless
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to erecting certain signs on certain rights-of-way; providing penalties

Bill Category

Transportation

Fines and Fees - Specific Use

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **392.0325, 392.0355, 393**

The bill would amend the Transportation Code, creating a civil penalty of not less than $500 or more than $1,000 for each violation of Subchapter B, Chapter 392, Signs on State Highway Right-of-Way. The attorney general or a district or county attorney would be authorized to sue to collect the penalty. Amounts collected by the attorney general would be deposited to the state highway fund and amounts collected by the district or county attorney would be deposited to the county road and bridge fund.

Chapter 393, Transportation Code, would be amended, authorizing a sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer to discard a sign of less than $25 in value that is posted in violation of the code without having to give notice to the owner of the sign. In addition, Chapter 393 would be amended by creating a civil penalty of not less than $500 or more than $1,000 for each violation of the chapter (Outdoor Signs on Public Rights-of-Way). A district attorney, county attorney, or municipal attorney would be authorized to sue to collect the penalty. Penalties collected by a municipality would be deposited to the municipality's general fund; those collected by a district or county attorney would be deposited to the county road and bridge fund.

Transportation Code **Amends Section 393.004,**

Authorizes the sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court to discard a sign of less than $25 in value without giving the required notice

Transportation Code **Amends Section 393.003(a)**

Authorizes a sheriff, constable, or other trained volunteer authorized by the commissioners court of a county to confiscate a sign placed in violation of Section 393.002.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 417	**Author:**	Hartnett | Naishtat
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to guardianship matters and proceedings.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Probate Code 645

Adds Section f that states that the appointment of an attorney ad-litem expires, without a court order, as soon as the court appoints a guardian or denies the application for a guardian.

Probate Code 683

Specifies that a guardian ad litem or court investigator shall investigate whether a person needs guardianship prior to filing an application for guardianship (previously stated that the investigator or guardian ad litem shall "investigate and file an application").

This section states that a court can authorize compensation for an attorney ad litem from available funds from the proposed ward's estate "regardless of whether a guardianship is created for the proposed ward" (this bill adds the statement "regardless of whether a guardianship is created for the proposed ward").

Probate Code 694

Clarifies that a guardian ad litem will be compensated for work done to achieve restoration of a ward's capacity regardless of whether the restoration is successful (as specified in Section 645b)

Probate Code 824A

Bill repeals Section 822 which requires a hearing regarding the sale of real estate from the wards' estate. Adds Section 824A which states that no hearing is required unless an opposition to the sale has been filed with the court.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill is not expected to have a significant operational or financial impact. The changes to law that are included in the bill generally codify existing practice. Some examples of changes in this bill that are already occuring are: court orders generally state that terms of guardians ad litem are terminated when a guardianship application is completed; court investigations are already performed prior to filing of applications; there are not hearings for every sale of real property currently - the attorneys simply request court permission to sell property and file reports with the court after the fact.

Bill Experts

Scott Hilsher	(713) 578-2187	Discussion	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 423	**Author:**	Corte
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to requiring that medical examiners and justices of the peace report certain deaths that result from a motor vehicle accident to the Texas Department of Public Safety

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **550.081 amended**

This bill requires the Medical Examiner's Office to file a quarterly report with TxDoT (updated monthly) detailing the name of each person who died as the result of a vehicular accidemt, whether the person named was the driver or a passenger in the vehicle or was a pedestrian or other non-occupant of the vehicle, the date and name of the county in which the accident occurred, whether any toxicological testing is being conducted by the MEO, and the results of such testing if available. If test results are not available at the time of reporting, then a supplemental report is to be made as soon as practicable after the toxicological results become available.

This bill will require a certain amount of training in the preparation of the required reports by MEO personnel, but the enacted version does not require -- as did the introduced version -- that blood draws be taken from every vehicle accident decedent, followed by a robust panel of toxicological screens intended to reveal whether each victim was incapacitated by alcohol or other substances at the time of death. The introduced version was expected to result in upwards of $150,000 per year of additional costs to the Medical Examiner's Office; the enacted version should result in virtually no change to costs for the MEO.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Medical Examiner's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

There should be only minimal operations impact from this bill, and that only during the very early stages of implementation.

Bill Experts

Ashram Mozayani	(713) 796-6830	Email, Report, other	Medical Examiner's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 425	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the instructional requirements for education services provided in a juvenile residential facility operated by a juvenile board or under contract with the Texas Youth Commission.

Bill Category

Other

Code and Section

Education Code **37.0062**

This bill adds a section that requires the Commissioner of Education to determine instructional requirements provided by a school district or open enrollment charter school in a pre-adjudication secure detention facility or a post-adjudication facility operated by a juvenile board or TYC. The requirements would cover length of the school day, number of days of instruction, and curriculum.

The bill states that curriculum in pre-adjudication facilities must allow a student to maintain progress towards a high school diploma and that a post-adjudication curriculum must include courses required to complete high school graduation requirements.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Juvenile Probation Department

Impact on Department Operations:

The Commissioner of Education has not yet established the rules and instructional requirements as required by this bill. As written, however, the bill could have major impacts on the curriculum and course delivery for the Juvenile Probation department. Until rules are established and programs redone, it is impossible to tell whether the changes can be completed within the current funding.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Juvenile Probation Department

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The Commissioner of Education has not yet established the rules and instructional requirements as required by this bill. As written, however, the bill could have major impacts on the curriculum and course delivery for the Juvenile Probation department. Until rules are established and programs redone, it is impossible to tell whether the changes can be completed within the current funding.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 425	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Bill Experts

Margaret Rhode	(713) 222-4341	Email, Report, other	JJAEP

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 431	**Author:**	Madden | McClendon
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the release of a defendant convicted of a state jail felony on medically recommended intensive supervision.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12

Allows a judge to place somebody who is convicted of a state jail felony in a medical care facility or medical treatment program if TCOOMI identifies that person as having a mental or medical impairment, being elderly, or requiring long-term care. The bill requires the local CSCD to prepare a supervision plan for the prisoner.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

Although unlikely, this bill could affect prisoners housed in Harris County jails under Penal Code 12.44 (a) (State Jail felons serving time in county jail). TCOOMI estimated that this bill would only affect 5-10 prisoners per year.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 438	**Author:**	Hochberg | Crabb
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the limitation on the maximum percentage increase in the appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation

Bill Category

Appraisal Caps

Code and Section

Tax Code **23.23 amended**

This bill is the enabler for the constitutional amendment proposal contained in HJR 40, to be considered by voters at the next general election. That amendment limits the increase of appraised values for residential homesteads from one tax year to the next to 10% of the prior year appraised value plus increases to the market value resulting from new improvements to the residence. In practical terms, the bill makes appraisal districts either appraise annually, in which case the appraised values may increase up to 10% from one tax year to the next, or appraise less frequently and limit the increase to not more than 10% of the previously established appraised value plus market value improvements to the home but not to exceed in any case the actual market value of the home.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

There will be no operating impact as a result of this bill. However, tax revenues for Harris County and its affiliates (Port of Houston, Hospital District, etc.) may increase less rapidly than would have occurred under previous Tax Code verbiage should the Constitutional Amendment authorizing this bill pass.

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The Appraisal District must set its appraised value increase limits to match those contained in this bill if HJR 40 is passed.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 438	**Author:**	Hochberg | Crabb
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

There will be no impact of any kind during FY 2008. The earliest that revenue streams from tax receipts might increase at a reduced rate will be during FY 2009.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Revenue streams from ad valorem taxes will increase at a slower rate than might have been expected had this Constitutional Amendment proposal not been enacted, and were it not to pass as a ballot measure in November. The decreased rate of increase is impossible for OBM to determine without considerably more information than provided by the Assessor & Collector of Taxes.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 485	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the collection and amount of restitution authorized to be collected from persons charged with or convicted of certain misdemeanor offenses.

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Penal Code **32.41**

This bill gives a court the ability to allow a law enforcement agency to collect restitution from people against whom the agency executed a warrant for writing bad checks.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Constable Precincts (All)

Impact on Department Operations:

It is unlikely that Harris County will enact the provisions of this bill due to limited benefits and significant problems related to law enforcement collecting restitution payments directly.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

It is unlikely that Harris County will enact the provisions of this bill due to limited benefits and significant problems related to law enforcement collecting restitution payments directly.

Bill Experts

John Hart	(713) 755-8050	Email, Report, other	Sheriff's Department - Detention
Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 492	**Author:**	Orr
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Averitt
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the removal, transfer, or exclusion of territory in emergency services districts

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **775.201, 775.202, 775.203, etc.**

The bill allows emergency services districts in Harris County to change their district boundaries, provided that certain conditions and procedures are followed. A district may exclude territory from its boundaries with the consent of two-thirds of district property owners. The district's tax on property in the excluded territory continues until all agreed compensation is received for the payment of obligations.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 518	**Author:**	Naishtat
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Brimer
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the detention and examination of certain persons for whom an application for emergency detention or a motion for an order of protective custody has been filed.

Bill Category

Criminal Mental Health Stabilization

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **573.021(b) and (c), 574.021(d),62.154(a) and (d),**

Current statute authorizes a peace officer to detain a person without a warrant if the circumstances leads the officer to conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that the person is mentally ill and that the mental illness causes a substantial risk of imminent serious harm to the mentally ill person or others. This detention can last no longer than 24 hours, excluding nights and weekends and any time the person spends receiving medical care in the emergency room, unless a probate court has issued an order of protective custody. As a result, examining physicians are under a limited amount of time to examine and observe a person and determine whether protective custody is necessary.

H.B. 518 extends the maximum authorized time to detain a person presumed to be mentally ill to 48 hours.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

MHMRA

Impact on Department Operations:

First thoughts are that being able to hold someone longer will only impact the ER part of our programs, since we do not accept involuntary consumers into any of our other programs. We may need to change the organization of the room(s), but in general we still want to try to resolve the crisis or move the consumer to other more appropriate services within 24 hours. If indeed we do start holding more consumers longer, it will have an impact on how many we can serve, since there is only so much physical space in our facility (fire/safety rules) and only so many consumers that my staff can serve at any given time.

It might actually cut down on some of our staff's court paperwork since we end up filing with the court on consumers in order to meet the 24 hour limit, and then have to file more paperwork to rescind the request because the consumer starts to clear and can be served on a voluntary basis. Giving us a longer time to determine if the consumer needs to continue with involuntary placement might be helpful at times.

Other Notes:

It is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact of such a policy change due to the variability in treatment outcomes expected for consumers who are involuntarily committed. There may be a slight reduction in the number of consumers served, but the facililty and staff would be continue to be fully utilized.

This bill requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to conduct a study of the effects the change in law made by this Act has on reducing the overall number of admissions to state mental health facilities, and the number of admissions of persons to state mental health facilities for periods of less than 96 hours. DSHS must provide the report on the study's conclusions not later than December 31, 2008.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 530	**Author:**	Madden | Rodriguez
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Seliger
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

Caption

Relating to the operation and funding of drug court programs

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy

Criminal Justice Policy - Juvenile

Fines and Fees - Specific Use

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Chapter 469, various sections**

The bill makes various modifications to the Drug Court program, including allowing the magistrate to issue an order of non-disclosure under specific circumstances; expanding the mandate for establishing drug courts to all counties of 200,000 population or greater who also receive federal or state aide for such a program; expanding the different types of cases that can be heard in drug courts including juvenile and family-related cases; and requiring the collection of a $50 conviction fee from all misdemeanor B or higher cases of Intoxication and Controlled Substance convictions.

This bill also mandates that the County either establish a court to handle repeat DWI offenders or ensure that those persons participate in the existing drug court.

Government Code **Subchapter GG added**

Adds a subchapter titled Magistrates for Drug Court Programs wherein is specified the means by which such magistrates are appointed, required qualifications, the amount of compensation, and the duties and authorities of this office.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Although it is not known how many eligible offenders will elect to participate in the DWI drug court programs, the volume is expected to be sufficient to require the addition of a new DWI court which would handle felony offenders and potentially misdemeanor DWI's as well. The bill allows a county to create a juvenile drug court which is not anticipated at this time but is likely to be considered in future years.

The potential drug court population greatly exceeds current drug court capabilities. One potential way to expand drug court capacity would be to appoint a magistrate to hear drug court cases as provided for in this bill. This would require the approval of the judges and commissioners court.

District Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The District Attorney's Office will be required to refer specific types of cases to the appropriate problem-solving court, depending on the types of such courts established by order of the Commissioners Court.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 530	**Author:**	Madden | Rodriguez
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Seliger
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

District Clerk will be responsible for collecting and accounting for the $50 conviction fees from the various problem-solving courts.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Courts

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$970,000
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$970,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	($970,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Additional $50 court fee for Class B and higher intoxication and controlled substance convictions, of which the County retains 60% and the remainder is sent to the comptroller & placed in a fund for drug-court related grants. Debbie Smith of the Auditor's Office is currently trying to calculate the estimated revenue that will be generated from this new fee.

Although not currently planned, appointing a magistrate(s) to hear drug court cases is one new option to expand the scope of these programs. This bill states that the salary of the magistrate would be determined by commissioner's court.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

It is expected that an additional DWI court will need to be created to handle repeat DWI offenders. Based on 2006 statistics, there were 2,260 repeat DWI offenders who would be eligible for this program. The actual number of participants (currently unknown) will determine whether this needs to be a part or full-time court. Costs above assume the addition of one new, full-time court. This court will need to be established by 9/1/08.

The county cost is estimated to be $1.88 million annually to operate a DWI-based drug court (estimate based on the current county cost to run the drug court. For 1/2 of the fiscal year plus one year of inflation, the cost is estimated to be $970,000.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**($970,000)**

Bill Experts

Mary Covington	(713) 755-4610	Discussion	District Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 539	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne | Crabb
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the regulation of fireworks and fireworks displays

Bill Category

Health and Safety

Code and Section

Occupations Code **Various**

Amends various sections of the Occupations Code to add certain pop rockets and wire sparklers to non-permitted forms of fireworks, alters membership on the fireworks advisory council by deducting one member of the fireworks industry and adding a member who is a fire marshal, raises the minimum age of fireworks purchasers to 16 years of age, prohibits employees at fireworks stands to be younger than 18 unless they are children of the legal owner, and defines certain violations as class C misdemeanors.

Allows punishment for offenses to be in the form of a Class C misdemeanor citation.

Local Government Code **352.051 amended**

Redefines "drought conditions" and requires the Texas Forest Service to determine whether drought conditions exist on average in the county requesting such a determination, authorizes the commissioners court of a county where such a drought determination has been made to restrict or prohibit the sale of fireworks by order, and requires that suits challenging the issuance of such an order be brought in the county issuing the order.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Gives expanded authorities to the Court on matters pertaining to life safety as potentially endangered by the sale or use of fireworks in the unincorporated parts of the county.

Fire Marshal

Impact on Department Operations:

Authorizes the issuance of class C citations for a variety of violations of the Occupations Code sections concerning the handling, sale, and use of fireworks within the county. This allows for enforcement using citations rather than the previous requirement of taking offenders into custody and arranging for transport to the county jail until arrangements could be made for the offender's bail. Previously, only a handful of offenses were grievous enough to justify the arrest of the offender; now, enforcement effort will match the level of the crime.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

Will be charged with issuing class C misdemeanors for sale or use violations within Harris County. This bill puts sales violations on a parallel plane with use violations; citations may be issued without need of arrest and transport to county jail.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact to Harris County:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 539	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne | Crabb
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

		Effective Date Thru-2/08	FY2009
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$25,000	$100,000
	Net Fiscal Impact	$25,000	$100,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There are distinct fireworks seasons: the period from mid-June until July 4th, the period from mid-December until January 2nd, and, to a lesser extent in Harris County though not near the Texas-Mexico border, the period immediately preceding May 5th. During a typical season, 400 to 600 offenses that could justify a citation are discovered by fire marshal staff; approximately one-half of those are immediately corrected and generally would not be cited. Those that are serious or not immediately correctable are cited, and all citations are heard in JP Court 4-2.

It is estimated that between 200 and 400 citations per year will be written. That number of citations may result in between $50,000 and $250,000 in fines being collected from offenders, assuming a 100% collection rate and fines ranging from $250 to $500, depending on the nature of the violation.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$25,000**	**$100,000**

Bill Experts

Michael Montgomery	(281) 931-1085	Discussion	Fire & Emergency Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 604	**Author:**	Howard, Donna
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes of certain land used for wildlife management under a conservation easement

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

Code and Section

Tax Code **23.51, 23.521, 23.225**

The bill allows certain land to qualify for appraisal as wildlife management land without the current requirement of being appraised as open-space land at the time the land is converted to wildlife management use. The definition of wildlife management land is expanded to include land used to protect endangered species or land used for conservation or restoration.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The Tax Assessor's Office indicates that this bill may result in fewer taxable properties, which would reduce tax revenue. However, the urban nature of Harris County will probably result in a limited number of properties that are eligible to use the wildlife management designation. We are not able to estimate the magnitude of this bill's fiscal impact.

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Email, Report, other	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 621	**Author:**	Chavez
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of tangible personal property held temporarily at a location in this state for assembling, storing, manufacturing, processing, or fabricating purposes

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

Code and Section

Tax Code **11.253 added**

HB 621 authorizes a taxing authority to exempt from ad valorem taxes all goods in transit with the exception of oil, natural gas, petroleum products, aircraft, dealer's motor vehicle inventories, dealer's vessel and outboard motor inventories, dealer's heavy equipment inventories, and retail manufactured housing inventories. Each taxing unit is given the opportunity to continue current practices of taxing such goods (e.g., to opt out) so long as such a decision is rendered in a public hearing for which notice is given, and the decision to opt out is formally submitted to the chief appraiser of the appraisal district not later than January 1, 2008.

The Office of Budget Management is informed that the Tax Assessor-Collector is drafting a notice to all taxing entities in Harris County to inform each of the obligation to decide whether to tax or exempt from ad valorem taxation (i.e., maintain tax revenue streams or decrease tax revenue streams), in a public hearing, and to notify the County Appraisal District prior to January 1, 2008 if the entity wishes to continue to tax goods in transit as such are currently taxed.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

It is estimated by some that the loss of revenue cumulatively in each year that the County and each of its taxing units did not opt out of the exemption approved in this bill could be as high as $22 million. For that reason, it is recommended that the Assessor & Collector of Taxes formally notify each taxing unit for which he assesses and collects taxes of the need to hold a public hearing on the tax exemption authorized in this bill and notify the chief appraiser of its decision to not exempt goods in transit from taxation prior to January 1, 2008.

Once a taxing unit opts out of the tax exemption specified in this bill, no further action is necessary. The exemption opt out continues in effect until it is rescinded by the taxing unit.

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

The Hospital District will be required to hold a public hearing on the matter of exempting goods in transit from taxation, and must notify the Harris County Chief Tax Appraiser before January 1, 2008 if the decision is to continue to tax goods in transit according to prior law.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 621	**Author:**	Chavez
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Port Authority

Impact on Department Operations:

The Port Authority will be required to hold a public hearing on the matter of exempting goods in transit from taxation, and must notify the Harris County Chief Tax Appraiser before January 1, 2008 if the decision is to continue to tax goods in transit according to prior law.

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Commissioners Court will be required to hold a public hearing on the matter of exempting goods in transit from taxation, and must notify the Harris County Chief Tax Appraiser before January 1, 2008 if the decision is to continue to tax goods in transit according to prior law.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	($20,500,000)
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	($20,500,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Indeterminate at this time.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Failure by the Commissioners Court, Hospital District Board, and Port Authority Board to "opt out" of the exemption of goods in transit from ad valorem taxation could result in reductions to local tax revenues of between $18 million and $23 million annually. The mid-point of those figures is shown to illustrate the substantive impact that will result unless all entities choose to continue to tax goods in transit as previously authorized.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**($20,500,000)**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 681	**Author:**	Hochberg
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to postconviction forensic testing.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 64.01 - 64.03

This bill would: Add a 60-day time limit for the DA to respond to a motion for DNA testing; enable a person who previously made a confession or admission of guilt to submit a motion requesting a DNA test and precludes the court from finding that identity is not an issue solely on the basis of a confession or admission; and allows the convicted person to request the court to use a specific accredited lab to perform the DNA analysis. The bill states that a political subdivision of the state has no liability for the cost of lab testing under CCP Article 64.03.

Code of Criminal Procedure 11.07

Says that a convicting court can order additional forensic testing if it determines that there are unresolved or controverted facts in a case. The cost of additional forensic testing would be paid by the state.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The DA's office receives approximately 10 Chapter 64 DNA motions per month and anticipates difficulty meeting the mandated 60-day response time in some cases due to the time it takes to obtain required paperwork and evidence from other county departments and/or unaffiliated agencies or companies. The impact on the DA's Office will depend on how the judge responds to motions where the DA wasn't able to complete their investigation in 60 days: if the judge delays the proceedings until the investigation is finished then no operational impact is expected; if judges require an expedited investigation or rules before the investigation is complete, then the DA's Office will need to increase staffing to be able to more timely respond to these motions.

Although the bill excludes the County from any financial liability, the DA's Office is similarly concerned about the defendants ability to request that the test(s) be performed by any accredited lab for chain-of-custody reasons. From the roughly 120 motions, Harris County requests approximately 20 DNA tests per year.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Attorney's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$55,000	$113,000
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 1	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$55,000	$113,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($55,000)	($113,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 681	**Author:**	Hochberg
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Based on a 60-day response time, the DA's office estimated the need for an additional investigator (@ $80,000 base salary) to expedite responses to the motions. The actual need for additional staff depends on how judges respond if/when investigations take more than the 60-day period. If the judges choose to delay the proceedings in those cases, the DA would not need additional staff. If the judges choose to rule w/o a completed investigation or order expedited investigations, then the DA would likely need additional staff (at least one investigator depending on how many judges go this route).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**1**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($55,000)**	**($113,000)**

Bill Experts

Peyton Peebles	(713) 755-5826	Email, Report, other	District Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 730	**Author:**	Kolkhorst
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the notice of a municipality's or county's intention to issue certificates of obligation

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **271.049 (a) amended**

Extends the requirement for county's (and cities) to publish notice of intent to issue certificates of obligation from 14 days prior to the meeting to approve issuance to 30 days prior. The intent is to give more opportunity for those interested in commenting on these plans to organize the presentation of such comments.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Extends the requirement for publication of the notice of intent to issue certificates of obligation, from at least 14 days prior to the date when the ordinance or order authorizing the issuance is scheduled, to at least 30 days prior..

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Edwin Harrison	(713) 755-6532	Discussion	Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 732	**Author:**	Krusee
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ogden
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to recording requirements for certain documents

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Property Code **12.0011 added**

This bill distinguishes the "original signature" requirements for real property documents that are paper and those that are electronic. Under the Code as revised by these amendments, a paper document requires an original signature along with the proper confirmations; an electronic document that substitutes for a paper document under other sections of the Property Code, and other Codes entirely, do not require an orginal signature if other confirmations are included.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The County Clerk Office supported the introduction of this bill to codify the acceptable differences between paper and electronic property documents filed with County clerks. There should be no impact for the County Clerk based on the bill as enacted.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Kevin Mauzy	(713) 755-3553	Email, Report, other	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 735	**Author:**	Straus | Thompson
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the discontinuation of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Numerous sections**

This bill does away with the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund entirely, including the assessment charged to telecommunications utilities and to mobile service providers. Hence, the providers and utilities will no longer be required to charge their customers one of the reimbursement fees added to service bills.

Prior to 2003, the Harris County Public Library and other library systems received grants to assist with providing free wireless access to the internet for their customers. Those grants stopped after the 78th regular session so this bill does no further budget harm to Harris County's libraries.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Library - Harris County Public

Impact on Department Operations:

The damage to the HCPL was actually done in 2003 and 2005 legislative sessions, when the grant making provisions from this fund were severely restricted. The loss of Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund grants to HCPL ended a long-term source of funding to provide wireless internet access and viable computer hardware and routers to the Library branches.

Bill Experts

Rhoda Goldberg	Discussion	Library - Harris County Public

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 764	**Author:**	Dutton
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the collection of a family protection fee

Bill Category

Fines and Fees - Specific Use

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **51.961**

The bill reduces the amount of the family protection fee (collected at the time a suit for dissolution of marriage is filed) from $30 to $15. Current statute allocated one-half of the $30 fee to the state and the other half to the county. An Attorney General opinion in December 2005 found the state portion of the fee to be unconstitutional, so Harris County has not been collecting the state portion.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Domestic Relations Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill will have no impact on Harris County. The county will continue to charge a $15 family protection fee, and the revenue will continue going toward programs that serve families that have experienced or are at risk of experiencing family violence or child abuse/neglect.

Bill Experts

David Simpson

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 892	**Author:**	Hilderbran
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Fraser
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the timely deposit of county funds received by the county treasurer

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 113.022 amended

Makes the deposit of funds by the County Treasurer consistent with the timelines for deposits by other county officers, i.e., within 1 day of receipt where possible, within 7 days of receipt in all other cases.

Local Government Code 116.021 (a) and (b) amended

Rewrites the requirements of contracts initiated by Commissioners Court with local depositories for the deposit of county funds.

Local Government Code Various other subsections

Amends various requirements regarding the notice of intent to name county depositories, notice of acceptance of applications to become a county depository, and the dates of selection of depositories.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This is a major rewrite of the language regarding contracts for county depositories, and changes many of the notice and date requirements from those in the earlier Code. The changes must be acknowledged in devising revised procedures for notifications, publication of information, and timing of notices and publications.

County Treasurer's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill should have no implications, either operational or fiscal, for the Treasurer; it merely codifies current procedures used in that office, and in the Compliance Audit section of the County Auditor's Office, to assure that deposits are made within 7 days by all county officers receiving money, and within 2 days if money is received directly by the Treasurer Office.

Bill Experts

Linda Langlois	(713) 755-5332	Discussion	County Treasurer's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 923	**Author:**	Truitt
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the persons to whom an assessor for a taxing unit is required to mail an ad valorem tax bill

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

Code and Section

Tax Code **31.01 amended**

This bill untangles a confusing set of requirements for the mailing of tax bills by tax assessors and authorized agents of property owners, including mortgagees. Under the previous law, section 31.01 (a) required that tax assessors send copies of the tax bill to all parties listed for a property on the tax roll, including all authorized agents of such persons. However, section 31.01 (j) provides that a mortgagee is required to send a copy of the tax bill to the mortgagor if the tax assessor sends a copy to the mortgagee.

HB 923 ends this inefficient cycle for tax assessors and potential confusion for mortgagors by eliminating the requirement that tax assessors mail tax bill copies to the property owner or other authorized agents if the owner's mortgagee is mailed a copy.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

There may be a minor operating impact in that fewer copies of tax bills will be required to be mailed. The real saving will be fiscal, however.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	($50,000)	($60,000)
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	($50,000)	($60,000)
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$50,000	$60,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

No estimate was forthcoming from the Assessor & Collector of Taxes as to how much would be saved in postage expense when the number of tax bills is reduced to comply with this bill. It is assumed that several thousand fewer tax bills will be required to be mailed under the auspices of this act. These numbers are intended more as an illustration that there will be a saving, than as an accurate portrayal of the scope of saving.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

No estimate was forthcoming from the Assessor & Collector of Taxes as to how much would be saved in postage expense when the number of tax bills is reduced to comply with this bill. It is assumed that several thousand fewer tax bills will be required to be mailed under the auspices of this act. These numbers are intended more as an illustration that there will be a saving, than as an accurate portrayal of the scope of saving.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 923	**Author:**	Truitt
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$50,000**	**$60,000**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1044	**Author:**	Dutton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the delivery of voter registration certificates

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **13.144 (a) and (b) amended**

Amends the two sections to require the voter registrar to deliver in person or by mail within 30 days of receipt of a voter certificate application or receipt of a notice of change, a voter certificate or replacement certificate.

Election Code **15.004 (b) amended**

Requires the voter registrar to deliever in person or via mail within 30 days of receipt of a notice of change to the certificate of a voter, a changed voter certificate.

Election Code **13.144 c is repealed**

Repeals the subdivision that specified that a voter certificate had to arrive in advance of its effective date.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

As the Voter Registrar for Harris County, the Tax Assessor-Collector is the only department affected by this act. It is thought the operations impact will be nil and the fiscal impact negligible.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

George Hammerlein	713-368-2513	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1044	**Author:**	Dutton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1086	**Author:**	Hughes
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the discharge of an alternate juror in a criminal case

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 33.011 (b) amended

Delays the dismissal of an alternate juror in a criminal matter until the jury has delivered its verdict of guilt or innocence, and has rendered its punishment if so required, rather than dismissal when the jury retires to consider its verdict.

Code of Criminal Procedure 39.26 (d) amended

Requires that the judge dismiss an alternate juror who has not replaced a juror only after the jury has rendered its verdict and its punishment if so required, rather than following the charge to the jury preceding its retirement to consider a verdict.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The District Clerk calls, assigns, and pays jurors, including alternates. However, the Jury Pay recordskeeping system makes no distinction between jurors and alternates. The District Clerk office seems to agree that the total incremental cost of this bill for all Harris County criminal trials probably will not exceed $20,000 per annum.

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The exact same answer applies to both County Criminal Courts and District Criminal Courts. The number of alternate jurors used is not known with certainty but is believed to be very small as a percentage of total jurors seated. Just as with the County Courts, the incremental liability is thought to be less than $10,000 per year.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The number of juries on which alternates serve in Harris County is quite small. Therefore, Mr. Wessels asserts that the cost of paying the occasional alternate for longer jury service should be quite small.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$10,000	$20,000
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$10,000	$20,000

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1086	**Author:**	Hughes
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	($10,000)	($20,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Incremental costs for one-half of fiscal 2008 should not exceed $10,000 for all criminal cases.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Incremental costs for the full fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter should not exceed $20,000.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($10,000)**	**($20,000)**

Bill Experts

Kathy Byers	(713) 755-7560	Discussion	District Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1141	**Author:**	Howard, Donna
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the confidentiality of certain home address information in local tax appraisal records regarding current or former peace officers and regarding a current or former employee of a prosecutor's office or of certain offices with jurisdiction over child protective services matters

Bill Category

Public Information Requests

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **25.025 (a) amended**

Adds current and former peace officers and current or former district attorney or county attorney employees whose duties include any criminal law or child protective services matters under the confidentiality protections of this section of the Tax Code, upon request by the individual who qualifies for the confidentiality protection.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill only extends coverage of existing confidentiality standards to a broader populace of tax payers. There should be no fiscal impact and very little operations impact from this bill as it requires the qualifying individual to request confidentiality safeguards for his or her records.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1204	**Author:**	Giddings
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to donations of juror reimbursements

Bill Category

Other

Code and Section

Government Code **61.003**

The bill permits jurors to donate a portion of their daily reimbursement for jury service to any of several approved programs. Current law only allows jurors to donate either all or none of their reimbursement.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The District Clerk's Office estimates that the bill may require the addition of 2 new employees to handle the extra work generated by this bill. These employees would be needed to determine each juror's daily pay and then allocate whatever portion of it is donated by the juror to the requested recipient. The bill would also require a one-time computer programming cost of $12,000.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$30,000	$60,000
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$12,000	$0
Change to FTEs: 2	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$42,000	$60,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($42,000)	($60,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill becomes effective halfway through the fiscal year.

The computer programming cost of $12,000 is a one-time expense.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**2**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($42,000)**	**($60,000)**

Bill Experts

Kathy Byers	(713) 755-7560	District Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1210	**Author:**	Jackson, Jim
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Harris
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to a refund of an overpayment or erroneous payment of ad valorem taxes

Bill Category

Tax Collections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **31.11**

The bill allows the governing body of a taxing unit to extend the deadline for a taxpayer to apply for a property tax refund upon a showing of good cause. Under current law, there is no provision for a property tax refund if the taxpayer applies for it after the three-year deadline has passed.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the department, this bill is not likely have a fiscal impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1260	**Author:**	Martinez, "Mando"
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to exempting certain military personnel from certain state and local governmental fees

Bill Category

Fees/Other/Mandatory/Amount Change

Code and Section

Government Code **Adds Section 431.03**

The bill would amend the Government Code by exempting certain active duty military personnel from paying certain state and local fees incurred as the result of arranging personal affairs in preparing to be deployed to a hostile fire zone. The bill includes exempting from fees for obtaining copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, child support orders, guardianship documents, property tax records, and transferring property titles.

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) states that the fee for a birth certificate is $22 and the fee for marriage verification is $20.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

According to the Department of State Health Services, most of the exempt records would be issued through the local registrar's office and by county clerks. The fiscal impact to local government for the loss of revenues for the exempted fees cannot be estimated because the number of military personnel being deployed is unknown.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes:

According to the Department of State Health Services, most of the exempt records would be issued through the local registrar's office and by county clerks. The fiscal impact to local government for the loss of revenues for the exempted fees cannot be estimated because the number of military personnel being deployed is unknown.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1267	**Author:**	Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Seliger
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to appointment procedures concerning and compensation and reimbursement for counsel appointed to represent indigent defendants in certain criminal and post-conviction proceedings and to the creation of an indigent defense representation fund

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/New

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 102.023, 133.107

Government Code

Local Government Code

The bill adds a new $2 fee for each conviction of a criminal offense, for the purpose of funding indigent defense representation. The bill also stipulates that the state is to reimburse the county for the cost of defending indigent inmates who are charged with a crime while in TDCJ's custody. Finally, the bill includes a provision requiring the county to pay attorneys appointed to represent indigent defendants within 60 days.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Courts

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$29,000	$58,000
	Net Fiscal Impact	$29,000	$58,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill becomes effective halfway through the fiscal year. The only provision in this bill that would have a fiscal impact is the imposition of the $2 fee on criminal convictions. In 2006 in Harris County, there were 49,424 convictions in county courts, 28,933 convictions in district courts, and 211,899 convictions in JP courts (excluding parking and pedestrian cases). A fee of $2 per conviction would generate revenue of $580,500. Statute allows the county to retain 10% of the fee amount, which comes to a full-year amount of $58,000.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$29,000**	**$58,000**

Bill Experts

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1267	**Author:**	Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Seliger
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Kelly Smith (713) 755-0951 District Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1268	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the award of attorney's fees under the terms of certain contracts with a governmental entity

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **2252.904**

This bill says that any government contract cannot provide for the award of attorney's fees to the government in a dispute unless the contract also provides for the award of attorney's fees to the other party to the contract.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

Harris County has very few, if any, contracts where there is a provision for the county to receive attorney's fees, but not vice versa. Therefore this bill should not impact Harris County.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1295	**Author:**	Hartnett
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to filing fees for certain actions filed in a court with probate jurisdiction.

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/New

Code and Section

Local Government Code **118.051, .052, .055, .057, .067**

Bill would create a new "Supplemental Court-Initiated Guardianship Fee" of $20 that would be applied to certain probate original actions and adverse probate actions.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

HB 1295's $20 "Supplemental Court-Initiated Guardianship Fee" that would be applied to certain probate original actions and adverse probate actions is expected to apply to approximately 8,500 actions in Harris County annually. Total annual revenues are estimated to be $170,000. No significant collections or IT costs are anticipated as a result of implementing this charge.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$170,000	$170,000
Net Fiscal Impact	$170,000	$170,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

HB 1295's $20 "Supplemental Court-Initiated Guardianship Fee" that would be applied to certain probate original actions and adverse probate actions is expected to apply to approximately 8,500 actions in Harris County annually. Total annual revenues are estimated to be $170,000. No significant collections or IT costs are anticipated as a result of implementing this charge.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$170,000**	**$170,000**

Bill Experts

Dan Sumrall	(713) 755-3556	Email, Report, other	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1303	**Author:**	Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to certain requirements applicable to orders of expunction or nondisclosure of criminal history records and to the protection of information that is the subject of one of those orders; providing penalties

Bill Category

Expunctions / Nondisclosures

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 55.02

Government Code

The bill allows expunctions and nondisclosure orders to be sent electronically. Currently these documents are sent by certified mail, which is more expensive and time-consuming than electronic transmission. The bill also requires the Department of Public Safety to notify certain private entities (such as background check companies) of an expunction.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will result in a savings for the District Clerk, since electronic transmission are cheaper than sending certified mail.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	($12,300)	($24,700)
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	($18,200)	($39,900)
Change to FTEs: -1	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	($30,500)	($64,600)
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$30,500	$64,600

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill becomes effective halfway through the fiscal year. The primary source of savings associated with this bill comes from reduced labor costs. District Clerk's Office clerks currently spend 8 hours per day (1 FTE) on processing and mailing expunctions. Under this bill, processing time will be drastically reduced. Also, the District Clerk currently spends about $36,000 (the amount goes up every year) on certified mailing costs for expunctions and orders of nondisclosure. By contrast, electronic transmissions would be essentially free.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**-1**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$30,500**	**$64,600**

Bill Experts

Wes McCoy	(713) 755-7859	District Clerk's Office

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1303	**Author:**	Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1314	**Author:**	Bailey | Harless
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the regulation and financing of water and sewer utility systems in certain counties; providing a civil penalty

Bill Category

New County Authority

Code and Section

Local Government Code 412.016 amended

The bill adds "finance" to the actions a county may take with regard to a county water and sewer system. It also reduces the population necessary for a county to provide use of a county water and sewer system within the bounds of a municipality from 2.8 million to 2 million.

Local Government Code 412.017 added

Adds this section, pertaining only to Harris County, which provides the County with additional authorities in the regulation of water and sewer systems when those systems will be in a superfund area or one designated as economically distressed. This section should clear the way for Harris County to undertake community development programs for these systems without the requirement of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity being issued by Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, thus saving substantial amounts on each project undertaken for community development.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

PID Engineering Department

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill was carried by Rep. Bailey for Harris County. It will save millions of dollars over the next few years by eliminating the requirement that the County file all of the reports required to acquire a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for each sewer and water project resulting from community development programs.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

PID Engineering Department

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	($75,000)	($150,000)
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	($75,000)	($150,000)
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$75,000	$150,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill will eliminate the need to develop application materials to support Certificates of Convenience and Necessity from the TCEQ for projects undertaken for community development purposes. The savings for each such project should total about $150,000 which is also the savings estimated to be realized each year from total project expenses for water and sewer systems to which this bill applies.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See note for FY 2008.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1314	**Author:**	Bailey | Harless
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$75,000**	**$150,000**

Bill Experts

John Blount	(713) 316-3578	Discussion	PID Permits - Engineering

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1355	**Author:**	Gattis | Anchia
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Shapleigh
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to dog attacks on persons; creating an offense

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **822.001, 822.0011, 822.055**

The bill increases the punishment for dog attacks on persons that result in serious bodily injury or death. It is an offense when, with criminal negligence, a dog owner fails to secure his or her dog and the dog makes an unprovoked attack on a person outside the owner's property that causes serious bodily injury or death. The bill also establishes an offense when a dog owner knows his or her dog is a dangerous dog and the dog makes an unprovoked attack on a person outside the dog's secure enclosure that causes serious bodily injury or death. The offense is a third-degree felony, unless the attack resulted in death, in which case the offense is a second-degree felony. A dog attack that results in bodily injury would remain a Class C misdemeanor.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Negligible

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1380	**Author:**	McCall
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to court security and the use of money in courthouse security and municipal court building security funds

Bill Category

Fines and Fees - Specific Use

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 102.071 amended

Amends the Article pertaining to the use of courthouse security fees that are collected from those tried in various municipal and county courthouses; for Harris County, the bill covers county criminal, district criminal, and justice courts, regardless of their location.

With respect to courthouse security fees collected, these are specified to be spent only for "security personnel, services, and items"; that term is also defines in considerable detail. Of equal importance, the bill details that operations of the courts include activities conducted by judges and by associate judges, masters, magistrates, and others.

For the special case of justice courts, the bill specifies that one-quarter of the money collected for courthouse security must be spent for security personnel, services, and items in the court site buildings that are not the county courthouse.

Administrative judges for all types of courts are further required to file a written report of the nature of each security incident occurring in a building housing a court for which they are administrative judge, within three business days to the Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial System.

This bill neither changes the amount of courthouse security fees to be charged convicted offenders in the various types of criminal courts, nor does it at all change the procedures for depositing those funds. There is, in short, no new fiscal impact to be associated with passage of this bill.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

The Manager of the County Criminal Courts must assure that the special provisions for use of courthouse security fees for securing Justice Courts are met, and the Justice of the Peace Administrative Justice must timely meet the reporting requirements for security incidents involving Justice courts.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The Manager of the County Criminal Courts must be certain that the courthouse security fees are being properly used, and the Administrative Judge for the County Criminal Courts must file timely the report of security incidents specified in the details of this bill.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1380	**Author:**	McCall
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The Administrator of the District Courts must be certain that the courthouse security fees are being properly used, and the Administrative Judge for the District Courts must file timely the report of security incidents specified in the details of this bill.

Bill Experts

Bob Wessels	(713) 755-5394	Discussion	Court Services - County (Wessels)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1401	**Author:**	Dutton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gallegos
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 402 regarding road projects; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Chapter 8198**

This bill authorizes Harris County Municipal Utility District #402 to impose taxes, issue bonds, and undertake road projects. The land encompassed by this MUD is in the City of Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction and is in need of road services.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1420	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the removal of property from county roads by certain counties

Bill Category

Transportation

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **280.002 c,d,and g amended**

This bill amends a section of the Transportation Code that was originally created in 2003 to provide counties an authority to order the removal of personal property that blocks a road, blocks the right-of-way of a county roadway, or otherwise endangers public safety. The current amendments allow a county commissioner rather than the county to so order the removal.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Gives each commissioner the right to order removal of personal property that is blocking a road or the road's right-of-way, or is otherwise a danger to public safety, with the exception of vehicles, equipment, or other personal property in use by a public utility to perform installation, repair, or maintenance of utility facilities.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Cathy Sisk	713-755-7872	Discussion	County Attorney's office

Other Notes:

The amendments contained in this bill restore the legislative intent of the original legislation which was to authorize commissioners rather than the commissioners court to order removal of personal property without

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1420	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

permission when a determination has been made that the property is blocking a road, its right-of-way, or otherwise endangering public safety and has been doing so for at least 6 hours.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1446	**Author:**	Bohac
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the period for preserving precinct election records

Bill Category

Elections

Code and Section

Election Code **66.058 amended**

The act amends or adds several subsections to the Election Code pertaining to Preservation of Precinct Election Records, authorizing the ballots to be transferred from the secured ballot boxes to other locked and secured containers on or after the 61st day following an election so as to free the ballot boxes to be redistributed for use in another county election.

Election Code **66.058 (g) repealed**

Repeals subsection 66.058 (g) of the Election Code which required the Secretary of State to instruct election authorities as to the proper preservation of federal election records.

This bill undoes an unintended consequence of HB 1580 (79th regular session). That bill required that election results be preserved for 22 months after an election by sealing ballot boxes for the duration. As a consequence, the availablity of ballot boxes for elections occurring during the secure period became problematic. This bill allows the County Clerk to move the ballots for an election to another secure container after 61 days, relieving the need to purchase expensive additional ballot boxes.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

Impact on Department Operations:

The only operations impact will be the formal unlocking of ballot boxes and transfer of ballots to other secure containers after the 61st day following the election.

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The County Clerk Office will acquire secure containers to preserve the ballots for each election conducted by the Clerk for at least 20 months following the ballot transfer from original ballot boxes.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$5,000	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$5,000	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($5,000)	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1446	**Author:**	Bohac
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

According to the Chief Deputy County Clerk, the total cost for purchase of containers to meet the requirements of HB 1446 should not exceed $5,000. It is presumed these purchases will be made from existing department budget allocations.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($5,000)**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Email, Report, other	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1471	**Author:**	Hancock
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Brimer
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to resource sharing among certain political subdivisions, including regional planning commissions, during a disaster

Bill Category

Disaster Assistance

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **418.004, 418.1015, 418.107, etc.**

The Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System is established to authorize jurisdictions to request aid from other jurisdictions regardless of whether a mutual aid agreement is in place. In this way, counties and cities can share resources and equipment during emergency situations, rather than having to buy the needed items. The Governor's Division of Emergency Management is responsible for administering the Mutual Aid System. The bill designates the presiding officer of a governing body of a city or county as the emergency management director for the political subdivision. In addition, the bill codifies Disaster Districts to provide pre-disaster planning.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Emergency Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Theoretically, the sharing of resources and equipment will cost Harris County less than having to buy the needed items in an emergency.

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Bill Experts

Michael Montgomery	(281) 931-1085	Fire & Emergency Services
Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes:

The ultimate impact of the bill will depend on the provisons of a mutual aid agreement, the resources shared, the length of time the resources are shared, and whether the lending entity requests that the borrowing entity provide coverage for the borrrowed items.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1493	**Author:**	Bonnen
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the establishment and operation of a severe storm research and planning center

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Education Code **Adds Chapter 155**

The bill creates a Severe Storm Research and Planning Center to: develop real-time storm surge forecasting ability for hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region; create rainfall and flood warning systems for urban and coastal areas; develop public education programs regarding evacuation; and develop evacuation plans. The Center is to be administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, with an advisory council consisting of representatives from the local universities and other entities. Funding for the Center will come from the state and from gifts, grants, and donations.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Emergency Services

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will not have a fiscal impact for Harris County. The Center is expected to generate models that will be useful in helping the county develop evacuation and shelter plans.

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

No fiscal impact.

Bill Experts

Michael Montgomery	(281) 931-1085	Fire & Emergency Services
Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1497	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the consequences of the failure by a person requesting information under the public information law to timely respond to certain written communications from a governmental body

Bill Category

Public Information Requests

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **552.222**

Existing law allows a governmental body to seek clarification on a public information request but doesn't specify what should be done if the requestor does not respond. HB 1497 will allow governmental bodies to "close-out" such requests. To do so, the governement must request clarification from the requestor in writing (certified mail if an address was provided) and if no written response is received within 61 days, the request can be assumed to be withdrawn.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill impacts all county departments that respond to public information requests. This bill gives the county a way to close-out public information requests when the requestor doesn't respond to county requests for clarification (vs. leaving the files pending). The county can consider a request withdrawn if the requestor doesn't respond to the county's written request for clarification within 61 days. If the requestor provided a mailing address, the county must send written request for clarification via certified mail ($2.65 + regular postage) for that request to be considered withdrawn (if not sent via certified mail, the matter would be considered to be still pending).

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1522	**Author:**	Harless
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to parking a commercial motor vehicle on certain streets

Bill Category

Transportation

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **Section 545.307**

Currently, the Transportation Code allows a county or municipality to restrict overnight parking of commercial vehicles in a residential subdivision upon request from a homeowner. The current language does not include streets adjacent to those areas. Overnight parking of commercial vehicles continues to disturb residents and obstruct driving lanes and access to neighborhood parks, schools, and places of worship.

HB 1522 expands existing provisions regarding the restriction of overnight parking in a residential subdivision to apply to streets adjacent to a subdivision and within 1,000 feet of a residence, school, church, or park. The bill specifically exempts vehicles owned by a utility company that a utility employee parks at his or her residence because they are on call 24 hours a day.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1560	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to liability of a governmental unit for certain recreational activities

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Civil Practice & Remedies Co 75.002

This bill adds paintball use to the list of recreation activities that may take place on county premises. A sign shall be posted to limit the county's liability for any damages arising from paintball use.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioner Precinct 3

Impact on Department Operations:

There are currently no Harris County parks that allow paintball use, but this bill allows the county to create a paintball facility in the future.

Bill Experts

Carole Scharth	(713) 755-6306	Commissioner Precinct 3

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1572	**Author:**	Woolley
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to an exception from civil discovery for certain records of a law enforcement agency

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Civil Practice & Remedies Co 30.006

Prohibits a court in a civil court action from ordering discovery of information contained in law enforcement records that are part of an ongoing investigation if the release of that information could impact the investigation unless the court determines via in camera inspection that the discovery is relevant and that there is a specific need for the discovery. This does not apply to civil cases in which the law enforcement agency is involved.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Requires courts in civil proceedings to establish the need via in camera inspection for discovery of information contained in certain law enforcement records before ordering the discovery of that information.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Requires courts in civil proceedings to establish the need via in camera inspection for discovery of information contained in certain law enforcement records before ordering the discovery of that information.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1579	**Author:**	Guillen
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Deuell
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to reimbursement for health care services provided at certain times to persons enrolled in the Medicaid managed care program.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Add Sec. 533.01315**

H.B. 1579 requires the Health and Human Services Commission to reimburse health centers and rural health clinics for care provided outside regular business hours to Medicaid recipients participating in the program without a referral from the patient's primary care provider. This bill provides that health centers and clinics that remain open outside of regular business hours are eligible for certain incentives.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Hospital District

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill does not apply to the Harris County Hospital District.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1585	**Author:**	King, Susan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Deuell
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to administrative penalties imposed by a public health district or a county for violations of health and safety provisions relating to retail food service

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **437.0185 and 437.0186 added**

Under the Health & Safety Code previously, commissioners courts and public health districts did not have the option of using administrative orders to penalize those who are guilty of violation of certain food service rules and regulations. Some counties, such as Harris, have been authorized cite violators under other codes or sections of Health & Safety; this bill extends to those counties which labored without such authority to enforce food safety violations with administrative penalties of up to $500 per day or separate violation.

This bill will have no impact for Harris County, which will continue to use its other authorities to cite violators for food service rules.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill gives Harris County another enforcement option should it ever choose to use it, though current plans call for continuation of citations as the favored penalty format for food service violations.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Discussion	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1587	**Author:**	Kuempel
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Brimer
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to participation and credit in, contributions to, and benefits and administration of the Texas County and District Retirement System

Bill Category

Retirement Issues

Code and Section

Government Code **841-845**

This bill makes a large number of changes related to the benefits and administration of TCDRS. From a Harris County perspective, the most significant option that was added by this bill would be for the County to consider a five year vesting requirement, as opposed to the current provision, which is eight years.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Mgmt.

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill imposes no mandatory cost increase to the County and just increases the options already available. Foremost among those options is the ability for the county to use a five-year vesting option instead of the current eight years. HRRM is unlikely to recommend that commissioner's court implement this option which would cost the county about $1 million per year (very preliminary estimate). The aspects of this bill are not expected to have any material impact on Harris County.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Mgmt.

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

No impact for FY 2008 as the only potential impact of this bill cannot be implemented until calendar year 2009.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Starting in calendar year 2009, this bill give the county the option to use a five-year vesting option instead of the current eight years. HRRM is unlikely to recommend that commissioner's court implement this option which would cost the county about $1 million per year (very preliminary estimate).

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Kester	(713) 755-5586	Email, Report, other	Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Management

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1610	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the requirement that a judge release on community supervision certain defendants convicted of certain state jail felonies.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12

Mandatory probation is granted for certain low-level state jail drug offenses who have not previously been convicted of a felony. This bill extends the mandatory probation to include those people who have previously been convicted of a state jail felony that was punished as a Class A misdemeanant (12.44a).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

By mandating probation for certain low-level drug felons who have previously been convicted of a felony punished under 12.44(a), it is expected that HB 1610 could actually increase the number of people in Harris County jail. Currently, the "good candidates" for probation are generally placed on probation already and the "bad candidates" serve their time in state or county jail. Although this bill would result in more people receiving probation sentences instead of jail, it should be pointed out that many of the diverted offenders would have served time in State Jail, not the county. Of those people who would get probation as a direct result of HB 1610, many would wind-up in Harris County jail while waiting for available space in residential treatment programs or as a result of probation revocations, intermediate sanctions, and "jail therapy". Although this bill would divert some people from the county jail to probation, it is expected that the net effect will be an increase in County jail population of undetermined magnitude.

Community Sup. & Corrections

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill is expected to increase the number of people who are given probation. The incremental probationers are likely to be "bad" probation candidates (many of the "good" candidates are receiving probation already) and those who would prefer to serve their time in jail. The magnitude of the increased population is unknown.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill is expected to result in an increased county jail population. The magnitude of the increase is unknown.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1610	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Peyton Peebles	(713) 755-5826	Email, Report, other	District Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1623	**Author:**	Phillips
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

Caption

Relating to certain offenses, fees, and penalties imposed for operating a motor vehicle or vessel in violation of law and to the use of the money collected.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

Fees/Courts/Optional/Amount Change

Fees/Courts/Optional/New

Fees/Other/Mandatory/Amount Change

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/New

Code and Section

Transportation Code 502.404

Adds that a court MAY dismiss a charge for driving without 2 properly displayed license plates if it is fixed before the court appearance. Provides for a maximum admin. fee of $10 (vs. a max. fine of $200 previously).

Transportation Code 502.407

Court may dismiss a charge for driving with expired registration if the person renews their registration by the later of 20 days or the court date (vs. 10 days previously). Doubles the maximum admin. fee to $20 upon dismissal.

Transportation Code 502.409

Adds that a court MAY dismiss a charge for driving without obscured or otherwise unreadable license plates/registration if it is fixed before the court appearance. Provides for a maximum admin. fee of $10 (vs. a max. fine of $200 previously).

Transportation Code 521.025

Adds that a court can assess $10 admin fee if it dismisses a charge for driving without a license if the person later proves he did possess a license at the time of the offense. Only change is the application of the $10 fee.

Transportation Code 521.026

Court MAY dismiss a charge for driving with expired license if the person renews their license by the later of 20 days or the court date (vs. 10 days previously). Doubles the maximum admin. fee to $20 upon dismissal.

Transportation Code 521.054

Court MAY dismiss a charge for not having updated name & address information on a driver's license if the person corrects the problem within 20 days. Sets a maximum admin. fee of $20 upon dismissal but allows a judge to waive the fee.

Transportation Code 521.221

Court MAY dismiss a charge for violating certain restrictions placed on a driver (such as driving without glasses) if the basis for the restriction was resolved prior to the offense or if the department removes the restriction prior to the first court appearance. Sets an admin. fee of $10 upon dismissal.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1623	**Author:**	Phillips
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

Transportation Code 521.457

Makes driving with a canceled or suspended license a Class C misdemeanor (vs. a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of $100-$500 and between 72 hours and 6 months in county jail previously). This does not apply to repeat offenses or to a license that was canceled or suspended as a result of a DWI.

Transportation Code 547.004

Adds that a court MAY dismiss a charge for driving a vehicle that doesn't meet the equipment and safety standards defined in this section (proper lighting, brakes, windshield tinting, etc.) if it is fixed before the court appearance provided that an admin. fee of up to $10 is paid. This does not apply to commercial vehicles.

Transportation Code 548.605

Court MAY dismiss a charge for driving with expired inspection certificate if the person renews the certificate by the later of 20 days or the court date (vs. 10 days previously). Doubles the maximum admin. fee to $20 upon dismissal.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

Changing the DWLS offense to a Class C misdemeanor could reduce the daily jail population. There are approximately 50 people in county jail on DWLS offenses at any given time. This bill will remove some of these 50 people from County jail, although those who are repeat offenders and those whose license was suspended as a result of a DWI will remain subject to the required jail time.

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill gives judges additional discretion to dismiss certain vehicle license, registration, and inspection offenses if the defendant remedies the cause of the offense within a specified time. Administrative fees are added or increased for dismissed cases.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill may increase the number of cases that are dismissed by the justice courts and will also increase the total administrative fees collected as a result of those dismissals. When a case is dismissed, the County loses approximately $20 in revenue (jp court costs + the share of $ remitted to the state that is retained by the county) plus the amount of the fine that would have otherwise been collected. This is partially offset by the admin. fee that is assessed for the dismissals. The ultimate financial impact of this bill is unknown, and will depend upon

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1623	**Author:**	Phillips
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

the change in the number of cases that the justice courts choose to dismiss. The following background information and statistics help to view the potential magnitude of any financial impacts:

521.221 (violating restrictions on a driver's license). There were 906 such cases in 2006. The applicable fine is $44. The court is now given authority to dismiss these cases for a $10 admin. fee.

521.054 (Incorrect information on driver's license). There were 4622 such cases in 2006. The applicable fine = $14. The court is now given authority to dismiss these cases for a fee of up to $20, although the judge may waive the fee.

502.407 (Driving with Expired Registration). In 2006, 12,703 cases were dismissed with a $10 admin fee out of a total of 43,363 cases. The applicable fines range from $14 to $44. This bill doubles the admin. fee to $20 which would generate an additional $127,030.

502.409 (Driving with obscured or unreadable plates/registration). There were 775 cases in 2006 with an applicable fine of $14. The court is now given authority to dismiss these cases for a $10 admin. fee.

502.404 (Driving without properly displayed plates). In 2006 there were 2,933 cases with applicable fines ranging from $14 to $44. The court is now given authority to dismiss these cases for a $10 admin. fee.

548.605 (Driving with Expired Inspection Certificate). There were 39,534 cases with 12,547 dismissals for a $10 admin. fee. The applicable fine is $11. This bill doubles the admin. fee to $20 which would generate an additional $125,470.

521.026 (Driving with expired license). There were 3,050 cases and 446 dismissals for a $10 admin fee in 2006. The applicable fine is $39. This bill doubles the admin. fee to $20 which would generate an additional $4,460.

547.004 (Driving vehicle that doesn't meet equipment standards). There were 8,797 cases in 2006 with 120 dismissed with a $10 admin. fee payment. The applicable fine ranges from $11 to $186. The court is now allowed to dismiss these cases for a $10 admin. fee.

521.025 (Driving without license on-person). There were 12,608 cases in 2006 with 41 dismissals. The applicable fine is $59. The court can now charge a fee of $10 for dismissals, resulting in an additional $410 annually.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1623	**Author:**	Phillips
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Underfunded

Sheriff's Department - Detention

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

521.457 (Driving with a suspended license). At any given time there are approximately 50 people in county jail for driving with a suspended license. As a result of this bill, many of these people (exact proportion unknown) will be charged with a class C misdemeanor and will no longer be required to serve jail time, thereby resulting in reduced costs for HCSO.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Harry Leverette	(713) 755-7736	Discussion	Court Services - County (Wessels)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1678	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the operation of a system of community supervision.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

Procedure Change - Optional

Prison/Jail Overcrowding

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.03

States that a defendant shall get credit toward his sentence for any time spent in a SAFP treatment program or another court-ordered residential program as a condition of deferred adjudication community supervision so long as the person completed the treatment program at that facility.

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12, Section 3b

Decreases the maximum probation term for certain 3rd degree felonies (primarily property and drug offenses) from 10 years to 5 years.

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12 Section 4d

States that persons cannot receive community supervision sentences if they're adjudged guilty of an offense under Penal Code 19.02 (murder).

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12, Section 15(h)(2)

Mandates that a judge give credit against time sentenced in a state jail felony facility for any time served in a SAFP or other CSCD residential treatment program prior to sentencing, but only if the program was completed successfully.

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12, Section 16a

Gives judges discretion over community service requirements for people placed on probation (statute currently mandates minimum community service hours depending on the severity of the offense).

Code of Criminal Procedure Section 20

Mandates judicial review of probation sentences at the later of two years or 1/2 of the probation sentence. At that review, the court may reduce, terminate, or leave the sentence as-is. If the court does not think a person has satisfied the terms of supervision, the court must notify the defendant in writing what is required to meet the conditions of community supervision. This section does not apply to Section 3g offenses, DUI-related offenses, and offenses requiring registration as a sex offender.

Local Government Code 132.002

If approved by the courts, allows CSCD's to collect fines, fees and court costs by debit or credit card.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1678	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Impact on Department Operations:

Shorter probation sentences (5 year max. instead of 10 years for certain 3rd degree felonies) will result in fewer probation revocations and therefore fewer jail days. The impact of this would not begin to be seen until 2012, however, and is not expected to be significant.

By now receiving credit for completed court-ordered drug treatment programs, certain people whose probation is revoked will have shorter remaining sentences. Many of these people will be revoked to state jails but some will remain in county jails after revocation and thus will have shorter county jail stays due to this bill. There are no reliable statistics to determine the magnitude of the impact on the county jail population, but as a point of reference, the average treatment program duration is 6 months and a total of 660 people who completed residential treatment over the past two years have been rearrested and could thus benefit from the terms of this bill (although an unknown number of these arrests are new charges which would not be subject to this bill).

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Court review of probation sentences at the later of 2 years or 1/2 of the original probation sentence will not apply to the County courts because the maximum misdemeanor probation term is 2 years.

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Court review of probation sentences at the later of 2 years or 1/2 of the original probation sentence could result in slight increases in judicial workload. The increased workload is not expected to be significant, however, because comparable reviews are already being done by the large majority of the courts.

Community Sup. & Corrections

Impact on Department Operations:

Reduced probation population due to:
a) 5 year maximum term (vs. 10 years currently) for certain 3rd degree felonies. The impact of this won't begin to be seen for 5 years. CSCD currently has 714 people on probation for the targeted 3rd degree felonies who have been on probation for greater than 5 years.
b) Shortened probation duration due to judicial review at later of 2 years or 1/2 of the sentence.

Any decreases in probationer population will result in reductions in probationer payments and state funding.

Because CSCD currently only has one murder case, the elimination of probation for people convicted of murder is not expected to have a material impact.

CSCD plans to evaluate the use of debit/credit cards.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1678	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill is expected to result in a positive, but unknown, financial impact due to a reduction in the county jail population as a result of prisoners now receiving jail time credit for time spent in court ordered residential treatment programs. For reference, over the past two years, an average of 330 people who completed residential treatment programs through HCCSCD at an average program duration of 180 days were subsequently re-arrested. Of those 330 people, those who were revoked on the same charge (vs. arrested on a new charge) AND who were sent back to serve time in county jail (instead of state jail), would see reduced county jail time as a result of this bill.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Gilbert Garcia	(713) 755-2707	Email, Report, other	Community Supervision & Corrections
Kelly Smith	(713) 755-0951	Email, Report, other	District Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1694	**Author:**	Bailey
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Gallegos
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the boundaries of the Airline Improvement District in Harris County

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code

Modifies the boundaries as described for the Airline Improvement District which were previously approved during the 79th Regular Session. The general boundaries of the District now extend from Sweetwater Lane and the City of Houston boundary in the west, northerly to West Road and the Houston City limits including all addresses on Airline Drive and Aldine Mail Route, easterly to the Hardy Toll Road and the Houston city limits, and southerly to Carby Road and Canino Street. No other modifications are made to the laws governing the District.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court's role will be not at all changed by the contents of this bill.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes:

There should be no fiscal or operations impact resultant from the changes included in this bill.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1717	**Author:**	McReynolds
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the identification requirements for any device with the appearance of a fire hydrant that is nonfunctioning or otherwise unavailable for use in a fire emergency

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **341.0357 added**

Adds a requirement that any object resembling a fire hydrant that is located near where a fire hydrant would normally be expected but which is not usable for fire suppression purposes be painted black (or another color if such has been adopted by a municipality) or be covered with a black cover if the device is only temporarily out of service for a period of less than seven days.

The purpose of this bill is to lessen the likelihood that fire emergency vehicles will hook hoses to devices that are not effective in fire suppression at the time of a fire emergency.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Fire Marshal

Impact on Department Operations:

Neither the Fire Marshal nor Public Infrastructure see an impact arising from this bill; they see this bill as exclusively impacting municipalities.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Michael Montgomery	(281) 931-1085	Discussion	Fire & Emergency Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1763	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the Harris County Board of Protective Services for Children and Adults.

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Human Resources Code 152.1073

The bill codifies the change in the department's name that occurred in 2003.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Protective Services For Children and Adults

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Bill Experts

Joel Levine	(713) 394-4063	Protective Services For Children and Adults

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1780	**Author:**	Harless
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the audit of a county jail's commissary operations

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **511.016**

The bill requires the county auditor to provide the Commission on Jail Standards with a copy of its audit of the county jail's commissary operations on an annual basis.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Auditor's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

None. The department already performs an annual financial audit of the commissary.

Bill Experts

Mike Post	(713) 755-4150	Auditor's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1852	**Author:**	Corte, Frank
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Van de Putte
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the authority of a county to regulate the installation and use of lighting in certain areas

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 240.031

Upon the request of the US Military, Commissioners Court is given the option to adopt orders regulating the installation and use of outdoor lighting within 5 miles of a military installation in the unincorporated portions of the county, and to assess a permitting fee sufficient to cover the costs associated with administrating the order. Certain outdoor lighting is exempt from such orders.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1886	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the procurement methods of certain political subdivisions and certain other entities for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of certain projects.

Bill Category

New County Authority

Code and Section

Local Government Code 271.111

Expands those entities that are allowed to utilize alternative delivery methods for construction projects to include Hospital Districts, Water Districts, and certain other special purpose districts.

Local Government Code Chapter 271

Adds a section which allows entities, including counties, to use the design-build delivery method for civil works projects (previously this ability didn't extend to civil projects although it was OK for building construction). This section specifies the procedures for using this project delivery method for Civil projects.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

Allows Hospital District to utilize alternative delivery methods for construction projects which can result in both time and cost savings on some projects. Many of the benefits of a design-build delivery result from having a single point of contact for design and construction, often resulting in fewer change-orders.

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

Allows the County to utilize design-build project delivery method for Civil construction projects. This is already allowed for building construction. Benefits of using this delivery method can include a single point of accountability which can reduce costs and change-orders and can also result in quicker completion.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Benefits of using the design-build delivery method for Civil projects is expected to result in cost savings and quicker project completion. The magnitude of the savings is not estimable at this time.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1886	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Hospital District

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Benefits of using the design-build delivery method for Hospital District projects is expected to result in cost savings and quicker project completion where this is used. The magnitude of the savings is not estimable at this time.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Mike Yancey	(713) 755-8293	Email, Report, other	Public Infrastructure Department (PID)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1887	**Author:**	Truitt | Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the punishment for and prevention of the offense of burglary of vehicles

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy

Code and Section

Penal Code **30.04**

Code of Criminal Procedure **42.12**

This bill stiffens the punishment for the crime of vehicle burglary. Currently, the punishment for vehicle burglary is a Class A misdemeanor (up to 12 months in jail). Under this bill, the offense will become a Class A misdemeanor with a minimum punishment of 6 months in jail for defendants with 1 prior conviction for vehicle burglary. The offense becomes a state jail felony (between 6 months and 2 years in a state jail) if the defendant has 2 or more prior convictions for this crime.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

The Sheriff's Office reports that in calendar year 2006 a total of 1,075 individuals were arrested in Harris County and charged with burglary of a vehicle (currently a Class A misdemeanor). HCSO estimates that about 50% of these offenders have no prior convictions for this offense, 25% have 1 prior conviction, and 25% have 2 or more prior convictions. Under this bill, the punishment for first time vehicle burglary offenders is unchanged.

The District Attorney's Office reports that jail stays for vehicle burglary offenders with 1 prior conviction currently range from 30 - 90 days. For this analysis, we assume the average is 60 days. Under this bill, these offenders would spend 180 days in jail, an average of 120 additional jail days. It costs Harris County $60 per day to house a jail inmate. The cost to the county from this component of the bill is (1,075 x 25%) x 120 x $60 = $1,937,000.

The DA indicates that jail stays for vehicle burglary offenders with 2 or more prior convictions currently range from 60 - 180 days. We assume an average of 120 days. Under this bill, the DA reports that these offenders would likely spend 90 days in jail before being transferred to a state jail, which is 30 days fewer than under current policy. This component of the bill would save the county (1,075 x 25%) x 30 x $60 = $484,000.

The cumulative impact to the county is a cost of $1,937,000 - $484,000 = $1,453,000 per year.

District Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will affect how some offenders are sentenced, but it will not have a fiscal impact on the District Attorney's Office.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

	Impact to Harris County:	
	Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1887	**Author:**	Truitt | Pena
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Change to FTEs: 0

Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$726,000	$1,453,000
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$726,000	$1,453,000
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	($726,000)	($1,453,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill becomes effective halfway through the fiscal year.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($726,000)** **($1,453,000)**

Bill Experts

Lyn McClellan		District Attorney's Office
Richard Ricks	(713) 967-5812	Sheriff's Department - Detective

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1910	**Author:**	Elkins
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the seizure of personal property for the payment of ad valorem taxes

Bill Category

Tax Collections

Code and Section

Tax Code **33.21 (b) amended**

Current law allows placement of a statutory tax lien on personal property for collection of taxes due each January. However, if the business liquidates the personal property during its cessation of business, the tax lien becomes unenforceable and the collection of the taxes due problematic.

The problem cited above is particularly true if the business is a limited liability company (LLC) or a corporation, the taxes may not be collected from those owning a portion or shares of the company due to limitiations on owner liability.

HB 1910 seeks to alleviate these problems by amending section 33.21 (b) to make discovery by a tax collector that the personal property of an entity is to be liquidated as part of a business cessation grounds for seizure of the personal property to assure payment of the tax liability of the company.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

Operationally, this affords the Assessor & Collector of Taxes an additional option for the collection of taxes from a company that is liquidating its inventory in the course of going out of business. It is anticipated that several siezures may be filed each year to assure that taxes are collected from businesses that otherwise might avoid paying due to the limited recourse for business debts against owners and stockholders of certain forms of business.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

It is impossible to forecast the likely fiscal impact of this bill except to say that the impact will be a fiscal positive. The value of seized inventories to satisfy tax obligations will be far greater than the cost of executing the necessary legal processes to enforce the seizures.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

It is impossible to forecast the likely fiscal impact of this bill except to say that the impact will be a fiscal

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1910	**Author:**	Elkins
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

positive. The value of seized inventories to satisfy tax obligations will be far greater than the cost of executing the necessary legal processes to enforce the seizures.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1919	**Author:**	Smith, Todd
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Van de Putte
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to health benefit plan coverage for treatment for certain brain injuries

Bill Category

Insurance Issues

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Insurance Code

The bill would amend the Insurance Code to require health benefit plans to provide coverage for testing, treatment, rehabilitation, and reintegration services in response to an acquired brain injury.

The bill would amend the Insurance Code to require certain health plans to provide coverage for autism spectrum disorder including speech, occupational and physical therapies and associated medication and nutritional supplements.

The bill would apply to group health benefit plans delivered, issued, or renewed on or after January 1, 2008 and would take effect September 1, 2007.

Bill Experts

Marva Gay	(713) 755-6608	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes:

This bill does not apply to the health benefits plan offered by Harris County to its employees which is defined as a self-funded plan and thus does not fall under the provisions of this bill. In the future, if Harris County provides employee health benefits through an insurance company, the House Bill 1919 amendments would apply to Harris County.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1921	**Author:**	Keffer, Jim
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Eltife
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the use of certain devices in a polling place

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **61.013 added**

Prohibits the use of a wireless communications device, or any device capable of recording images or sounds, from being used within 100 feet of a polling station, and allows an election judge to force a person refusing to cease operations of the device to leave the polling place.

Election Code **62.0111 added**

Allows an election judge to post in one or more places at a polling station a notice of the prohibition of use for those devices specified in the new 61.013. Wording of such notices is to be prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

There is thought to be no operational nor fiscal impact from implementation of this bill.

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1928	**Author:**	Flores
Effective Date:	1/1/2009	**Sponsor:**	Lucio
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain travel trailers

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **11.14**

This bill clarifies that travel trailers designed for recreational, camping, travel, or seasonal use and that are less than 400 square feet are exempt from ad valorem taxation.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the department, this bill will have no impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1960	**Author:**	Ortiz, Jr. | Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to access to records or files concerning a child who is subject to the juvenile justice system.

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy - Juvenile

Procedure Change - Mandated

Code and Section

Family Code **58.007**

Allows a juvenile justice agency or law enforcement agency to copy (instead of just inspect previously) any law enforcement records and files concerning a child.

Adds language that newly allows a child and the child's parent or guardian to inspect and copy the law enforcement files pertaining to the child, so long as the custodian of the record redacts any information about other juveniles mentioned in the file, as well as any other information that isn't subject to disclosure.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Constable Precincts (All)

Impact on Department Operations:

All county law enforcement agencies enter juvenile offense reports into a central database. That database is in the process of being replaced. As a result of this bill, law enforcement agencies will need to be able to provide offense reports to juveniles and their families upon request and will need to be able to delete references to other juveniles that are contained in those reports.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

All county law enforcement agencies enter juvenile offense reports into a central database. That database is in the process of being replaced. As a result of this bill, law enforcement agencies will need to be able to provide offense reports to juveniles and their families upon request and will need to be able to delete references to other juveniles that are contained in those reports.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

All county law enforcement agencies enter juvenile offense reports into a central database. That database is in the process of being replaced. At this time, it is unknown what changes, if any, will need to be made to the new system to accommodate the reporting functions that would be required to easily provide requested records to

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 1960	**Author:**	Ortiz, Jr. | Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

juveniles or their families. Future resources will depend on whether programming changes are needed to improve system functionality and will also depend on the number of requests that are made by juveniles or their families (there is no data on this because that option does not currently exist).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Constable Precincts (All)

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

All county law enforcement agencies enter juvenile offense reports into a central database. That database is in the process of being replaced. At this time, Ms. Harper is unsure what changes, if any, will need to be made to the new system to accommodate the reporting functions that would be required to easily provide requested records to juveniles or their families. Future resources will depend on whether programming changes are needed to improve system functionality and will also depend on the number of requests that are made by juveniles or their families (there is no data on this because that option does not currently exist).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Mary Jo Chavez-Har	(713) 921-8756	Discussion	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2061	**Author:**	Keffer
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the acquisition or disclosure of the social security number of a living person by a governmental body, including by a district or county clerk

Bill Category

Public Information Requests

Code and Section

Government Code 552.147

Amends language of the Public Information Act to make the social security numbers of individuals filing certain documents with county or district clerks non-confidential, and provides that the clerks may disclose the social security in the normal course of their business without liability for civil or criminal damages. The clerk may also redact any social security number that is not required by other law to be retained upon specific written request of the individual.

Property Code 11.008

Section 2 of the bill provides that deeds or deeds of trust filed for recording with the county clerk are not required to contain the social security number of an individual and instructs those preparing such documents not to include social security numbers in those instruments.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

When this bill was introduced, it required all public information records posted electronically by county clerks to be redacted; the County Clerk Office estimated the total costs of doing so to be well over $17 million and that was considered optimistic by Budget Office analysts. Two types of impact would have resulted: contracts with private firms to redact all but the last four digits of social security numbers contained in the copies of documents posted to the intranet database, and the hiring of numerous clerks to manually redact copies of those records prior to handing them to the requestor. The adopted version vastly reduces the impact on County Clerks as well as any ancillary costs.

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

It appears that the adopted version will also save time and effort that would have been necessary to defend the County Clerk from lawsuits that would have been brought by individuals seeking damages for unintentional disclosure of previously-confidential social security numbers. It is impossible to estimate the number of such suits that might have been brought and the resultant costs to the County in defending our interests.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Impact to Harris County:

	Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$1,500,000	$1,250,000
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$3,250,000	$4,250,000

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2061	**Author:**	Keffer
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Change to FTEs:	0	**Capital Expense**	$0 / $0
		Net Cost:	$4,750,000 / $5,500,000
		Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0 / $0
		Net Fiscal Impact	($4,750,000) / ($5,500,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill was required to counter the Attorney General Opinion GA-0519 which held that social security numbers and driver license numbers are personal identifiers that must treated as confidential in county records that are subject to the public information act. This said, the Attorney General stated that within 90 days of the ruling, if the legislature had not adopted a law obviating such need, that counties would be required to redact such numbers from all records subject to the PIA. Thus, this measure was adopted, resulting in total savings that have been estimated to be as high as $100 million statewide. The savings above assume that one-half of the redacting would have been completed during between March, 2007 and August, 2009.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See above numbers for the anticipated savings that can be anticipated for County Clerk Office. There would be additional inestimable savings for the County Attorney Office

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($4,750,000)**	**($5,500,000)**

Bill Experts

Kevin Mauzy	(713) 755-3553	Discussion	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2090	**Author:**	Hill
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of a local government transportation corporation by a hospital district or hospital authority

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code

This bill allows hospital districts and hospital authorities to create a local government transportation corporation. This bill is related to HB 2168.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the Harris County Hospital District, this bill simply provides a tool that a hospital district can use. However, our hospital district indicates that it has no interest in creating a local government transportation corporation.

Bill Experts

King Hillier	(800) 436-6484	Hospital District

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2168	**Author:**	Hill
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the powers of municipal and county hospital authorities and hospital districts created under general or special law

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **262.037, 262.038, 264.035, 264.036, etc.**

The bill allows a hospital district to enter into a joint venture with a private entity for the operation of an ancillary health care facility. The primary advocate for this bill was Parkland Hospital, near Dallas.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

None. The Harris County Hospital District has no interest in entering into this type of joint venture. This bill is related to HB 2090.

Bill Experts

King Hillier	(800) 436-6484	Hospital District

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2188	**Author:**	Paxton
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the exception of certain ad valorem tax appraisal information from required disclosure under the public information law

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

Code and Section

Government Code **552.148 added**

Adds language to the Public Information Act (in response to an Attorney General opinion expressing the non-confidential nature of value, price, and description data provided by multiple listing services to appraisal districts) that exempts the information provided by multiple listing services to appraisal districts about specific property sales from disclosure under the public information act.

It is thought that this bill will pave the way for multiple listing services to resume their practice of providing such information to appraisal districts in order to more fairly establish the actual appraisal and market values of properties in the same subdivision as properties recently sold.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill may increase the work necessary by the District in preparation for appeal hearings of appraisal matters since it continues to require the District to provide copies of information to be presented in the hearing in support of its appraised valuation, but adds that the grievant has the right to obtain "a copy of data, schedules, formulas, and all other information the chief appraiser plans to introduce at the hearing to establish any matter at issue". Further, the bill adds "and a copy of each item of informaiton that the chief appraiser took into consideration but does not plan to introduce at the hearing on the protest". Finally, the property owner is entitled to obtain "comparable sales data from a reasonable number of sales that is relevant to. . .the hearing on the property owner's protest".

It is unknown what the fiscal impact of these new requirements will be for the Appraisal District, but the impact is thought to be insignificant.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Appraisal District

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

No information was made available from the Appraisal District as to the costs of implementing the revised information sharing protocols pertaining to appraisal protest hearings but the cost is thought to be of small

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2188	**Author:**	Paxton
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

magnitude.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2210	**Author:**	Bolton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to law enforcement reports concerning the commission of certain offenses and the provision of certain information in those reports to victims of those offenses

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 2.30

The bill requires local law enforcement agencies to provide a free copy of their crime report to victims of certain violent crimes (e.g., domestic violence), upon request by the victim.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

It is not known what percent of victims would request a copy of the crime report. HCSO suggests that in the first year approximately 5% of victims would request a report, with the percentage rising to 25% over time. In 2006, the Harris County Sheriff's Office prepared 14,678 reports for the types of offenses that would be covered by this bill. The Sheriff's Office estimates that it would take 15 minutes to process and mail each copy to a victim. If 25% of victims requested a report, it would result in about 900 hours of new work, which could probably be absorbed by current staff.

Constable Precinct 4

Impact on Department Operations:

The only Harris County Constables Office precinct with a significant incident report volume is Precinct 4. In 2006, this precinct prepared 2,318 incident reports. If between 5% and 25% of victims request a report, the additional work would not be great enough to justify adding staff.

Bill Experts

Danny Billingsley	Sheriff's Department
Bob Hilsher	Constable Precincts (All)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2248	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the ability of a governmental body under the public information law to request a redetermination from the attorney general on dismissal of litigation relating to the same issue

Bill Category

Public Information Requests

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **552.301 amended**

This bill provides additional options to the County Attorney's Office in responding to requests for public information under certain limitied and defined circumstances.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

There is anticipated to be no substantive impact to the operations or budget of the County Attorney Office as the result of this bill. There likewise are no antifipated operating or fiscal impacts for any other department of the County, either.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	Discussion	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2267	**Author:**	Solomons | Martinez Fischer
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Harris
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the suspension of sentence and deferral of final disposition in certain misdemeanor cases.

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Optional/Amount Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 45.051

For misdemeanor, fine-only offenses, as an alternative to requring a defendant to pay court fines & fees, this bill gives the judge discretion to allow the defendant to pay those costs in installments over the probation term, discharge the costs by performing community service, or a combination of the two.

If the defendant doesn't present evidence of compliance, the court shall notify the defendant in writing to appear before the court and show cause why the deferral of fines shouldn't be revoked. The court can either allow more time for the payment or revoke the deferral.

The intent of this bill is to give low income defendants a way to handle the required court costs so they can take the probation and ultimately have their charge dismissed.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

Courts already have the legal authority to do allow people to pay their court costs in installments or via community service. This is not heavily utilized in Harris County and is not anticipated to be utilized much more due to the passage of this bill.

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Discussion	County Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2283	**Author:**	Chavez
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the suspension or removal of a deputy sheriff

Bill Category

County Employment Matter

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 85.003 amended

The crux of this bill is the addition of subsection (f) to the cited section. The addition renders the suspension or removal of a deputy sheriff in a county that operates under a county civil service system valid only for a violation of a rule of that civil service system.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

The Sheriff Department sees no impact resulting from this bill as the two causes for termination of a deputy, violations of law or of policy, remain covered in the civil service regulations. Hence, the changes here are largely symbolic.

Bill Experts

Danny Billingsley	Discussion	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes:

This bill appears to further shackle the hands of Sheriffs who wish to discipline or terminate deputy sheriffs for repeated minor violations, but the Department insists that this bill will not raise the costs of discipline under the civil service rules that have been adopted.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2359	**Author:**	Hartnett
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the collection of certain filing fees by statutory probate courts for deposit in the judicial fund, the use of those deposits, and the remittance of the excess of those deposits.

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/New

Code and Section

Government Code **51.704**

Government code 51.704 currently allows a county commissioners court to decide whether to collect a $40 filing fee for certain probate court actions. These funds are contributed to the judicial fund and returned to the Counties to use in support of the county probate courts. This bill revokes commissioners court's rights to decide whether to collect this $40 probate filing fee and makes collection mandatory. The bill also adds a provision whereby the state can use $5,000 of the judicial fund to pay a portion of the presiding judge's salary. The bill also amends the formula by which any excess funds are distributed among the counties.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

Harris County does not currently collect this $40 fee and will be forced to do so. No additional costs are anticipated in connection with the collection of this fee.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Probate Courts

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$169,500	$339,000
Net Fiscal Impact	$169,500	$339,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Harris County has not collected this $40 filing fee in the past. In 2006, there were 8201 new cases and 270 adverse cases filed that would be subject to this new filing fee which would have generated $339,000. This money will go into the Judicial Fund and will be used in part to pay $5,000 of the presiding judge's salary and $40,000 for each of 4 statutory probate court judges.

The statewide surplus in this fund will be reimbursed to the counties in proportion to their contributions - if Harris County receives full reimbursement, total additional revenue from this bill is estimated to be $339,000.

It should be noted that statute states that the county shall implement this probate filing fee, it also states that a county clerk cannot collect a fee under both sections 51.702 (county court civil filing fee) and 51.704 (probate filing fee). Because Harris County does collect a fee under 51.702 currently, there was some confusion about our ability/requirement to collect the probate fee as well. The County Attorney's opinion is that duplicate fees can't be collected under both sections for the SAME case but doesn't preclude the County's application of both

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2359	**Author:**	Hartnett
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

a probate and a civil court filing fee.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$169,500**	**$339,000**

Bill Experts

Nadine Johnson	(713) 755-6425	Email, Report, other	County Clerk's Office
Debbie Smith	(713) 755-4424	Discussion	Auditor's Office

Other Notes:

SB 821, which passed this session, is also related to use of Gov't Code 51.704 filing fees. SB 821 states that the county may pay all or part of an associate probate court judge's salary from excess contributions to the county from the judicial fund.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2365	**Author:**	Truitt
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to financial accounting and reporting for this state and political subdivisions of this state.

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

Code and Section

Local Government Code 112.002

HB 2365 allows political subdivisions to report retiree health benefits on a pay-as-you-go basis instead of the methodology proposed by GASB45.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Auditor's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

HB 2365 gives the County the option to continue using a pay-as-you-go accounting basis for retiree health benefits in-lieu of implementing GASB 45.

At present (July 5, 2007), the Auditor's intent is to comply with GASB 45 but a final decision has not been made. Regardless of whether the County implements GASB 45 or continues to use pay-as-you-go accounting, an actuarial study will be needed to calculate the County's retiree healthcare liability.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Auditor's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Implementing GASB 45 is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact although a related actuarial study is needed regardless of the chosen accounting basis. Annual audit fees are not expected to vary much under either approach.

If, a decision were to be made to continue using the pay-as-you-go approach, it is possible that the deviation from GAAP could affect independent audit opinions for County financial statements and ultimately impact how credit rating agencies and investors view Harris County (thus impacting financing costs).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Barbara Schott	(713) 755-6505	Email, Report, other	Auditor's Office

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2365	**Author:**	Truitt
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2385	**Author:**	Lucio III
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hinojosa
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the collection of fees by a district attorney, criminal district attorney, or county attorney for certain expenses related to pretrial intervention programs

Bill Category

Fees/Other/Optional/New

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 102.0121

This bill allows the District Attorney to collect a $500 fee for reimbursement of expenses related to a defendant's participation in a pretrial intervention program.

Government Code 103.021

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

Our District Attorney's Office grants approximately 60 pretrial interventions per year, and this bill would not prompt the DA to grant more pretrial interventions. We already charge defendants a fee of $60 per month for pretrial intervention program costs, and it is unlikely that this bill will result in the DA charging a new fee.

Bill Experts

Marc Brown	District Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2391	**Author:**	Madden
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Seliger
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the appearance of certain misdemeanor offenders before a magistrate.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

Prison/Jail Overcrowding

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 14.06

Allows a law enforcement officer to issue to a citizen of that county, a citation to appear in court, instead of taking a person to jail, for the following class A and B misdemeanors:
Possession of 0-4 ounces of marijuana; Criminal mischief if the loss is between $0 and $500; theft between $50 and $500; theft by check of $20 to $500; theft of service between $20 and $500; providing contraband to a person in a correctional facility (misd. Offenses only); and driving with an invalid license.

Further, if a person appears before the magistrate at the appropriate time, the magistrate shall release that person on personal bond except for good cause.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The provisions of this bill are not expected to affect Harris County.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

The provisions of this bill are not expected to affect Harris County.

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Discussion	County Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2439	**Author:**	Truitt | Davis, John
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the functions of local mental health and mental retardation authorities.

Bill Category

Civil Mental Health Stabilization

Health and Safety

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Amends Section 533.031, 533.035, 533.0351,**

Health & Safety Code **Adds Section 533.03521**

Requires a local mental health authority to develop a local network development plan (plan) regarding the configuration and development of that authority's provider network. Requires the plan to reflect local needs and priorities and to maximize consumer choice and access to qualified service providers.

Health & Safety Code **Amends Section 533.0355**

Requires the executive commissioner to adopt rules establishing the roles and responsibilities of local mental retardation authorities. Deletes existing definition of "waiver program."

Department(s) Operations Impact:

MHMRA

Impact on Department Operations:

Mental Retardation Authority Impact: The financial impact of HB 2439 on the Mental Retardation side of the house cannot be determined until the rules for implementation are finalized by the state. If the rules add new mandates then the cost of compliance may increase.

MHMRA

Impact on Department Operations:

Mental Health Authority Impact: We are currently developing the network development plan as required by this bill. Internally we will set up an 'external network management' department to handle the bid process for the various service packages. Bids will be issued quarterly beginning in fall 2008 and be repeated every two years. [Costs are detailed below].

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Clarifies roles and responsibilities of local mental health and mental retardation authorities. Requires a local mental health authority to provide mental health services only as a provider of last resort.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

MHMRA

	Impact to Harris County:	
	Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$113,544	$227,088
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$20,160	$176,000

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2439	**Author:**	Truitt | Davis, John
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Change to FTEs:	4	**Capital Expense**	$0 / $0
		Net Cost:	$133,704 / $403,088
		Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0 / $0
		Net Fiscal Impact	($133,704) / ($403,088)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The indirect cost rate of 22.75% is the average rate applicable to all Harris County Departments. Increase in staff costs is $92,500 plus the indirect cost rate of 22.75% equals $113,544.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Operating costs includes supplies,etc. at a cost of $40,000 plus $136,000 annually for issuing bids quarterly on the defined service packages. Increase in staff cost is $185,000 plus the indirect cost rate of 22.75% which equals $227,088.

Several years out we may see a shift in costs as Internal Providers costs decrease and shifts to External Providers- however the upfront costs will be a burden until systems are operational which is projected to be four to six years in the future.

Total Change in FTE's:	**4**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($133,704) / ($403,088)**

Bill Experts

Jennifer DeCubellis	(713) 970-3424	Email, Report, other	Mental Health & Mental Retardation Authority

Other Notes:

The financial impact of HB 2439 on the Mental Retardation side of the house cannot be determined until the rules for implementation are finalized by the state. If the rules add new mandates then the cost of compliance may increase.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2462	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Brimer
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to providing for the sale of certain gambling equipment seized by a law enforcement agency

Bill Category

Potential Revenue Source

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **2175.904**

This bill lets the County transfer confiscated gambling equipment to the Tx Building & Procurement Commission who'd then sell the equipment and send at least 50% of the proceeds back to the law enforcement agency who seized it. This is not a new authority for the County but instead provides a new avenue for the sale of the machines.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Facilities & Property Management

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill creates an avenue to sell slot machines that is unlikely to be utilized by Harris County since the County can already sell these machines on its own (presumably for a higher net revenue). In the past, the County has elected not to sell these slot machines. Currently HCSO stores approximately 1,000 machines at 1301 Franklin. Because this space is currently unused, there is currently no cost for the space that is used to store these machines although that could change as alternative uses for that building are explored. Sale of these slot machines could free-up building space and provide a revenue of approximately $445,000 based on the recent sale price received by the City of San Antonio.

Bill Experts

Danny Billingsley	Email, Report, other	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes:

Although the County currently has the authority to do so, it has chosen not to sell the approximately 1,000 slot machines stored at 1301 Franklin (the vast majority are eligible for sale). For reference, the City of San Antonio recently sold 377 machines at an average cost of $445 each.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2468	**Author:**	Solomons
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Carona
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the filing of financial statements by justices of the peace and candidates for justice of the peace in certain counties

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **159.001, 159.003, 159.004, etc.**

The bill requires a Justice of the Peace or a candidate for the office of Justice of the Peace to file a financial statement with the County Clerk. A financial disclosure statement is already required for other county officials.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The impact on the County Clerk's Office of these additional filings would be minimal.

Bill Experts

Kevin Mauzy	(713) 755-3553	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2489	**Author:**	Berman | Bohac
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to registration and reporting requirements for lobbyists

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Amends Section 305.003(a), Section 305.005**

Current law requires that, unless a lobbyist reports an exact amount of compensation, he or she must report such compensation in certain ranges. The highest range of compensation is $200,000 or more.

H.B. 2489 provides additional ranges of compensation over $200,000 in $50,000 increments up to $500,000. This bill also requires any compensation over $500,000 to be reported in an exact amount.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Legislative Relations

Impact on Department Operations:

For information only, no fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2524	**Author:**	McClendon | Menendez
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Van de Putte
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the establishment of a pilot project to construct a public safety triage and detoxification unit and the provision of mental health and substance abuse treatment

Bill Category

Criminal Mental Health Stabilization

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code

H.B. 2524 authorizes the development of a pilot project in Bexar County, through which the Department of State Health Services will assist Bexar County in providing medical and mental health care for jail inmates through intervention and detoxification units. The Department of State Health Services shall develop a pilot project in Bexar County to address jail overcrowding by diverting persons with mental illness or substance abuse problems to inpatient and outpatient services using a public safety triage and detoxification unit.

In developing the pilot project, the department shall:

(1) assist in the construction of a public safety triage and detoxification unit through which inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment services may be administered; and

(2) contract with the Bexar County local mental health and mental retardation authority or an appropriate nonprofit foundation for the provision of mental health and substance abuse assessment and treatment services, including services for dual diagnosis disorders, to persons with mental illnesses and substance abuse problems or both who are homeless or referred to the pilot project through a jail diversion program.

Not later than November 1, 2008, the department shall submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a report regarding:
(1) the quality of the services provided through the pilot project;
(2) the cost-effectiveness of providing mental health and substance abuse services in coordination with a jail diversion program;
(3) recommendations for establishing similar programs throughout the state; and
(4) any other relevant information as determined by the department.

This section expires September 1, 2009.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

MHMRA

Impact on Department Operations:

For information only, no fiscal impact to Harris County.

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

For information only, no fiscal impact to Harris County.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2541	**Author:**	Leibowitz | Corte, Frank
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Uresti
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to emergency response costs and certain other requirements concerning solid waste facilities, including recycling facilities

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Adds Section 361.0145**

H.B. 2541 requires TCEQ to adopt rules regarding the size, content, and fire safety of recycling facilities. This bill provides stricter requirements for facilities located over sole source aquifers and authorizes the solid waste fee revenue to be used to combat fires or emergencies at recycling or solid waste facilities.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

None.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2564	**Author:**	Hancock
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the authority of a governmental body to require the payment of a charge before complying with certain requests for the production of public information or for copies of public information

Bill Category

Fees/Other/Optional/New

Open Records/Meetings

Procedure Change - Optional

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Adds Section 552.275**

H.B. 2564 authorizes a governmental body to establish a reasonable time limit on the amount of time that personnel are required to spend producing information in compliance with a request for public information. The bill also provides a process in which the governmental body may charge a fee if the time limit required for information production is exceeded.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The intent of this bill is to define a reasonable amount of time that may be spent on public information requests from an individual or entity within a 12 month period. Beyond that time limit, a governmental entity may elect to charge a fee for producing such information. Thus, the number of requests should not be increased as a result of this bill, and may in fact decrease. While there is no way to predict the frequency, number of requests, or volume of information that could be produced, all requests would be handled by the existing staff.

It should be noted however, that the media is by far the largest and most frequent requester of such information and they are exempt from the provisions of this bill.

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

This department receives frequent requests under the Public Information Act.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

This department receives frequent requests under the Public Information Act.

Medical Examiner's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This department receives frequent requests under the Public Information Act.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2564	**Author:**	Hancock
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Toll Road Authority

Impact on Department Operations:

This department receives frequent requests under the Public Information Act.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The number of requests made under the Public Information Act should not be increased as a result of this bill, and may in fact decrease if the county elects to charge a fee for services beyond a certain limit. While there is no way to predict the frequency, number of requests, or volume of information that could be produced, it is expected that such requests would be handled by the existing staff.

It should be noted that the media is exempt from the provisions of this bill and is not required to pay any type of fee for their requests, no matter how cumbersome.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Dave Swope	(713) 755-5101	Discussion	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2591	**Author:**	Bonnen
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to county improvement of subdivision roads

Bill Category

Transportation

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **253.001, 253.012**

The bill specifies that a county may improve a road in a subdivision that is located in a city if the county and city both agree that the county will improve the road. The agreement must also state which entity will have ownership of the improved road.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

PID Engineering Department

Impact on Department Operations:

PID already reaches an agreement with the city before making expenditures on roads within a municipality. The provision in the bill that requires a declaration of ownership of the improved road would represent a new requirement, but it would not have a fiscal impact for the department.

Bill Experts

Jackie Freeman	(713) 755-4972	Public Infrastructure Department (PID)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2618	**Author:**	Guillen
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Zaffirini
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to authorizing political subdivisions to lease property owned by the political subdivision to other governmental entities without following competitive purchasing procedures

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 272.005

The bill permits counties to lease their property or provide office space to another county or governmental entity at less than fair market value without having to go through the competitive bidding process, as long as the arrangement promotes a public purpose.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Facilities & Property Management

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill will not have a fiscal or operational impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Diana Woodley	(713) 755-8184	Facilities & Property Management

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2625	**Author:**	Murphy
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the determination of prevailing wage rates in Texas counties

Bill Category

Labor Issues

Code and Section

Government Code **2258.022**

The bill removes the state requirement that the Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon wage rates be determined within the past 3 years in order to be used by political subdivisions.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

Harris County uses the Department of Labor's Davis-Bacon prevailing wage rates, in lieu of conducting our own wage survey, for public works projects. These wage rates are set by the federal government and are not always updated in a timely manner. This bill allows the county to use the most recent Davis-Bacon wage rates, even if they are over 3 years old. PID estimates that it would have cost up to $500,000 to conduct our own wage rate survey, which we would have had to do without this bill.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	($500,000)
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	($500,000)
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$500,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

This bill saves the county from having to spend an estimated $500,000 to conduct a wage survey.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$500,000**

Bill Experts

Bud Miller	(713) 755-2611	Public Infrastructure Department (PID)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2641	**Author:**	Solomons
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Zaffirini
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the selection of depositories for certain county funds, including funds held by a county or district clerk

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **116.021, 116.022, 116.023, etc.**

The bill makes a number of procedural changes to the requirements for counties in selecting a bank for deposit of county monies.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will not have a fiscal impact for Harris County.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2653	**Author:**	Harless
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to emergency services districts

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **775.0345, 775.0355, 775.0445, 775.0825**

This bill requires that the five-person boards of emergency services districts in Harris County be elected, rather than appointed as is current practice. The bill also specifies the conditions for disqualification of emergency services commissioners and mandates an annual financial audit of the district.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the County Clerk's office, there are about 32 emergency services districts in Harris County. Since an election would only be required if there are contested seats on a board, the department estimates that there would probably be only about 5 elections. These elections would be conducted through a service contract (similar to how MUD elections are conducted) in which the district pays the cost of the election plus a 10% administrative fee. Thus, there would be no cost to Harris County.

Bill Experts

Kevin Mauzy	(713) 755-3553	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2683	**Author:**	Chisum | Flynn
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Estes
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to funding for programs that support the development of healthy marriages or the strengthening of families.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Human Resources Code **Adds Sections 31.017 and 31.018**

H.B. 2683 authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to provide grants of not more than $50,000 for programs that provide marriage education services and support the development of healthy marriages or the strengthening of families. The bill requires that a minimum of one percent of federal funds received under TANF are directed to fund such programs each biennium. This bill also requires HHSC to give preference to certain grant applicants, and requires HHSC to require that grant recipients provide program services at no cost to participants

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2685	**Author:**	Chisum
Effective Date:	9/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Estes
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to certain requirements for issuance of a marriage license, including an optional premarital education course.

Bill Category

Fees/Other/Mandatory/Amount Change

Code and Section

Family Code **Amends Section 2.013,Section 2.204(b)**

H.B. 2685 requires a premarital education course to include instruction in the key components of a successful marriage, requires the course to be at least eight hours, and waives the fee and 72-hour waiting period after issuance of a marriage license upon completion of a pre-marital course.

Local Government Code **Amends Section 118.011(a),Section 118.018a,b1**

Requires a county clerk to collect a service fee of $60, rather than $30, for a marriage license.

Local Government Code **Amends Section 118.022**

Sets forth the manner in which a fee for issuing a marriage license, if collected by the county clerk, is to be allocated. It would direct a county that collects a marriage license fee to deposit $20 to the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Trust Fund and $13 ($10 increase) to the Family Trust Fund. It is assumed that local governments would retain the remaining $27 ($12.50 increase) per license.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill does not go into effect until September 1, 2008. It is assumed that the collection and distribution of fees would be absorbed by the current staff.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$348,000
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$348,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None. This bill takes effect September 1, 2008.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

The Legislative Budget Board estimates that approximately 13% of those applying for marriage licenses would take the premarital course and thus have their fees waived. The remaining 87% would pay the new higher amount of $60, which results in a net revenue increase for the county of $12.50 per license. According to the

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2685	**Author:**	Chisum
Effective Date:	9/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Estes
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

County Clerk's office, approximately 32,000 marriage licenses are issued annually. 87% of that number (27,840) times $12.50 equals $348,000.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$348,000**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2691	**Author:**	Truitt
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Uresti
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to grants provided to local guardianship programs.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **531.125**

Adds language requiring that a local guardianship program must provide a money management service to clients in order to remain eligible for grants from the Health & Human Services Commission under Gov't code 531.125.

The local guardianship program may request a waiver from the Commission.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Protective Services For Children and Adults

Impact on Department Operations:

No impact is expected. Currently no grant money is received under this section of code.

Bill Experts

Ian Gorman	(713) 755-6704	Discussion	Mgmt Services - Grants

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2694	**Author:**	Hamilton
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the disaster contingency fund

Bill Category

Disaster Assistance

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **418.073**

The bill allows state agencies and local governments to request monies from the Disaster Contingency Fund to pay for costs incurred in implementing preventive emergency measures and costs incurred in repairing damage suffered during a disaster.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Emergency Services

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Other Notes:

The fiscal impact of this bill to Harris County depends on the occurrence of disasters within our jurisdiction and the amount of money available in the Disaster Contingency Fund. According to the Legislative Budget Board, the current balance in the fund is $107,160.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2703	**Author:**	Woolley
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gallegos
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to interference with the duties of a public health professional; providing a criminal penalty

Bill Category

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Penal Code **38.15**

The bill makes it a Class B misdemeanor offense to interfere with a public health official when performing his or her duties. Specifically, it is a crime to interfere with a person who has responsibility for assessing, enacting, or enforcing public health, environmental, radiation or safety measures as he or she is performing duties or exercising authority granted under the Agriculture Code, Health and Safety Code, Occupations Code, or Water Code.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

PHES expects that it will seldom file charges under this bill. The department anticipates having to file charges between 1 and 3 times per year. The primary value of the bill is that public health inspectors can now warn uncooperative individuals that intefering with a public health official's duties can result in criminal charges.

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2823	**Author:**	Bohac
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, D.
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to provisional voting by a person who applied for an early voting ballot by mail

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **63.011 amended**

Under previous law, a voter who had applied for an early mail ballot was prohibited from casting a ballot on Election Day unless she or he first cancelled the early mail ballot application. However, the early mail ballot could only be cancelled at the county clerk's office, a problem for many of the elderly and disabled who were the predominant requestors of early mail ballots.

This bill allows the voter who failed to receive or return an early mail ballot to cancel her or his application for such a ballot at the precinct polling place where registered to vote, and to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day at the same location.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

No operations or fiscal impact is expected from the changes of law found in HB 2823.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2884	**Author:**	
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to juvenile delinquency; providing penalties.

Bill Category

Criminal Justice Policy - Juvenile

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 45.054

Clarifies that a court may not require a student to attend a JJAEP program as a result of excessive unexcused absences.

Family Code Various

Bill includes numerous additions and clarifications related to the transfer of probation supervision between counties.

Family Code 54.04

States that a child can be detained in a detention facility following disposition of the child's case pending transporation to the ordered placement AND provision of advisable medical and/or mental health care services.

Family Code 54.0481 (added)

Establishes groundrules for management of restitution payments received by the juvenile probation department. States that the county shall place any funds unclaimed after 5 years into an unclaimed juvenile restitution fund that can be used by the county for the same purposes for which the county can spend juvenile state aid.

Family Code 58.303

Adds language stating that a local juvenile justice information system may contain electronic filing of court orders and other documents filed with the court, including documents containing electronic signatures.

Family Code 58.305

States that the county court clerk shall be considered a "partner agency" as related to the local juvenile justice information system.

Family Code 58.352

Requires a juvenile court judge to post quarterly statistics on a county website that includes data on the number of children committed by the judge to TYC along with a general description of the offense committed and the age, race & gender of the child.

Family Code 58.403

States that the TX Juvenile Probation Commission, in partnership with local counties, MAY participate and assist in the creation & maintenance of a statewide system to provide statewide juvenile justice data, facilitate data sharing among agencies, and enhance reporting and data management needs of juvenile probation departments in the state.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2884	**Author:**	
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Bill Experts

Amanda Jones	(713) 755-1832	Email, Report, other	Legislative Relations
Harvey Hetzel	(713) 222-4100	Email, Report, other	Juvenile Probation Department

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2926	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to using county election precincts in every county for any election held on the November uniform election date

Bill Category

Elections

Code and Section

Election Code **42.002 (a) amended**

In a previous legislative session, Harris County was bracketed to exempt its large number of MUDs from having to use county election polling places for the conduct of elections during November. However, school districts were also exempted from using county election precincts for the conduct of their November elections, despite the close relationship of their elections to county elections. This resulted in greater cumulative expenses for voting booths and machines than would have been required had all school districts within counties, regardless of population, been mandated to use county election precincts for the conduct of their own elections.

This first section of the bill makes an amendment to include school districts among the political subdivisions required to use county election precincts during the conduct of elections.

Election Code **42.0621 (a) amended**

The bill also takes away the Harris County population or adjacency requirement to qualify for the mandated use, and exemption from use, of school districts and other political subdivisions (MUDs, etc.), respectively, during November elections.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill should have a positive operational and fiscal impact for the County Clerk since that office will not be required to provide equipment to political subdivisions that choose to use other than county election precincts for conduct of their elections.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

It is impossible to calculate the savings that will accrue from this bill over the foreseeable future; too little is known of the reductions that will occur. What is known with certainty at this time is that this bill will result in a

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2926	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

saving for the County Clerk Office during each general election year.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See the note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2944	**Author:**	Murphy
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	

Caption

Relating to permits for erecting certain outdoor signs or advertising

Bill Category

Transportation

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **Sections 391.068, 394.021, 394.022**

This state and political subdivisions of this state have concurrent regulatory authority over signs. Under current law, the Texas Department of Transportation issues state permits for off-premise advertising signs, without regard to whether the sign is legal under the local jurisdiction's regulation. A number of sign companies have used the state permit as sole authority to erect signs that also require a municipal permit. Such signs are in violation of a municipality's sign regulation and are thus in violation of the law. These illegal signs have led to diminished quality of life in communities, visual blight, and negative impacts on regional economic development efforts.

H.B. 2944 prevents this violation of applicable municipal sign regulations by requiring that a municipal permit be obtained before seeking the state permit for an off-premise sign in a municipality with a population of more than 1.9 million.

Other Notes:

This bill would apply to the City of Houston, but not to Harris County.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2967	**Author:**	Hartnett
Effective Date:	10/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to a performance bond required of a statutory probate court judge.

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Requirement

Insurance Issues

Code and Section

Government Code **25.00231**

Requires a judge of a statutory probate court to execute a performance bond of $500,000 prior to taking office. The commissioners court of a county is required to pay for the bond or comparable insurance out of the general fund. This bill eliminates existing code that requires a $100,000 bond in Harris County.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Mgmt.

Impact on Department Operations:

The Probate judges currently have $100K bonds each at a cost of $1,243 for a four year term. The cost for $500K bonds each would be $6,213 for the same term. Since there are four Probate judges, the total cost would increase from $4,972 to $24,852.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Mgmt.

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$2,500	$5,000
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$2,500	$5,000
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	($2,500)	($5,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The Probate judges currently have $100K bonds each at a cost of $1,243 for a four year term. The cost for $500K bonds each would be $6,213 for the same term. Since there are four Probate judges, the total cost would increase from $4,972 to $24,852, or approximately $5,000 per year.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($2,500)**	**($5,000)**

Bill Experts

Kelly Nichols (713) 755-6606 Mgmt Services - HR & Risk Management

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 2991	**Author:**	Murphy
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the control of access to highways within certain counties

Bill Category

Transportation

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **251.0165**

The bill gives Harris County the same rights to control access to state roadways in the unincorporated area of the county as were previously provided to municipalities within their city limits and ETJs. The bill also addresses a technical issue regarding the county's authority to pass an order or resolution with respect to road access.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill will have no fiscal impact.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3011	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne | Noriega
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of ship channel security districts by certain populous counties

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Water Code **Chapter 68**

The bill creates the legal framework for creation of a Ship Channel Security District in Harris County. The purpose of the district is to improve security in the Houston Ship Channel by providing a mechanism for paying the local share of Department of Homeland Security grants. The grant monies, plus district assessments, will be used to acquire and operate port security equipment.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The district may be created only by Commissioners Court.

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

A large portion of the grant money will go to the Sheriff's Office for increased security in the ship channel.

Information Technology Center

Impact on Department Operations:

ITC will be involved with operating some of the security technology.

Port Authority

Impact on Department Operations:

Bill Experts

Ian Gorman	(713) 755-6704	Mgmt Services - Grants

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3105	**Author:**	Anchia
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to a program allowing for countywide voting locations in certain elections

Bill Category

Elections

Code and Section

Election Code **43.007 added**

This bill reinstates for an additional two years the opportunity for counties to change from conducting elections using precincts to conducting them using countywide voting places. To participate in the pilot under the scrutiny of the Secretary of State, a county must hold one or more public hearings at which public comments are solicited, must formally endorse participation in the pilot and communicate that desire to the Secretary of State, and must otherwise prepare and train polling staffs and election workers to understand the procedural and software system changes that are made necessary by participation in the pilot.

The bill is entirely permissive.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

There are two sets of factors that enter into determining the additional costs of deciding to participate in the pilot: the costs of software and other machine and system changes to accommodate countywide polling places to replace precincts, on a per-polling place basis; and the requirement that the number of countywide polling places be at least one-half the number of precincts previously used for voting.

Because of the apparently high costs of software and system changes, as well as the cost of training for workers, it seems likely that the one-time costs of the changeover to countywide voting would be quite high. While no specific numbers were developed, it seems apparent that the County Clerk Office Elections staff do not relish the idea of shifting to countywide polling places.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Clerk's Office

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

No specific estimates of one-time costs for the transition to countywide voting were provided. However, it is clear that the County Clerk Office believes those costs to be too high for Harris County to participate in the pilot for which applications are now being solicited.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3105	**Author:**	Anchia
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Duncan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

No specific estimates of one-time costs for the transition to countywide voting were provided. However, it is clear that the County Clerk Office believes those costs to be too high for Harris County to participate in the pilot for which applications are now being solicited.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3138	**Author:**	Bohac | Bailey
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the authority to operate a mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment in certain counties

Bill Category

Health and Human Services - Inspections

Health and Safety

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Amends Section 437.009**

Authorizes authorized agents or employees of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), a county, or a public health district to enter the premises of a food service establishment, retail food store, mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment under the DSHS's, county's, or district's jurisdiction during normal operating hours to conduct inspections to determine compliance with state law, including a requirement to hold and display written authorization under Section 437.021.

Health & Safety Code **Adds 437.021**

Requires a person operating a mobile food unit, roadside food vendor, or temporary food service establishment in a county with a population of more than 3.3 million to acquire written authorization from the owner of the property on which the unit, vendor, or establishment is operating. Requires the written authorization to be notarized, provide that the operator has the property owner's permission to operate the unit, vendor, or establishment on the property, and be prominently displayed in the unit, vendor, or establishment in plain view of the public at all times.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

PHES-Environmental

Impact on Department Operations:

Requires operators of mobile food units in Harris County to obtain and display written, notarized authorization from the owner of the property on which the unit is operating. Health departments may determine compliance with this requirement at inspection.

At this time, we do not anticipate any significant additional workload due to this new requirement. However, if fraud cases occur, then we can expect a lot of time chasing down and verifying property owners, their authorizations, etc.

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Email, Report, other	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes:

The requirements of this bill will be enforced at the time of regularly scheduled inspections. New or separate inspections are not required, thus there will be no fiscal impact to PHES or to Harris County.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3143	**Author:**	Flynn
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to electioneering near a polling place

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **32.075**

This bill prohibits election judges and special peace officers from prohibiting electioneering activities beyond the 100 foot marker at a polling place. The bill is a reaction to overzealous election judges who have attempted to enforce electioneering laws outside of the 100 foot boundary.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will have no impact on the department.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3191	**Author:**	Hill
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	West, Royce
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property used to provide low-income housing

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

Code and Section

Tax Code **11.1825**

The bill provides a 100% exemption (compared to the current 50% exemption) from ad valorem taxation for property owned by an organization for the purpose of constructing or rehabilitating low income housing on the property. The property must be sold as single-family dwellings.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the department, the bill will result in a loss of revenue for Harris County of an undetermined magnitude.

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3195	**Author:**	Hill
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the requirements of a municipal or county budget that raises more property taxes than in the previous year's budget

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Requirement

Code and Section

Local Government Code **Various sections**

This bill mandates certain notices be published in connection with the adoption of any county (or city) budget that will require greater tax revenues than raised for the prior year's budget. Notices must be published and posted using specified language and type sizes. In addition, the Court must essentially have two public votes in order to approve and adopt the budget.

This bill is intended to extend the requirements for public notice of increased tax revenues by local government entities to include increases that are created by the addition of new properties to the tax rolls rather than those that are exclusively caused by higher property valuations or tax rate increases. The bill also changes language from "any taxpayer" to "any person" in several sections pertaining to examination of the proposed budget and attendance of required public meetings wherein new tax rates, new budgets, or additional revenues derived from added properties on tax rolls will be discussed or voted on.

Sections 1 through 6 of the bill pertain to municipal budgets and tax revenues; sections 7 through 20 apply to county budgets and tax revenues. The intent of the bill was stated to be the clarification of how much of a county's budgeted funds arose from increased values of properties from one year to the next, and how much arose from the addition of new properties to the rolls.

The troubling part of the bill is the terminology used; anything which raises the amount of tax revenues is referred to as a tax increase. It seems that a more descriptive term would have been tax revenue increase, to distriguish revenues that result from property value changes from those that result from a tax rate change.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Court may be required to add public meetings to its annual agenda in order to meet the requirements of this bill. The Court certainly will be required to have two votes recorded when adopting the budget, the first involving approval of a motion to increase (or decrease or hold steady) the amount of tax revenues to be used to support the annual budget, a second vote to approve the actual detailed county budget.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3195	**Author:**	Hill
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Management Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Management Services may be required to report details of the proposed annual budget that distinguishes any revenue increases which arose from property value increases as contrasted with those arising from newly added properties on the tax rolls used for the County's budget. Ideally, Management Services would also take care to distinguish budget revenues that arise as the result of appraised values in general from those that arise from an actual tax rate change or a change to the share of total revenues applied to specific uses.

Management Services does not anticipate additional operating costs arising from the changes called for in the implementation of this bill. Fiscal impact, if any, will be absorbed within current budgetary resources.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Mgmt Services - Budget Services

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The additional public meetings required to meet this bill's mandate will have some cost, though it is thought the costs will be minor. It is impossible to know whether every year will require additional public meetings.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

The additional public meetings required to meet this bill's mandate will have some cost, though it is thought the costs will be minor. It is impossible to know whether every year will require additional public meetings.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3210	**Author:**	Harless
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the authority of an investigator employed by a prosecuting attorney

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code

The bill allows investigators employed by a prosecuting attorney to serve warrants and other processes in civil cases issued by a district court, county court, or justice court.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will assist the County Attorney's Office, particularly in CPS cases, in getting faster service on defendants. This will replace, to some extent, the need for private process servers, thereby reducing county costs.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes:

This bill is identical to SB 1244, which was also signed into law.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3211	**Author:**	Harless
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to access to criminal history record information by certain county attorneys.

Bill Category

New County Authority

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **411.1406**

Gives the County Attorney's office in Harris County the authority to obtain criminal history information that relates to the normal duties of the County Attorney's Office or to a person who applies for employment with the county.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill clarifies existing law that gives the Harris County Attorney's Office the authority to obtain criminal history information from DPS. This data may be accessed by County Investigators to review the histories of employees, prospective employees, persons involved in Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) cases, etc. Because this bill is simply a clarification of existing practices, no significant financial or operational impacts are anticipated.

Bill Experts

Cathy Sisk	713-755-7872	Witness List - For	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3270	**Author:**	Eiland | Taylor | Bonnen
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to authorizing the issuance of anticipation notes or other obligations by issuers located along the Gulf Coast in the event of an emergency.

Bill Category

County Investments

Disaster Assistance

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Amends Section 1431.004, 5,6,7,9,12,16,17**

The bill would authorize the issuance of anticipation notes or other obligation by issuers located along the Gulf Coast in the event of an emergency. The bill would amend the Government Code to provide that an issuer may use the proceeds of an anticipation note or other obligation to pay salaries, lease of materials, demolition of dangerous structures, and other purposes to protect public health and safety.

Following authorization of an anticipation note the issuer would be required to submit to the attorney general a transcript of proceedings related to issuance of the anticipation note. If an emergency were to occur affecting the issuer, the attorney general would be required to expeditiously review and approve delivery of the anticipation note.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Impact on Department Operations:

It is unlikely that Harris County would use the provisions afforded by this bill. In the event of financial need, Harris County would access the commercial bond market which would be much quicker (1 day versus 60 days) and more cost effective.

Bill Experts

Edwin Harrison	(713) 755-6532	Discussion	Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3439	**Author:**	Parker
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to county fiscal matters

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 83.007 added

The added section specifies that if a county has abolished the office of county treasurer, then any reference to the county treasurer in this or other affected sections of code falls to the person performing the functions normally reserved to a county treasurer.

Local Government Code 113.023 amended

Requires certain changes to the use of deposit warrants in keeping with generally accepted procedures for treasurer offices.

Local Government Code 113.062 amended

Allows rather than requires the county treasurer only to require the person or his agent who receives the payment or credit for the payment to acknowledge in writing on the face of the claim the receipt of such payment or credit.

Local Government Code 114.026 various amendments

Amends several subsections to impact the nature and timing of reporting of transactions, and the opening of the books, based on Commissioners Court meeting schedules.

Local Government Code 114.044 (a) amended

Requires county and district clerks, constables and sheriffs, district attorneys, county attorneys, justices of the peace, treasurers and county judges to at least monthly make a full report, supported by vouchers and receipts, to the commissioners court.

Local Government Code Various others

Amends certain sections to require the state comptroller to mail or electronically forward a warrant for payments due to the county treasurer, and authorizes the county treasurer (rather than the county) to establish and operate an electronic funds transfer system to make any authorized transfer from the county treasury.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Treasurer's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill codifies procedures that have been in use for some time. The only apparent changes for Harris County will be that the Auditor Office may now get a detailed listing of deposits by the Treasurer rather than copies of receipts of those transactions.

Most of what is contained in this bill is already being done between the treasurer, the auditor, and the

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3439	**Author:**	Parker
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

commissioners court.

'

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0** **$0**

Bill Experts

Linda Langlois	(713) 755-5332	Discussion	County Treasurer's Office

Other Notes:

None of the changes specified by this bill should have any tangible impact for the offices affected; there will be no substantive improvement of the means by which deposits of funds are recorded or conveyed to those with County oversight duties.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3495	**Author:**	Otto | Hill | Kolkhorst
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Williams
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the contents of the notice of the meeting at which the governing body of a taxing unit will vote on a proposed ad valorem tax rate that will result in a tax revenue increase

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Requirement

Appraisal Issues

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **26.06 (d) amended**

This bill requires the addition of several forms of information to the current standard language to be included in the published notice of a meeting at which the Commissioners Court will vote on a proposed ad valorem tax rate which it is known will result in a tax revenue increase.

The amendments begin by requiring a change of heading for the published notice, from "Notice of Vote on Tax Rate" to "Notice of Tax Revenue Increase".

Following the heading change, the notice must go on to specify the dates the first and second hearing on the proposed changes were conducted, followed by a statement of the total tax revenue raised for the prior tax year at the tax rate in effect last year, followed by a statement of the total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate but excluding tax revenue raised from property newly added to the tax roll this year, followed by a statement of the total tax revenue proposed to be raised this year at the proposed tax rate and including the tax revenue from property newly added to the tax roll this year. The notice must end by specifying when and where and at what time of day the Court will meet to vote on the proposed tax increase.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court is charged with publishing its notice of a so-called "tax increase" in the form specified in the amended text of Section 26.06 (d), Tax Code.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3514	**Author:**	Rodriguez
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, R.
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the disclosure by the Texas Department of Public Safety to appraisal districts of driver's license records and personal identification certificate records, or certain information in those records, for use in determining an individual's eligibility for a residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **521.049 (d) and (e) added**

This bill is intended to assist appraisal districts in providing the homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation under Section 11.13 of the Tax Code by supplying appraisal districts, free of charge, a copy of each driver license or personal identification certificate record held by the Department, or the current information as to the name, date of birth, driver license or personal identification certificate number, and most recent address shown in the driver license or personal identification certificate records database of the Department.

None of the information provided is to include social security number or record of accidents or convictions of the individuals whose records are shared.

Tax Code **11.13 (m) amended**

Amends this section to allow use of the information provided by the Department of Public Safety to establish that a person meets the age requirement for an exemption under 11.13, or to disqualify a person's application for an exemption under 11.13.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The chief appraiser is to receive driver license record information, or personal identification certification record information, from DPS for use in verifying or denying tax exemption status under age provisions of Section 11.13 of the Tax Code.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3514	**Author:**	Rodriguez
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	West, R.
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3517	**Author:**	Creighton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Watson
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to competitive purchasing requirements for local governments.

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Optional

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 262.024

Expands this section to now allow a commissioners court to order that a County does not have to follow competetive bid procedures for vehicle and equipment repairs.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

The vast majority of the provisions of this bill do not apply to Harris County. The only pertinent change is one that now allows the commissioners court to order that the County does not have to follow competetive bid procedures for vehicle and equipment repairs. This should not have a significant operational or financial impact on Harris County.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3560	**Author:**	Swinford
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to transferring to the comptroller the duties of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission that do not primarily concern state facilities and renaming the commission the Texas Facilities Commission

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code

H.B. 3560 renames TBPC as the Texas Facilities Commission and retains its building and facilities-related duties and powers. The bill transfers all other duties and powers of TBPC to the comptroller. This bill is intended to increase efficiency of these central governmental operations and improve the quality of services and goods to all state agencies, thereby enhancing quality of services and goods to taxpayers of this state. This bill also intends to centralize and increase the accuracy and availability of detailed financial information on the state's purchasing expenditures for the providers and users of those goods and services. With this information in hand, the state can plan and implement future innovations to reduce costs and improve quality.

Government Code **Amends Section 2161.061 by adding Subsection (e)**

(e) Requires a local government or a nonprofit organization that certifies historically underutilized businesses under Subsection (c) or that conducts a certification program described by and approved under Subsection (b) to make available to the public an online searchable database containing certain information about historically underutilized businesses, minority business enterprises, women's business enterprises, and disadvantaged business enterprises certified by the local government or nonprofit organization.

Other Notes:

Harris County does not certify vendors for Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) status. HUBs are encouraged to participate in the County's informal and formal bid process. Harris County recognizes the certifications of other governmental entities.

The Mayor's Office of Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance (AACC) manages the Minority/ Women/ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWDBE) Management and Contract Compliance System for the City of Houston. An online searchable database of over 1500 certified vendors is currently available at the following web address.

http://houston.b2gnow.com/FrontEnd/VendorSearchPublic.asp?TN=Houston_Diversity

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3581	**Author:**	Howard, Charlie
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to county authority to abate nuisances

Bill Category

Environmental Issues

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Chapter 343, various subsections**

This bill extends the definitions of "nuisance" and "abate" as they apply to unincorporated but populous areas of counties. Included in the expanded definition of "nuisance" is solid waste dropped or dumped on property not licensed for the handling of solid waste. "Abate" is expanded to include removal, remediation, storage, transportation, disposal and other measures included in the management of solid waste as spelled out in Chapter 361, Health & Safety Code.

The bill further stipulates that the county may assess the costs for abating the nuisance plus a fee and costs of notification to the person or property holding the nuisance.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The County Attorney, in conjunction with the Public Health and Environmental Services Department will be charged with notifying the propery owner of the existence of a nuisance on their property, and the county's intention of abating that nuisance at the property owner's expense. The CAO will also represent the County in any court actions arising out of the discovery of nuisances on private property in the unincorporated area of the county.

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

The Environmental Services section of PH&ES will be charged with describing the nuisance to the County Attorney Office and checking the notification letters prior to their mailing, then with directing the abatement of the nuisances while keeping detailed records of costs for later billing to the property owner.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

PHES-Environmental

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$190,000	$286,000
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$190,000	$286,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$125,000	$221,000
	Net Fiscal Impact	($65,000)	($65,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There are annually some 30 properties that would qualify for trash abatement under this bill. Of that number, about 4 are seriously contaminated properties, and 26 are fairly mundane cases of trash dumping or storage

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3581	**Author:**	Howard, Charlie
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

(no soil remediation required, no toxic elements in the trash, etc.) The seriously contaminated may cost about $65,000 each to abate (via removal and transport), or a total of $260,000 per year. The 26 minor cleanups will average $1,000 cost for each, or $26,000 total. Of the total expended, it is anticipated that the County will recoup the vast majority via voluntary payments by the property owners or via property liens on the specific property that was abated.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

There may also be some County Attorney Office time and expense involved in clearing the way for abatement.

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($65,000)** **($65,000)**

Bill Experts

Marilyn Christian	(713) 439-6266	Discussion	PHES-Environmental

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3672	**Author:**	Bohac | Bailey
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to mobile food units in certain populous counties; providing a penalty.

Bill Category

Health and Safety

Health and Human Services - Inspections

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Adds Section 437.0074**

MOBILE FOOD UNITS IN CERTAIN POPULOUS COUNTIES. (a) Requires a county with a population of at least 2.8 million, or a municipality or public health district in the county to require a mobile food unit (unit) to complete certain activities with regard to the daily servicing of the unit.

(b) Requires a county, municipality, or public health district that has installed an electronic tagging system to register and record confirmation that the unit has been serviced as required by Subsection (a)(1).

Penal Code **Section 37.01(2),**

Amends Section 37.01(2), Penal Code, to redefine "governmental record."

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Requires that mobile food units in Harris County return to the food service establishment or commissary from which it operates within the 24-hour period prior to operating the unit to have cleaning and other services performed. Requires that units obtain written documentation of the cleaning/servicing. Electronic documentation is permissible if an electronic tagging system has been installed. HCPHES requested and received two amendments – one permitting written documentation and another clarifying the time frame during which the mobile unit must return to the commissary.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

PHES-Environmental

Change to FTEs: 0.36

	Impact to Harris County:	
	Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$8,206	$16,411
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$6,000	$6,000
Capital Expense	$9,000	$0
Net Cost:	$23,206	$22,411
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$3,000	$5,000
Net Fiscal Impact	($20,206)	($17,411)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Staff needed the first year to: investigate approximately 50 complaints regarding failure of mobile food establishments to return to a commissary (includes travel time, inspection, and issuing citation) and to attend court for citations issued during complaint investigations and routine inspections. Cost for an additional 240 hours at an average of $34.19/hour/investigator is $8206.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3672	**Author:**	Bohac | Bailey
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Equipment needed: 600 EZTag units at a cost of $15 each is $9000. Additiional programming and start up costs are estimated at $6000.

Revenue from additional citations should be minimal (maximum penalty is $200). For the remainder of Fiscal 2008, assume that 15 citations would be issued at $200 each which is $3000.

Equipment:

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Cost for 480 hours at an average of $34.19/hour/investigator is $16,411.

Assume that 25 citations would be issued annually at $200 each which equals $5000 in fines.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0.360**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($20,206)**	**($17,411)**

Other Notes:

From Janet Lane, PHES: We are already understaffed (FDA recommends an average of 8 onsite inspection hours per establishment per year). We average 3 hours per establishment per year – i.e., roughly 3 one-hour inspections/establishment/year. We will be giving up 480 inspections to enforce HB 3672.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3692	**Author:**	Straus
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Wentworth
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the denial or revocation of bail for a person who violates certain court orders or conditions of bond related to victim or community safety and to the performance of community service by certain persons charged with certain alcohol-related offenses.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Constitutional Amendment Article I, Section 11

From accompanying HJR 6:

A judge or magistrate can deny bail to somebody who:

a) was arrested for a misdemeanor family violence offense and subsequently had that bail revoked for violating a condition of release (bail can already be denied for felony revocations).

b)engages in conduct that constitutes an offense for violating a court-issued protective order.

Code of Criminal Procedure 17.152

A judge may deny bail pending a future court proceeding or trial if, after a hearing, the judge finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant:
1.is charged with violating an active protective order or MOEP, or violated a condition of bond related to the safety of the victim of the offense under 25.07, or family violence case; or the safety of the community; or

2.has a family violence offense pending and commits the offense of violating a protective order or MOEP

3.charged with a family violence offense, under a MOEP, or a condition of bond went to or near the place described in the order, with the intent to commit or threaten to commit family violence or an act in furtherance of stalking.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The denial of bail for violating a protective order or a condition of release on a dometic violence offense is not expected to have a significant impact on court operations or jail population. Currently, high bail amounts greatly limit the number of people who are released anyway.

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Email, Report, other	County Courts

Other Notes:

Enabling legislation is HJR 6

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3694	**Author:**	Deshotel
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Janek
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the enterprise zone program

Bill Category

Economic Development

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **2303.004, 2303.052, 2303.401, etc.**

The bill makes a number of changes to the enterprise zone program to promote job creation and and capital investment. It raises the number of projects that can receive the enterprise zone designation during a biennium from 85 to 105, adds a tax credit for capital investment, and makes some amendments to the rules regarding a refund of sales taxes for taxable items purchased at a qualified business site.

Tax Code **Chapter 171, 151.429**

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Community & Economic Dev.

Impact on Department Operations:

The department indicates that this bill will not have a fiscal impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Nancy Powell	(713) 578-2254	Community & Economic Development

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3732	**Author:**	Hardcastle | Deshotel
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Averitt
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the implementation of advanced clean energy projects and other environmentally protective projects in this state

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

Environmental Issues

Code and Section

Government Code	**447.013**
Health & Safety Code	**382.003, 382.0566, 382.0567**
Tax Code	**11.31, 26.045, 182.022, 202.0545**

The bill promotes pollution control and affordable electricity by providing ad valorem tax abatements for electric generating plants that meet certain environmental qualifications.

There is a fair amount of uncertainty over how this bill will be interpreted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The agency already had some authority to designate certain pollution control equipment as tax exempt. The author of HB 3732, Rep. Hardcastle, recently sent a letter to TCEQ to clarify the legislative intent of the bill. Rep. Hardcastle argues that the bill "clarifies, but does not alter, TCEQ's underlying legal authority . . . " On the other hand, an analysis by HCAD indicates that if TCEQ takes the "worst case" position in its rulemaking, the bill could cost the various Harris County taxing entities a total of $4.6 million in annual tax revenue.

The Harris County Office of Legislative Relations, in conjunction with the Council of Urban Counties, has been working to minimize the bill's fiscal impact. It remains to be seen what the ultimate impact will be.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

PHES-Environmental

Impact on Department Operations:

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	($4,600,000)

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3732	**Author:**	Hardcastle | Deshotel
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Averitt
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Net Fiscal Impact	$0	($4,600,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

In the worst case scenario, this bill will cost the various Harris County taxing entities a total of $4.6 million per year in lost ad valorem tax revenue.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**($4,600,000)**

Bill Experts

Mike Austin	(713) 755-8171	Mgmt Services - Financial Planning

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3982	**Author:**	Dutton
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 494; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8214**

H.B. 3982 creates the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 494 (district) to encompass an area of land inside the corporate limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston, Texas. As a municipal utility district (MUD), the district is authorized by Section 59 (Conservation and Development of Natural Resources and Parks and Recreational Facilities; Conservation and Reclamation Districts), Article 16, and Section 52 (Counties, Cities or Other Political Corporations or Subdivisions; Lending Credit; Grant; Bonds), Article 3, Texas Constitution, and governed by Chapter 49 (Provisions Applicable to All Districts) and Chapter 54 (Municipal Utility District), Water Code. The district would serve as a financing vehicle to purchase, acquire, and construct public infrastructure, such as water, sewer, drainage, and roadway facilities.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3988	**Author:**	Murphy
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 438; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8234**

Currently, the land located within the boundaries of the proposed municipal utility district, the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston and Harris County, is undeveloped.

H.B. 3988 creates the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 438 (district). This bill provides that the territory of the district would lie within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston and Harris County. This bill also provides that the district would have all the powers granted to municipal utility districts operating pursuant to Chapters 49 (Provisions Applicable to All Districts) and 54 (Municipal Utility Districts), Water Code, and with road powers pursuant to Section 52 (Counties, Cities, or Other Political Corporations or Subdivisions; Lending Credit; Grants; Bonds), Article III, Texas Constitution.

Water Code

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 3989	**Author:**	Murphy
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 437; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8235**

H.B. 3989 creates the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 437 (district) in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston and Harris County. As a municipal utility district (MUD), the district would have all the powers granted by Section 59 (Conservation and Development of Natural Resources and Parks and Recreational Facilities; Conservation and Reclamation Districts), Article 16, and Section 52 (Counties, Cities or Other Political Corporations or Subdivisions; Lending Credit; Grant; Bonds), Article 3, Texas Constitution, and governed by Chapter 49 (Provisions Applicable to All Districts) and Chapter 54 (Municipal Utility District), Water Code. The district would serve as a financing vehicle to purchase, acquire, and construct public infrastructure, such as water, sewer, drainage, and roadway facilities.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4004	**Author:**	Vo | Allen, Alma
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the creation of the International Management District; providing authority to impose assessments and taxes and to issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Title 4, Subtitle C, Chaper 3849 added**

Creates the District with the usual economic and transportation justifications, and authorizes the imposition of assessments and taxes and the issuance of bonds for the purpose of revitalizing the residential and commercial property values in the area.

The District takes up a sizable area in the far west to near west side of Houston, bounded on the north by Alief Clodine Road and the south by Highway 59, with Highway 6, Dairy Ashford, and Cook Road as other major feeders within the territory.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court may be called upon to approve projects initiated by Public Infrastructure Department and the Tax Assessor-Collector Office which are undertaken at the behest of or in cooperation with initiatives approved by the District Board.

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

See above.

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

See above.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Commissioners Court

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The existence of the District and its initiation of projects may slightly alter the spending of resources by selected

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4004	**Author:**	Vo | Allen, Alma
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

departments, but overall fiscal impact is thought to be negligible.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See above.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4017	**Author:**	Smith, Wayne
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 510; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8240**

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 510 (district) will encompass an area of land inside the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Baytown, Texas. The land to be located within the district will be developed into single-family residential and commercial development; therefore, water, sewer, drainage and road services need to be secured. It is necessary to create the district under Chapters 49 (Provisions Applicable to All Districts) and 54 (Municipal Utility Districts), Water Code, in order to purchase, acquire, or construct facilities for such services to serve the future occupants of the land utilizing tax exempt bonds. It is also necessary to empower the district with authority to impose a tax, issue bonds, and exercise the power of eminent domain.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4018	**Author:**	Van Arsdale
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 416; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Code and Section **This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.**

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8255**

H.B. 4018 amends the powers of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 416 (district) to provide the district with limited road powers pursuant to Section 52 (Counties, Cities or Other Political Corporations or Subdivisions; Lending Credit; Grant; Bonds), Article III, Texas Constitution. The district lies within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Houston in Harris County, Texas.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4038	**Author:**	Howard, Charlie
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the powers and duties of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 473; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code

The Harris County Municipal District No. 473 (district) lies in the corporate limits of the City of Baytown in Harris County. Currently the district provides water, sewer, drainage, and park facilities to land located within the boundaries of the district.

H.B. 4038 amends the powers of Harris County Municipal District No. 473 to provide the district with limited road powers pursuant to Article 3, Section 52, of the Constitution of Texas.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4045	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Towne Lake Management District; providing authority to levy an assessment, impose a tax, and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Title 4, Subtitle C, Chapter 3839 added**

Creates the District with the usual economic and transportation development purposes for the revitalization of residential and commercial property values. The District is authorized to levy an assessment, impose a tax, and issue bonds in support of its declared mission.

Towne Lake Management District is a tract of land containing 60 acres located on Barker-Cypress Road in northwest Harris County.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court may be called upon to approve projects initiated by Public Infrastructure Department and the Tax Assessor-Collector Office which are undertaken at the behest of or in cooperation with initiatives approved by the District Board.

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

See Commissioners Court above.

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

See Commissioners Court above.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Existence of the District may slightly change the allocation of funds within the affected departments, but it is expected to have a negligible operating and fiscal impact for the County as a whole.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4045	**Author:**	Callegari
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Patrick, Dan
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4080	**Author:**	Talton
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Jackson, Mike
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 509; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Subtitle F,Title 6,Chapter 8217**

Currently, the land located within the boundaries of the proposed municipal utility district, located within the corporate limits of the City of Pearland and Harris County, is undeveloped.

H.B. 4080 creates Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 509 (district). This bill provides that the territory of the district would lie within the corporate limits of the City of Pearland and Harris County. This bill also provides that the district will have all of the powers granted to municipal utility districts operating pursuant to Chapters 49 (Provisions Applicable to All Districts) and 54 (Municipal Utility Districts), Water Code, and with road powers pursuant to Section 52 (Counties, Cities, or Other Political Corporations or Subdivisions; Lending Credit; Grants; Bonds), Article III, Texas Constitution.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4110	**Author:**	Coleman
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 9; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Title 4, Subtitle C, Chapter 3859 added**

Creates the Harris County Improvement District No. 9, providing standard authorities to impose a tax, assess fees, and issue bonds for a variety of projects to improve the residential and commercail viability of the area described in Section 2 of the bill. The boundaries of the District are roughly between Dixie and Almeda-Genoa on Interstate 45 South, and between I-45 and Mykawa Road; the District includes all of Hobby Airport and a good bit of territory adjacent to that site.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court may be called upon to approve projects initiated by Public Infrastructure Department and the Tax Assessor-Collector Office which are undertaken at the behest of or in cooperation with initiatives approved by the District Board.

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

See above under Commissioners Court.

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

See above under Commissioners Court.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

			Impact to Harris County:	
			Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
		Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
		Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs:	0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
		Net Cost:	$0	$0
		Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
		Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The existence of the District and its initiation of projects may slightly alter the spending of resources by selected departments, but overall fiscal impact is thought to be negligible.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4110	**Author:**	Coleman
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Whitmire
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

See above.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4134	**Author:**	Miles
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 10; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **3860**

Adds Chapter 3860 to Title 4, Subtitle C of the Special Districts Local Laws Code to create Harris County Improvement District No. 10 in an area south of the South Loop 610, east of Almeda, west of Martin Luther King and Cullen, and north of Almeda-Genoa. Within the boundaries shown in section 2 of the bill, the District and its Board are authorized to impose a tax, make certain assessments, and issue bonds for projects that improve both the residential and commercial value of the area, including transportation or pedestrian projects.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

The Court may be called upon to approve projects conducted by Public Infrastructure Department or the Tax Assessor-Collector in keeping with projects undertaken by the District.

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

May be called upon to approve projects in support of the District.

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

May be called upon to collect and disburse taces on behalf of the District.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Costs of doing business for certain departments may change slightly as the result of this District, but it is thought that there will be no incremental costs associated with these changes.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HB 4134	**Author:**	Miles
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Ellis
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Funded

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HJR 40	**Author:**	Hochberg | Crabb | Branch |
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide that the maximum appraised value of a residence homestead for ad valorem taxation is limited to the lesser of the most recent market value of the residence homestead as determined by the appraisal entity or 110 percent, or a greater percentage, of the appraised value of the residence homestead for the preceding tax year

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

Code and Section

Tax Code **23.23 amended**

This bill is the constitutional amendment proposal that, if passed by voters at the next general election will result in implementation of HB 438. The amendment limits the increase of appraised values for residential homesteads from one tax year to the next to 10% of the prior year appraised value plus increases to the market value resulting from new improvements to the residence. In practical terms, the bill makes appraisal districts either appraise annually, in which case the appraised values may increase up to 10% from one tax year to the next, or appraise less frequently and limit the increase to not more than 10% of the previously established appraised value plus market value improvements to the home but not to exceed in any case the actual market value of the home.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

There will be no operating impact as a result of this bill. However, tax revenues for Harris County and its affiliates (Port of Houston, Hospital District, etc.) may increase less rapidly than would have occurred under previous Tax Code verbiage.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There will be no impact of any kind during FY 2008. The earliest that revenue streams from tax receipts might increase at a reduced rate will be during FY 2009.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Revenue streams from ad valorem taxes will increase at a slower rate than might have been expected had this Constitutional Amendment proposal not been enacted, and were it not to pass as a ballot measure in November. The decreased rate of increase is impossible for OBM to determine without considerably more information than provided by the Assessor & Collector of Taxes.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	HJR 40	**Author:**	Hochberg | Crabb | Branch |
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Hegar
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Paul Bettancourt			Assessor & Collector of Taxes
Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 11	**Author:**	Carona
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Corte
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to homeland security and protection of the public, including protections against human trafficking; providing penalties

Bill Category

Health and Safety

Disaster Assistance

Code and Section

Government Code **418.004 (10) through (14) added**

In the section of Code dealing with Emergency Management, adds definitions for the following terms: 'local government entity', 'mutual aid', 'requesting local government entity', 'responding local government entity', and 'Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System'.

Government Code **418.1015 added**

Designates the County Judge to be the Emergency Management Directpr fpr a county, and authorizes the Judge to appoint an Emergency Management Coordinator to conduct emergency management operations as necessary. Also delegates to the Judge from the Governor the emergency management duties of the Governor on an 'appropriate local scale'.

Government Code **418.107-c amended**

Changes the language to clarify that one local government entity may request mutual aid from another either directly or using the state mutual aid system.

The remainder of the bill is largely taken up with immunization records, border security, and measures intended to prevent and punish crimes involving trafficking in humans.

Government Code **418.109 amended**

The section title is changed to Authority to Render Mutual Aid Assistance, and subsection (d) is amended to authorize one local government entity or organized volunteer group to render assistance to another upon receipt of a request for such assistance.

Government Code **418.110 amended**

Code is amended to permit (rather than require) state fire protection agencies and the Texas Commission on Fire Protection to develop a statewide mutual aid program for fire emergencies. Such a program does not alter the legal obligations of a participating political subdivsion, and the program must be consistent with the statewide emergency management plan.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 11	**Author:**	Carona
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Corte
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Government Code **Subcapter E-1 added**

The added section is titled,Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System, and its several sections detail the means by which mutual aid may be requested, the circumstances under which the entity requested to provide assistance is to provide assistance, and the means for requesting and determining the amount of reimbursement due the entity providing resources under a mutual aid request.

Other articles of this bill involve items that are not of direct consequence to counties for the most part, or are taken up in other legislation that was passed during the session and included in other summaries that are part of this report.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Emergency Services

Impact on Department Operations:

The Emergency Services arm of the Fire Marshal Office will be the central cog in the County's evaluation of available resources for mutual aid assistance to other entities, and should it become necessary for the County to request mutual aid from another entity. The only fair assumption with regard to operations or fiscal impact is that no unreimbursed expense or permanent operating impact will result from a request made of Harris County for mutual aid assistance. In short, it is assumed that Harris County will only loan the use of resources that are in excess of those needed to tend to its own citizens' safety and security first.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Emergency Services

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

While it is assumed there will be some interim costs for the loan of resources to a requesting city or county, it is thought that all costs will eventually be reimbursed under the terms of the Statewide Mutual Aid System. It is further thought that Harris County likely will receive numerous more requests for mutual aid than it makes to others. That may mean that, on balance and over time, there will be negative fiscal impacts from implementation of this bill. However, no estimates of costs nor reimbursements are yet possible to project.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See the note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Discussion	Public Health & Environmental Services
Michael Montgomery	(281) 931-1085	Discussion	Fire & Emergency Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 61	**Author:**	Zaffirini
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	McClendon
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the performance of the functions of the governing body of a political subdivision in the event of a disaster

Bill Category

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Commissioners Court - Option

Port Authority

Special Districts

Code and Section

Government Code **Sections 418.111 and 418.112 added**

Bill adds sections allowing the governing board of any local political subdivision to establish at any time a plan for the continuity of functions of the political subdivision to be carried on in the event of a disaster declared by the president of the United States or the governor of Texas. The plan may specify how administrative duties are to be delegated from one person or office to another, establish orders of succession for performing essential functions, and establish meeting procedures for the governing body.

The second added section grants the governing body of a local government entity an exception to the normal requirement of a quorum when the entity is located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the disaster, and a majority of the members of the governing body are unable to be present at a meeting of the governing body due to the disaster.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

All aspects of this bill apply to operations of the Commissioners Court in the event of a declared disaster affecting all or part of Harris County.

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill also will apply to the Hospital District Board.

Port Authority

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill applies equally to the Port Authority.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 61	**Author:**	Zaffirini
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	McClendon
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Special District Boards

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill applies equally to any Special District Board governing territory falling within the area of a declared disaster.

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Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

			Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
		Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
		Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs:	0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
		Net Cost:	$0	$0
		Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
		Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0
Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:				
Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:				
Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	Discussion	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 66	**Author:**	Zaffirini
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Miller
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to cattle guards constructed on county roads

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

Health and Safety

Code and Section

Transportation Code **251.009 (a) amended**

Amends the code to eliminate the population limit of 60,000 or less for counties to be authorized to order installation of cattle guards on roads of any class within their boundaries.

Agriculture Code **143.003 added**

Adds a section specifying that cattle are not running at large so long as they are using a cattle guard that is part of the fencing for two tracts of land under common ownership and separated by a county road.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Texas Cooperative Extension-Harris County

Impact on Department Operations:

Would allow the Commissioners Court to order installation of cattle guards for county roads under specified circumstances to protect the public safety.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Texas Cooperative Extension-Harr

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There is simply no way to project what the fiscal impact will be; it is thought that added costs will be insiginifcant for the County.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See the note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 90	**Author:**	Van de Putte
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Corte, F. and Naishtat
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide a ballot by electronic mail to military personnel serving overseas

Bill Category

Elections

Code and Section

Election Code **101.0071 added**

The section added mandates the Secretary of State to implement a pilot project to test the feasibility of providing election ballots to those military personnel stationed overseas during an election. The pilot must be implemented not later than July 1, 2008. Counties wishing to participate must request approval to participate in the pilot to the Secretary of State.

(Prior to its passage, David Beirne with the County Clerk Office was asked his impression of whether Harris County would likely be interested in participating in the pilot. He indicated the answer would depend on what would be required in terms of resources contributed and whether the County would have the option to later stop participating if things were not working as hoped.)

In addition to all other requirements, if both an early voting paper ballot is mailed and an electronic ballot is sent via secure internet, and if both are voted by the registered voter, then only the electronic ballot would be tallied.

By February 15, 2009, the Secretary of State shall file a report as to the results of the pilot program, and specifying suggestions as to the continued use of electronic ballots for military personnel stationed abroad.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

Impact on Department Operations:

Only will have an impact if Harris County applies to participate in the pilot program, and is accepted by the Secretary of State.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

At this time, it is impossible to know the fiscal impact for Harris County, if any at all. There will only be fiscal consequences if the County Clerk Office chooses to participate in the pilot program, and those costs are impossible to estimate with accuracy at this moment.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 90	**Author:**	Van de Putte
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Corte, F. and Naishtat
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See statement under FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 91	**Author:**	Van de Putte
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Zedler
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to point-of-sale health warnings for tobacco products

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Section 161.084**

SB 91 requires point-of-sale tobacco signage to include certain text regarding the risk of smoking during pregnancy. This bill also authorizes the comptroller to accept gifts or grants to perform the duties under this section.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Revises point-of-sale warnings for tobacco products to include a statement saying "Pregnant women should not smoke. Smokers are more likely to have babies who are born premature or with low birth weight." Note – SB 143, legislation that permits the establishment of fetal and infant mortality review teams, contains the same language (see Leading Causes of Death and Disability).

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 143	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Veasey
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to fetal and infant mortality review and health warnings related to fetal and infant mortality; imposing a penalty.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Subtitle A,Title 8,Chapter 674**

S.B. 143 authorizes communities to institute a review team to examine fetal and infant death incidences. Provides that a fetal and infant mortality review team may be established only by a local health authority or other local health official or by the Department of State Health Services (department), or under a contract or in accordance with a memorandum of agreement with a local health authority or other local health official or the department.

This bill provides immunity from subpoena and discovery to review team participants in their review of the de-identified case material and authorizes access by the review team to medical records of fetal loss and to infant death records.

Health & Safety Code **Section 161.084(b)**

Amends Section 161.084(b), Health and Safety Code, to require new text relating to the use of tobacco products by pregnant women to be included in a warning sign relating to tobacco products at the point-of-sale.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Permits a local health authority, DSHS or other health official to establish a fetal/infant mortality review team, to review deaths of fetuses aged 20 weeks and above and infants under age one. Revises point-of-sale warnings for tobacco products to include a statement saying "Pregnant women should not smoke. Smokers are more likely to have babies who are born premature or with low birth weight."

Regarding SB 143, the language regarding establishing fetal/infant mortality review processes (FIMR) is permissive, so we are not currently required to initiate any activities as a result of this bill. Therefore, there are no immediate fiscal or operational implications to HCPHES.

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 191	**Author:**	Brimer
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Eiland
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the demolition of certain sports and community venues.

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 334.003

This bill would restrict a county or municipality from utilizing certain pre-existing financing methods to demolish a sports & community venue and subsequently construct a new one.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill is not expected to have a near-term fiscal impact on Harris County. There is some uncertainty whether the bill could affect the use of Harris County-Houston Sports Authority tax revenues if the county decides to demolish any of the major facilities in Reliant Park at some time in the future. The uncertainty on this point is due to the fact that the election that led to the creation of the venue project that is now Reliant Park was held before the effective date of Chaper 334, Local Government Code. That election was grandfathered as a part of the 1997 legislation that adopted Chapter 334.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 204	**Author:**	Nelson
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Delisi
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to certain electronic medical records systems.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Subchapter A, Chapter 161, New Sections 0107, 0108**

Existing law requires persons administering vaccinations to children under eighteen years of age to report them to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS). Reporting of vaccinations to the registry helps protect children against childhood diseases. The purpose of this legislation is to assist those persons administering immunizations or entities that manage records for those persons who wish to report their information electronically to the state's immunization registry.

SB 204 requires vendors selling, leasing, or providing an electronic medical record software packages or systems to a person who administers immunizations within the state or to an entity who manages records for the person provide, as part of that package or system, one that has an ability to electronically interface and generate electronic reports containing the fields necessary to populate the state's immunization registry.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

The HCHD completed the interface between their medical records system and the state's immunization registry earlier this year. There is no additional cost expected.

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

PHES' current medical records system interfaces with ImmTrac, the state's immunization registry.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 229	**Author:**	Harris
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gonzales
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the seal of a district court and the signature of the district clerk used on process issued by the court.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **51.301**

Allows a District Clerk to affix the Clerk's seal and signature electronically onto all process issued by the court.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

We have already created the seal electronically and are currently sealing certified documents in this manner. The District Clerk's Office reports that they already create the seal electronically and are currently sealing certified documents in this manner, therefore this bill should have no financial or operational impact.

Bill Experts

Clay Cossey	(713) 755-5780	Email, Report, other	District Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 235	**Author:**	Harris
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Smith, Todd
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the composition of a county bail bond board

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

Criminal Justice Policy

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Occupations Code **1704.053 amended**

Amends this section of Code, pertaining to the composition of county bail bond boards, to authorize the appointed district judge to specify a designee with the approval of the presiding administrative judge, and the appointed county court or county court at law judge to specify a designee with approval of the commissioners court. With these changes, the total number of bail bond board members who can designate a substitute becomes 8, while 5 other positions are specifically appointed.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Allows the county court or county court at law judge that is appointed by the Commissioners to specify a substitute so long as the Commissioners approve the designee.

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Gives the appointed district criminal court judge the flexibility to appoint a designee so long as the designee is specifically approved by the administrative district court judge.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	Discussion	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 237	**Author:**	Shapiro
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Madden
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unknown

Caption

Relating to the supreme court's adoption of rules on the electronic filing of documents in civil cases in justice of the peace courts.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Government Code **22.004**

Requires the Supreme Court to adopt rules governing the electronic filing in civil cases in justice of the peace courts (currently no provisions for electronic filing in civil, JP court cases).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

Rules must be in place by January, 2008, promulgated by the Supreme Court. It is anticipated that the rules will be the similar to those in place for the district and county civil courts. We also anticipate that for the average pro se litigant in the justice court, they will not make use of electronic filing. Until the rules are finalized, we are not able to compute the costs for programming the Justice Courts Information System to accommodate electronic filing.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

It is expected that the Justice Courts Information System will require some programming to accommodate electronic filing, but the extent of this effort won't be known until the rules are developed by the Supreme Court (must be in place by January, 2008). Again, depending on the rules, electronic filing has the potential to reduce clerical workload in the JP courts.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 254	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Dutton
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the sale of live animals in certain counties on a public highway or road, the right-of-way of a public highway or road, or a parking lot

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

Code and Section

Transportation Code **285.001 amended**

The bill adds to the authority of a commissioners court to regulate by order the sale of items on a public highway or road, the right of way of a public highway or road, or in a parking lot within the unincorporated area of a county with a population of at least 1.3 million: the prohibition now may include the sale of live animals.

This bill was at the behest of Harris County PH&ES, and is an effort to stop the unregulated sale of animals, especially pit bulls and similar breeds, within Harris County.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

PHES-Animal Control

Impact on Department Operations:

Public Health & Environmental Services Department -- Animal Control Division estimates that this bill will, at least intially, have little operations impact. The bill will allow Class C misdemeanor citations to be issued to violators of the revised law by either animal control or law enforcement officers. The citations will be heard in Justice Courts, and the County will receive all of the proceeds from ticket fines as they are paid.

It is likely that PHES - Animal Control will work with the County Attorney Office to revise its regulations pertaining to animal control. This may encourage or enable repeat offenses to eventually be punishable by a more substantive penalty.

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

It is incumbent on the Court to approve an order prohibiting the sale of live animals in the areas specified by this bill. Once ordered, the PH&ES Department will be authorized to cite those conducting such sales.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

PHES-Animal Control

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$7,500	$37,500
	Net Fiscal Impact	$7,500	$37,500

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 254	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Dutton
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

It is too early to know how many citations will be issued and how much fine money will be collected. What is expected is that both animal control and law enforcement officers will issue citations when they encounter clear violations of the amended law while conducting routine duties. It is also expected that early on, the number of issued citations will be higher than the number issued later on, as those who are unaware of the law become aware that violators will be ticketed.

There are no plans to seize the animals that are offered for sale, so the only additional operating expenses that are anticipated are the costs of printing citation books for use with the revised regulations. If Animal Control were to have one budgetary wish, it is for additional funding to make and broadcast public service announcements that will publicize the new prohibition of animal sales along highways and roads, or in parking lots, and for publicizing proper animal care reminders to all animal breeders, sellers, and owners.

Assuming that the PHES - Animal Control section devises regulations for the enforcement of a prohibition, and those regulations are adopted by Commissioners Court, it is anticipated that the range of fines for violations will range between $200 and $500 per citation, with the fine amounts rising as the number of repeat violations mounts. It is impossible to calculate the likely sum of citation collections from these violations. However, the County will retain 100% of all fine revenue collected, with 10% of the court costs being shared by the JP and the county.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Please see the FY 2008 fiscal note. It is estimated that citations totaling at least $25,000 in fines, and perhaps as high as $50,000, will be issued annually during the first 2 years of this program. It is hoped that rigid enforcement of the law will discourage the unregulated sale of live animals on the sides of roadways. Over time, it is assumed that this effort will drive those who wish to make such sales across county lines to counties that do not yet have the authority to prohibit such sales.

It is hoped that by calendar year 2009, when the legislature returns to regular session, there will pressure building in the less populous surrounding counties to press for the lifting of any population minima for a Commissioners Court order to prohibit the roadside sale of live animals.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$7,500**	**$37,500**

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Discussion	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 288	**Author:**	Nelson
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Delisi
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the reporting of health care-associated infections at certain health care facilities and the creation of an advisory panel.

Bill Category

Health and Human Services

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **Subtitle D,Title 2,Chapter 98**

SB 288 requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), not later than June 1, 2008, to establish the Texas Health Care-Associated Infection Reporting System, within the infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology branch of the department. The purpose of the reporting system is to provide for the reporting of health care-associated infections by health care facilities to the department, for the public reporting regarding these infections, and for the education and training of health care facility staff by the department. The reporting system shall provide a mechanism to collect data, at state expense, through a secure electronic interface with health care facilities.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

Impact on current reporting systems:

- Developing data tools to meet report requirements
- No electronic surveillance system for downloading of any information required which will result in increase manual data collection and data entry
- Without district-wide implementation of the electronic medical record, manual data collection sources will be review of in-patient and out-patient medical records for post- discharge surveillance as required for surveillance data collection. This type of data collection is very time consuming.
- Review of each patient's laboratory results and other data sources for determining if infection criteria meets the definition of an infection which is time consuming.
- Developing a database that will electronically interface with the state health department for reporting outcome measures.
- Increases the need for storage files for data collection tools.

Currently, the SB 288 Reporting of Healthcare-Associated Infections will impact the BTGH & the LBJ facility. To meet this requirement, there will need to be reallocation or discontinuing of some current activities performed by the Infection Control Staff. Current staffing recommendations to meet this requirement is a staffing ratio of 0.8 to 1.0 ICP per occupied acute care beds. The additional required staffing needed for the LBJ, BTGH, & QM facilities will be an increase of five (5) FTEs Infection Control Coordinators and one (1) project assistant to perform data entry.

Issues in Implementing this bill:
Yes. Cost and resources to meet unfunded mandate. Currently, there is a shortage of experienced Infection Control Practitioners in the State of Texas. Hiring and training of Infection Control will be an issue.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 288	**Author:**	Nelson
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Delisi
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

SB 288 will not impact HCPHES, as our clinics are not included and we don't perform any of the listed procedures.

One note - as written, the bill states that reports will go straight from health care facilities to the state through an electronic interface. If this is the case then we will not have any additional responsibilities placed on our department regarding reporting. However, if at some point reports end up passing through our hands (as they do for other notifiable conditions), we may have some increased costs due to staff time needed to receive, identify and transmit the reports to the correct place at the Department of State Health Services.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Hospital District

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$407,530
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 6	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$407,530
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	($407,530)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

DSHS must establish reporting system by June 1, 2008. There is no impact in fiscal 2008.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

DSHS reporting system should become available by June 1, 2008, but we assume that personnel will be in place for all of fiscal 2009. The indirect cost rate of 22.75% is the average rate applicable to all Harris County Departments.

An additional five (5) FTE Infection Control Coordinators at a base salary of $60,000 plus indirect costs of 22.75% equals $73,650 per position, total of $368,250 annually.

One project data assistant at a base salary of $32,000 plus indirect costs of 22.75% equals $39,280 annually.

Total Change in FTE's:	**6**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**($407,530)**

Other Notes:

Issues in Implementing this bill:
Yes. Cost and resources to meet unfunded mandate. Currently, there is a shortage of experienced Infection Control Practitioners in the State of Texas. Hiring and training of Infection Control will be an issue.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 336	**Author:**	Brimer
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Veasey
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the notice required for the lease of real property by certain counties when responding to particular emergency circumstances

Bill Category

Disaster Assistance

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **263.007 amended**

Waives the 30-day advance notice requirement of the intent to lease real property by counties affected by particular emergency circumstances.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Eases the lease of county holdings to emergency service providers during emergency circumstances by waiving advance notice requirements during those circumstances.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes:

This change to the Local Government Code would allow Harris County to lease real property holdings to emergency service providers without the customary requirement of a 30-day advance notice of the intent to do so. It is thought that there would be no measurable fiscal impact, but certainly an easiier procedure to timely complete arrangements necessitated by emergency circumstances. It should be noted that sometimes the very emergency that is being confronted does not offer periods as long as 30 days to provide assistance, let alone wait to provide notice of the intent to provide that assistance.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 351	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Noriega, R.
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to notice procedures for abatement of certain nuisances

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Optional

Code and Section

Transportation Code **683.075 (a) amended**

Adds a more cost-efficient method of mail notice to that currently required to be used in the notification of known owners, lien holders, and property owners of the County's intention to abate (destroy) a nuisance (junked automobile). Now counties will be allowed to use postal service delivery with signature confirmation as well as certified mail to deliver such notices.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department

Impact on Department Operations:

It is thought the operations impact will be low; nothing in this bill excuses the requirement to mail notice to affected parties of the intent to remove a junked vehicle. It does, however, promise to save some money compared to the current costs of such notifications.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	($5,000)	($10,000)
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	($5,000)	($10,000)
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$5,000	$10,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The amount of saving is indeterminable at this time. However, it is estimated that the average saving per nuisance vehicle will be less than $5, with the total saving per year being no more than $10,000.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$5,000**	**$10,000**

Bill Experts

Danny Billingsley	Discussion	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 361	**Author:**	Janek
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Davis, J.
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the deadline for submitting a federal postcard application to the early voting clerk

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **101.004 amended**

SB 361 amends provisions of the Election Code pertaining to the deadline for active members of the U. S. Armed Forces plus spouses and dependents and active members of the U. S. Merchant Marine plus sponsors and dependents, to file their federal postcard application for absentee voter status in Texas state elections. The old deadline was thirty days before Election Day; amended deadline is extended to the 20th day before Election Day.

The amended dates are in recognition that active military families and Merchant Marine families are often given short notice of postings or change of status notices.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk - Election Admin.

Impact on Department Operations:

It is thought that no operational nor fiscal impact will result from this bill.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 369	**Author:**	Williams
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Callegari
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to an offense involving a motor vehicle with an altered or obscured license plate

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **502.409**

This bill specifies that a vehicle is not in violation of the law as long as the name of the state in which the vehicle is registered and the license plate number are not altered or obscured.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Patrol

Impact on Department Operations:

None.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 415	**Author:**	Lucio
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	McReynolds
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to a risk assessment program for Type 2 diabetes and the creation of the Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Program Advisory Committee

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

Establishes a type 2 diabetes education and risk assessment program in public and private schools in certain Education Service Center (ESC) regions (including ESC 4, which includes Harris County), to be coordinated by the University of Texas-Pan American Border Health Office. The risk assessment must be performed at the same time hearing and vision or spinal screening is performed. Results must be provided to parents, and records will be available to local health departments.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 426	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Hill
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to qualification for an ad valorem tax exemption for property used to provide low-income or moderate-income housing in the event of a change in ownership of the property as a result of a foreclosure sale

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

Code and Section

Tax Code **11.182 amended**

The bill corrects what was likely an unintended consequence of certain Code changes enacted in 2003. Those changes allowed an organization to retain any ad valorem tax exemption for low- and moderate-income multi-family dwellings that it had qualified for in the past, but not to have an exemption follow from one owner to the next if the property was sold at foreclosure.

Section 1 of this bill simplifies the Code to say that an exemption on a property must have been in effect during the 2003 tax year in order for it to continue into the current year. It also adds that a property acquired by a new owner under foreclosure may retain its exemption indefinitely if the new owner establishes that he is qualified for the exemption within 30 days of the date of sale. The chief appraiser may require that the new owner file a new exemption application if desired to prove that he qualifies for the exemption under Tax Code section 11.43 c.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will have minimal operations impact. Only those properties previously qualified for CHODO exemption will be affected, and only if they are sold under foreclosure and the new owner proves within 30 days (via a new application or other evidence) that he qualifies as well under terms of 11.182 (b)(1), (2), and (4), and 11.43 c.

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The District will be required to obtain evidence that the buyer of a property sold at foreclosure continues to qualify for the CHODO exemption under the bill's provisions.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There may be a slight reduction of ad valorem tax revenue resulting from this bill, but the amount is not known

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 426	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Hill
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

and cannot be determined at this time.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

See the note for FY 2008.

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 493	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Chisum
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of a joint elections administrator; providing penalties

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **Subchapter F added**

The added subchapter expands the authorization for using election administrators (to consolidate the duties of the voter registrar and county clerk) from a single county to multiple counties or a county and multiple other political subdivisions. The bill is primarily intended to help the least populous and rural counties to be able to share the costs of an election administrator in hopes of a more standardized quality of election conduct across the state.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

As indicated by the Chief Deputy County Clerk, and by the since-departed Governmental Relations Director (David Beirne), Harris County does not support creation of an election administrator position but does support making it permissible for counties that can find economies of scale to share an election administrator position with other government entities. Because Harris County does not support creation of an election administrator position, there is no operations or fiscal impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

David Beirne	Discussion	County Clerk - Election Administration

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 560	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to reimbursement for and counseling related to jury service.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Civil Court Procedure Change

Commissioners Court - Option

Code and Section

Government Code 61.001

This section of the bill clarifies the reimbursement paid to jurors and also gives commissioner's court more flexibility to vary the amount of juror reimbursement by court type. This section also eliminates commissioner's court's option to not pay for the first day of jury service.

Code of Criminal Procedure 56.04

Section 6 of this bill allows a County Commissioner's Court to approve a program that would provide up to 10 hours of post-trial psychological counseling for jurors who serve in certain types of cases involving graphic testimony. Jurors can donate their juror pay to a fund that would be used to pay for this counseling - additional funding sources are not specified.

Government Code 61.003

This section amends the procedures for collecting and disbursing donated juror pay.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

District Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill includes several sections that clarify functions already performed by Harris County. One change would allow jurors to spread donated juror pay among multiple beneficiaries which is expected to increase corresponding accounting efforts, although it can probably be accomplished within existing staff.

Section 6 of this bill allows Harris County Commissioner's Court to approve a program that would provide up to 10 hours of post-trial psychological counseling for jurors who serve in certain types of cases involving graphic testimony. The Harris County District Attorney's office reports that there are about 100 trials per year that would meet the requirements of this bill. With 12 jurors per case, there would potentially be 1,200 jurors who could request 10 hours of counseling, for a total of 12,000 hours of counseling. Current rates for this type of counseling range from $75 to $90 per hour. The total cost would depend on the utilization of such counseling. If 25% of the jurors request the full 10 hours of counseling, the total cost would be $225,000 per year or $450,000 at a 50% utilization rate. This bill does allow for the use of certain donated juror pay to fund the counseling.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

District Clerk's Office

	Impact to Harris County:	
	Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 560	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Change to FTEs:	0	**Capital Expense**	$0 $0
		Net Cost:	$0 $0
		Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0 $0
		Net Fiscal Impact	$0 $0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill should have little or no financial impact unless commissioner's court decides to implement a juror psychological counseling program. If that occurs, the annual cost could cost $450,000 if 50% of the eligible jurors participated. That cost would be offset by any money donated by jurors and earmarked for that purpose.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0 $0**

Bill Experts

Kathy Byers	(713) 755-7560	Email, Report, other	District Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 600	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	10/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to compensation paid to statutory county court judges and certain court-related fees.

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/Amount Change

Civil Court Procedure Change

Other

Code and Section

Government Code **25.0005**

Sets the salary for a statutory county court judge at no less than $1,000 less than the total annual salary received by a district court judge in the county.

Government Code **25.0015**

States that the state shall provide compensation to the county for each statutory county court judge in an amount equal to 60% of the state salary of a district court judge in the county.

Government Code **133.105**

Increases the court cost from $4 to $6 for any conviction other than an offense relating to a pedestrian or the parking of a motor vehicle.

Local Government Code **133.154**

Increases the fee for filing a civil suit in a district, statutory county, or county court from $37 to $42.

Government Code **51.702**

Requires the clerk of a statutory county court to collect a $40 filing fee for each civil case filed in that court (previously commissioners court had the option to assess this fee).

Government Code **25.016**

Repeals the portion of code that specifies how excess contributions to the judicial fund are reimbursed to the county.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Courts

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$184,000	$368,000
	Net Fiscal Impact	$184,000	$368,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 600	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	10/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Increases the compensation paid from the state judicial fund from $35,000 to $75,000 for the 19 statutory county court judges, for an annualized revenue increase of $760,000.

Section 13 of this bill eliminates the provision for the state's reimbursement to Harris County for excess contributions to the judicial fund under Gov't Code 51.702. The amount of reimbursed excess contributions under 51.702 has averaged $392,000 over the past two years.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$184,000**	**$368,000**

Bill Experts

Bob Wessels	(713) 755-5394	Email, Report, other	Court Services - County (Wessels)
Debbie Smith	(713) 755-4424	Email, Report, other	Auditor's Office

Other Notes:

Fee increases under Local Gov't Codes 133.105 and 133.154 are expected to increase the annual amount that Harris County sends to the state judicial fund by over $1.1 million ($2 * 290,000 convictions + $5 * 112,000 cases respectively). Because Harris County's portion of these fees does not increase (remains at $.60 for each case under 133.105), and because excess judicial fund payments are not reimbursed to the County for these fees, these fee increases are not expected to have a financial impact on Harris County.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 618	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the jurisdiction of and representation in the county, justice, and small claims courts in civil matters.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Government Code 26.042

Changes the jurisdiction (concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts) of county court to include disputed matters up to $10,000 (from $5,000 previously).

Government Code 27.031

Increases the potential amount in dispute in justice courts to $10,000 (from $5,000 previously).

Also states that a corporation doesn't need to be represented by an attorney in justice court.

Government Code 28.003

Increases the potential amount in dispute in small claims courts to $10,000 (from $5,000 previously).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

Although there is no way to predict the number of additional JP filings as a result of this increase in jurisdiction, it is reasonable to assume that civil cases, where litigants are represented by attorneys, will increase. This may be a result of an overall increase in case filings, and possibly from a shifting of certain filings from county courts to the justice or small claims courts. If so, these cases will come with discovery requests and an additional motion practice, requiring more clerk time for processing, and more judge time for increased dockets.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The increased jurisdiction of justice and small claims courts may result in a shifting of certain cases from county courts to the JP's. Courts Management stated that the magnitude of this shift, if it occurs at all, is impossible to estimate. A shifting of cases could result in a reduced workload for county courts. Another possibility, however, is that many people would file cases in the justice courts with the full intent to appeal that case to the county courts should the original case fail, thus resulting in an overall increase in judicial effort for the county.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 618	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Although there is no way to predict the number of additional JP filings as a result of this increase in jurisdiction, it is reasonable to assume that civil cases, where litigants are represented by attorneys, will increase. This may be a result of an overall increase in case filings, and possibly from a shifting of certain filings from county courts to the justice or small claims courts. If so, these cases will come with discovery requests and an additional motion practice, requiring more clerk time for processing, and more judge time for increased dockets. Courts Management stated that they will monitor case filings, and using the staffing study results, advise accordingly.

Reportedly, the average cost to hear a comparable case would be about the same in a county vs. a JP court

More filings in justice and small claims courts will result in increased fees for these courts ($25 filing fee).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

County Courts

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The increased jurisdiction of justice and small claims courts may result in a shifting of certain cases from county courts to the JP's. Courts Management stated that the magnitude of this shift, if it occurs at all, is impossible to estimate. A shifting of cases could result in a reduced workload for county courts. Another possibility, however, is that many people would file cases in the justice courts with the full intent to appeal that case to the county courts should the original case fail, thus resulting in an overall increase in judicial effort.

Reportedly, the average cost to hear a comparable case would be about the same in a county vs. a JP court

Reduced filings in county courts will result in reduced fees for these courts ($177 filing fee for new petitions although fees vary depending on type of case).

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0** **$0**

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 671	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Miles
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to territory included in, and the validation of acts of, the Greater Southeast Management District

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **376.454 re-enacted**

This bill has the sole purpose of re-setting the same territorial limits as originally assigned this District when first enacted by the 77th legislature, and validating all acts previously done within its boundaries. The 79th legislature took certain sections of the territory during redistricting; this act merely reassembles the territory of this district.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Only validates that all acts approved by the District's Board are revalidated by enactment of this bill.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 680	**Author:**	Williams
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Murphy
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to certain swimming pools as public nuisances in the unincorporated areas of counties

Bill Category

Health and Safety

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **343.011, 343.021, 343.022**

The bill allows counties to secure abandoned or unsecured swimming pools by covering and locking the pools or draining and filling the pools. Previously, counties were only permitted to demolish the pools, which is fairly expensive. The bill specifies that a swimming pool on abandoned/unoccupied property in a neighborhood is a public nuisance if it is not secured with a latched and locked gate and a cover that cannot be removed by a child. Counties are permitted to immediately secure this type of nuisance pool by controlling access to and covering the pool prior to the notice and hearing process.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

Impact on Department Operations:

According to the department, there are about 10 swimming pools per year that are public nuisances and that need to be abated. The average job requires repairing a fence around the pool, locking the fence, and covering the pool at a cost of $2,500 per pool.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Public Health & Env. Services

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$25,000	$25,000
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$25,000	$25,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($25,000)	($25,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($25,000)**	**($25,000)**

Bill Experts

Elizabeth Love	713-439-6041	Public Health & Environmental Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 699	**Author:**	Carona
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Darby
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the use of only parts of driver's license and social security numbers in certain court documents

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Civil Practice & Remedies Co 30.014

This bill requires each party in a civil action to provide the last 3 digits of the party's driver's license number and the last 3 digits of the party's social security number.

Property Code 52.003

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Clerk's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill would not result in a fiscal impact for Harris County. The requirement to provide the partial identification information falls on the party filing the pleading.

Bill Experts

Kevin Mauzy	(713) 755-3553	County Clerk's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 758	**Author:**	Nelson
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Rose
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to child protective services; providing penalties

Bill Category

Child Protective Services

Health and Human Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Family Code **Section 162.304,263.102, 264.106,264.113,264.2011**

This bill is a follow-up from S.B. 6, 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005, to continue needed reforms in protective services and to improve quality and accountability in foster care.

S.B. 758 clarifies certain provisions and makes adjustments to the privatization plan for foster care in Texas.

Education Code **Section 29.153**

Clarifies the eligibility for public school prekindergarten programs of certain children who are or were in the conservatorship of DFPS.

Health & Safety Code **Section 191.0047**

Requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to verify birth information or provide a certified copy of a birth record for children served by DFPS. It would also require DFPS to reimburse DSHS for actual costs.

Human Resources Code **Section 42.0211,42.042, 42.044,42.056,45.004,**

Regarding the residential child-care licensing division and residential child-care facilities.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Children's Assessment Center

Impact on Department Operations:

No fiscal impact.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 758	**Author:**	Nelson
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Rose
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Protective Services For Children and Adults

Impact on Department Operations:

HCPS does not see any current fiscal or operational impact as a result of SB 758. There are two sections that could have a potential impact on the operation of the Kinder Emergency Shelter at the Harris County Youth Services Center:

1). Section 31 allows emergency shelters to exceed capacity for up to 48 hours to provide temporary emergency care. Our department has decided that the shelter will not exceed its licensed capacity of 24 youths, ages 12-17. However, if this decision is changed in the future, the fiscal impact for a 48 hour period would be at least $750 (1 additional staff salary at $13.66/hour for 48 hours, plus additional food and youth supply expenses, per episode of exceeded capacity care). If we assume that the Shelter would exceed capacity for a total of 48 hours at least monthly, then the annual additional cost to the Department's budget for the Shelter program would be approximately $9,000.

2). CPS Improvement Plan #12 in Section 51 refers to a "statewide pilot program for a time-limited, post-hospitalization step-down rate to support the successful transition of children who have experienced or are likely to experience multiple inpatient admissions in a psychiatric hospital to an appropriate level of care". Currently, DFPS this program will only be available to residential treatment centers at a rate of $374.00 per child, per day. This could impact the average daily census in the Shelter depending on the progress of the pilot.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 778	**Author:**	Harris
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Truitt
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the use of certain technology to conduct certain mental health proceedings.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Health & Safety Code **573.012**

Allows a physician who applies for the emergency detention of a person for mental health purposes to present the application to the court via video or other electronic transmission.

Health & Safety Code **Chapter 574**

Adds a new section that states that hearings for the commitment or recommitment of a mental health patient can be done via video or other electronic transmission and lays out the rules for using video hearings.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The ability to provide commitment/recommitment hearings via video is not expected to have a significant impact on Harris County because both hearings for patients at state hospitals are held in the probate courts in the county where the state hospital is located. Harris County is billed for these hearings but Harris County personnel do not need to travel to attend the hearings. This is true for both county and district court cases. It was also pointed out that although Harris County has video technology, the state hospitals (all but one) do not currently have videoconferencing capability.

District Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

The ability to provide commitment/recommitment hearings via video is not expected to have a significant impact on Harris County because both hearings for patients at state hospitals are held in the probate courts in the county where the state hospital is located. Harris County is billed for these hearings but Harris County personnel do not need to travel to attend the hearings. This is true for both county and district court cases. It was also pointed out that although Harris County has video technology, the state hospitals (all but one) do not currently have videoconferencing capability. As a side-note, in the large majority of cases, the patient waives the right to attend the hearings so the court conducts the hearings without the patient present.

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Email, Report, other	County Courts
Kelly Smith	(713) 755-0951	Email, Report, other	District Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 792	**Author:**	Williams | Brimer | Carona
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Smith, Wayne
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	

Caption

Relating to the authority of certain counties and other entities with respect to certain transportation projects and to comprehensive development agreements with regard to such projects; authorizing the issuance of bonds; providing penalties

Code and Section **This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.**

Transportation Code **223.203, 227.023, 228.011, etc.**

This lengthy bill has numerous provisions related to transportation issues and toll roads. Chief among them is a requirement that TXDOT allow a county toll road authority to use the state's right-of-way without charging for access to the state's highways. Other provisions in the bill authorize Harris County to construct and operate at least 6 new toll facilities.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Toll Road Authority

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill was part of the Harris County platform, and it is designed to have no cost for Harris County. The provision in the bill that prohibits the state from charging the county for toll road access to the state highway system is intended to codify the county's position that the state should not charge us a connection fee.

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will allow HCTRA to continue building toll roads in Harris County and gives the county the right of first refusal as it relates to building toll roads in the county. This will have the effect of improving mobility for county residents.

Bill Experts

Cathy Sisk	713-755-7872	County Attorney's office
Edwin Harrison	(713) 755-6532	Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 813	**Author:**	Janek
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Turner
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to child protective services

Bill Category

Child Protective Services

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Family Code **264.106**

This bill clarifies that in Harris County the Department of Family and Protective Services may contract with a county government agency or a child advocacy center for the provision of certain services. This section of the bill simply codifies current practice and therefore will have no fiscal impact for Harris County.

In addition, the bill makes a number of procedural changes relative to child protective services cases. A parent filing a claim of indigency would be required to file an affadavit of indigence, the time frame for requesting a new trial is clarified, etc. These procedural issues will not have a fiscal impact.

Human Resources Code **45.005**

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Protective Services For Children and Adults

Impact on Department Operations:

Continuation of current practice

Children's Assessment Center

Impact on Department Operations:

Continuation of current practice

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Bill Experts

Joel Levine	(713) 394-4063	Protective Services For Children and Adults
Valerie Milholland	(71) 578-3926	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 821	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the use of certain excess contributions to the judicial fund that are remitted to certain counties.

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Optional

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **25.00213**

Clarifies existing law to state that all or part of the salary of an associate probate court judge may be paid from excess judicial fund money that is placed in the excess contributions fund under Govt. code 25.00212.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Probate Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Makes salaries of associate probate court judges one of the qualified uses for excess judicial fund money. Because these funds could be applied to another probate court cost, no net financial benefit is realized by expanding the qualified uses of these funds.

Other Notes:

Harris County doesn't currently collect the $40 filing fee under Govt. Code 51.704 but will be forced to do so under the terms of HB 2359, also enacted during this session.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 831	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Straus
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to energy savings performance contracts.

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code **multiple**

Affects the contracting with 3rd parties for Energy Management Performance Contracts

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Facilities & Property Management

Impact on Department Operations:

Because Harris County does not have any energy performance contracts and does not intend to have any in the future, SB 831 is not expected to affect Harris County.

Bill Experts

Tom Warren	(713) 755-8183	Email, Report, other	Facilities & Property Management

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 867	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Pena
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to procedures regarding criminal defendants who are or may be persons with mental illness or mental retardation.

Bill Category

Criminal Mental Health Stabilization

Criminal Justice Policy

Civil Mental Health Stabilization

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure

Provides that a magistrate is not required to order an examination of mental illness or retardation if the defendant in the year preceding the defendant's date of arrest has been evaluated and determined to have a mental illness or to be a person with mental retardation by the local mental health or mental retardation authority or expert.

A written report of the examination must be submitted to the magistrate not later than the 30th day after the day of any order of examination issued in a felony case and not later than the 10th day after the date of any order of examination issued in a misdemeanor case, and the magistrate must provide copies of the report to the defense counsel and the prosecuting attorney.

Code of Criminal Procedure adds Article 46B.0095

provide that a defendant may not be committed to a mental hospital or other inpatient or residential facility, ordered to participate in an outpatient treatment program, or subjected to both inpatient and outpatient treatment for a cumulative period that exceeds the maximum term provided by law for the offense for which the defendant was to be tried, except that if the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor and has been ordered only to participate in an outpatient treatment program under Subchapter D or E, the maximum period of restoration is two years beginning on the date of the initial order for outpatient treatment program participation was entered. On expiration of the maximum restoration period, the defendant may be confined for an additional period in a mental hospital or other inpatient or residential facility or ordered to participate for an additional period in an outpatient treatment program, as appropriate, only pursuant to civil commitment proceedings.

The bill provides that if a court orders the commitment of or participation in an outpatient treatment program by a defendant who is charged with a misdemeanor punishable by confinement and the defendant is not tried before the date of expiration of the maximum period of restoration as described by Article 46B.0095, Code of Criminal Procedure, the court on the motion of the state's attorney must dismiss the charge.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 867	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Pena
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Code of Criminal Procedure

The bill also provides that subject to conditions reasonably related to assuring public safety and the effectiveness of the defendant's treatment, if the court determines that a defendant found incompetent to stand trial is not a danger to others and may be safely treated on an outpatient basis with the specific objective of attaining competency to stand trial and if an appropriate outpatient treatment program is available for the defendant, the court may release on bail a defendant found incompetent to stand trial with respect to a felony or may continue the defendant's release on bail, and is required to release on bail a defendant found incompetent to stand trial with respect to a misdemeanor or is required to continue the defendant's release on bail.

Code of Criminal Procedure

he bill provides that an order issued under Article 46B.072 or 46B.073, Code of Criminal Procedure, must place the defendant in the custody of the sheriff for transportation to the facility or outpatient treatment program, as applicable, in which the defendant is to receive treatment for purposes of competency restoration.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Court Services - County (Wessels)

Impact on Department Operations:

Given the changes that this bill introduces to the process for mentally ill defendants, it is not known at this time how many defendants would actually be diverted from detention into an outpatient restoration program. The judges must ensure public safety and a well-defined treatment plan must be in place prior to release. There is a severe shortage of outpatient treatment options today and in the short term it is likely that very few defendants will be released for outpatient restoration.

MHMRA

Impact on Department Operations:

Senate Bill 867 may significantly impact the outpatient services for MHMRA. It is my understanding that Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has not indicated to the courts whether there will be a combination of Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs); local outpatient hospitals; and/or local private facilities approved by DSHS to provide the outpatient commitment restoration service. If the LMHAs are selected to provide this service, resources will be required in order to meet the conditions of the court order. Depending on the numbers, the LMHAs may need psychiatrists to initiate medications; nurses to administer medications; psychologist/ caseworkers etc to handle the legal educational component related to competency; and the support staff, including transportation, to coordinate these services. I would assume that DSHS would provide the funding for the outpatient restoration services. If funding is not provided, this would intensify the problems with limited availability of outpatient services.

Update: A meeting is scheduled for 8/28/07 with DSHS to discuss a potential pilot program for outpatient competetncy restoration. Harris County is being considered as one of four locations to be chosen across the state.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 867	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Pena
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

We currently have 2 full time PhDs and 1 contract employee whose work output equals to another full time equivalent (FTE). Each position is capable of doing an average of 2 evaluations per day, based upon the recommendations from the Capacity for Justice Committee that provides the training for the Forensic certification. The process of an evaluation involves a review of the existing medical records and reports from the courts; the arrest information; any available psychiatric information and any information provided by the attorney. Following these reviews, the patient/detainee is clinically interviewed which could include psychological testing—a minimum of 2 to 3 hours. This brings us to the written report usually written the same day---provided there are no issues which require obtaining additional information from other pertinent sources. The total process for one person, if it is a “smooth case”, takes approximately 4 to 5 hours.

Currently, our 3 FTEs are completing all of the 548 referrals for competency and sanity evaluations within a 30-day time frame. Because of the change in the misdemeanor time frames, additional staff will be needed.

In reviewing the last 4 months (March – June) of data, we have received a total number of 548 court referrals for competency and sanity evaluations. I looked at which courts made the referrals (criminal vs. misdemeanor) and determined that 24% of these referrals originated from the misdemeanor courts. Taking the 24%, we can assume that 132 referrals for this 4 month period were the number of referrals which would need to meet the 10-day deadline. The monthly expectation would be the completion of 33 referrals with reports due within 10-days.

What complicates this picture further is the turnaround expectation from 30 days to 10 days for misdemeanor requests. These reports will now have to be done in 1/3 of the time. The staff would have approximately 5 to 7 working days instead of the full 10 days to complete the 33 reports. The 10 day time frame is actually decreased by loss of weekends and the day the court order was issued. Based on this projection, we could literally be required to complete 33 reports (165 hours per week) for the misdemeanor courts during a 5 to 7 day period. Each Psychologist works 40 hours per week. In order to meet this increase in demand, we would need approximately 4 psychologists to complete these reports just to meet the 10 day time frame.

In addition, I need you to remember that the courts use the 21-day process as a way of determining whether or not there is clinical evidence to believe that the defendant may not be competent. At present, we received a total of 532 referrals over the same time period, of which 31% (165 referrals) came from the misdemeanor courts. If the courts “choose” this new timeline over the 21-day process, this will add approximately 41.25 referrals monthly with 10 new reports due per week with 5 hours each to complete the reports. This means that 50 hours would be needed to handle this additional load resulting in one additional FTE psychologist. The use of the 10-day time frame would need to be clearly explained to the courts so that they do not replace the 21-day with the new 10-day expectation.

Thus, we are looking at needing 4 additional psychologist to complete the competency evaluations to meet the 10 day period (this does not include the one additional FTE that would be needed if the 21-day process is confused with this new law). This is an additional cost of approximately $390,000 ($75,000 salary plus 30% fringe).

There is a very serious shortage of qualified professionals to fill these positions if they were to be approved. As a result of being understaffed, and with expectations of a shorter turnaround time for misdemeanor cases, the timeframe for reports being issued to the courts would only grow longer.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 867	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Pena
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

The Sheriff's Department will possibly see an increased cost for the coordination and transporting of the additional inmates to an outpatient treatment facility.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$195,000	$390,000
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 4	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$195,000	$390,000
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	($195,000)	($390,000)

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

In order to accomplish a 10 day turnaround for competency and sanity evaluations, four (4) additional psychologists would be needed. Base salary of $75,000 plus 30% for benefits. There is a very serious shortage of qualified professionals to fill these positions if they were to be approved.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

MHMRA

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

It is not known how the process and funding for outpatient competency restoration for misdemeanor cases will be accomplished. DSHS is considering four sites across the state for a pilot program and Harris County expected to be one of the sites. It is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact to the county at this time.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**4**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**($195,000)**	**($390,000)**

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Email, Report, other	County Courts
Rose Childs	(713) 970-3365	Email, Report, other	Mental Health & Mental Retardation Authority
Mona Jiles	(713) 755-7291	Email, Report, other	Mental Health & Mental Retardation Authority

Other Notes:

In order to accomplish a 10 day turnaround for competency and sanity evaluations, four (4) additional

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 867	**Author:**	Duncan
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Pena
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

psychologists would be needed. Base salary of $75,000 plus 30% for benefits. There is a very serious shortage of qualified professionals to fill these positions if they were to be approved.

It is not known how the process and funding for outpatient competency restoration for misdemeanor cases will be accomplished. DSHS is considering four sites across the state for a pilot program and Harris County expected to be one of the sites. It is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact to the county at this time.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 878	**Author:**	Gallegos
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Coleman
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to residential property exemptions from taxes, assessments, and impact fees in the Greater East End Management District

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **3807.157 (a) amended**

This bill lifts the exemption from ad valorem taxation for some of the residences in the Greater East End Management District in recognition of the economic development and redevelopment in the areas closely adjacent to Minute Maid Field in order to have those units pay a portion of the costs of increased services required as a result of population concentration.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

Only oversight as the entire District is within the City of Houston's boundaries.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 909	**Author:**	Whitmire
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Madden
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and the Correctional Managed Health Care Committee, and to the functions of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Bill Category

Criminal Court Procedure--Sentencing & Punish

Prison/Jail Overcrowding

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure Articles 15.19-15.21

If an arrested person also has a parole violation warrant, the magistrate must notify the sheriff of the county where the parole violation occurred. The sheriff receiving such notice shall pick up the arrested person & take him before the proper magistrate or court before the 11th day after his arrest. If that sheriff doesn't pick the person up by the 11th day, the arrested person shall be discharged from custody.

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.09

States that a county transfering a defendant to TDCJ shall deliver a copy of the defendant's Texas Uniform Health Status Update Form if one has been prepared.

Code of Criminal Procedure 42.12 Section 15

Allows a judge to release a defendant convicted of a state jail felony to a medically suitable placement if:
a) the judge determines that person isn't a threat to public safety, and
b) TCOOMMI prepares a report showing the person to have a medical or mental condition requiring care, and
c) TCOOMMI in cooperation with CSCD prepares a medically recommended intensive supervision program that ensures appropriate supervision by CSCD and requires the defendant to remain under the care of a physician and reside in a medically suitable placement.

Government Code numerous

Numerous provisions regarding the operation of BOPP and TDCJ. Notable in the bill is SECTION 42 that adds a section specifying the procedures for identifying parolees who can be released early from supervision.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Court Services - District (Thompson)

Impact on Department Operations:

If an arrested person has a blue warrant for a parole violation in another county, this bill requires magistrates to notify the sheriff of the county where the violation occurred.

Community Sup. & Corrections

Impact on Department Operations:

Although this bill allows a court to order a person with medical or mental health needs to be placed on medically recommended intensive supervision to be supervised by CSCD, there is currently no funding and no program in place to handle such cases. As such, this is not expected to have an impact on CSCD until a funding source and corresponding caseload is established.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 909	**Author:**	Whitmire
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Madden
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Sheriff's Department - Detention

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill requires HCSO to pick up parole violators within 10 days of being notified by a magistrate in another county that they have arrested somebody with a parole violation out of Harris County. If, however, HCSO doesn't pick up the parole violator within 10 days, the other county can release the person. This would also allow Harris County to release parole violators from other counties if the sheriff of that county doesn't pick up the prisoners within 10 days.

Requires HCSO to deliver a copy of the defendant's Texas Uniform Health Status Update Form, if one has been prepared, for the prisoners that the county transfers to TDCJ.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Sheriff's Department - Detention

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The bill could result in HCSO officers now traveling to other counties to pick-up Harris County blue warrants prisoners. There is no readily accessible data to estimate how many trips this would require.

The bill could also result in Harris County discharging prisoners with blue warrants from other counties, thereby reducing the jail population. Again, there is no readily accessible data to estimate how many prisoners this would be.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Email, Report, other	County Courts
Kim Valentine	(713) 755-2706	Discussion	Community Supervision & Corrections
Debbie Schmidt	(713) 755-8084	Discussion	Sheriff's Department

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 932	**Author:**	Jackson, Mike
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Bonnen
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the required contents of a voter registration certificate

Bill Category

Elections

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Election Code **15.001 (a) (16) added**

Adds a subsection specifying that the voter registration certificate must include all of the following for the voter: congressional district, state senatorial district, state representative district, commissioner precinct, justice precinct, city election precinct, and school district election precinct.

Harris County's voter registration certificate already complies with the specifications of this bill, according to Sonya Aston.

Election Code **15.002 (c) amended**

Amends this subsection to allow up to 7 other distinguishing numbers or jurisdictional identifiers in addition to those required by section 15.001 (a)(16).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

No revision should be required to the Harris County voter registration certificate.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

George Hammerlein	713-368-2513	Email, Report, other	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 932	**Author:**	Jackson, Mike
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Bonnen
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 948	**Author:**	Hegar
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Van Arsdale
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the waiver of penalty and interest on a taxing unit's delinquent payment of its allocation of the budget of an appraisal district

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **6.06 (k) added**

Authorizes an appraisal district board to waive the penalty and interest on a payment by a participating taxing unit to the district for its operating budget when the late payment is determined to be due to a disaster such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

It is unknown if the Appraisal District will waive interest and penalties under terms of this bill. Certainly, natural disasters may impact the ability of appraisal districts, like other operating entities, to perform their statutory duties timely; the provisions of this bill do nothing to lessen the strain placed on complex operations, it only seeks to give options to all parties involved.

There only might be a slight decrease in the total amount collected by the Appraisal District as the result of this permissive bill. There is no assurance that there will be any fiscal impact whatsoever.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 968	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Chisum
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to financing tools for certain obligations for public improvements.

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **Chapter 1371**

This bill modifies rules pertaining to financing tools used for public improvements.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Impact on Department Operations:

No impact is anticipated for Harris County. This bill primarily affects smaller issuers, giving them increased ability to utilize financial swaps.

Bill Experts

Edwin Harrison	(713) 755-6532	Discussion	Mgmt Services - Financial Services

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1106	**Author:**	Watson
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Farabee
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to county accounting procedures regarding certain audits, debts, and records

Bill Category

Procedure Change - Mandated

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Code of Criminal Procedure 55.02, 59.06

This bill makes a number of audit-related changes to statute, including: financial records related to expunctions cannot have identifying information; the amount of time allowed to complete a county audit is increased; a quarterly audit requirement is eliminated; and changes are made regarding a notice of indebtedness.

Local Government Code 154.025, 154.045

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Auditor's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

None of these provisions would have a fiscal impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Mike Post	(713) 755-4150	Auditor's Office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1119	**Author:**	Carona
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Murphy
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the authority of a local authority to implement a photographic traffic signal enforcement system; providing for the imposition of civil penalties.

Bill Category

Transportation

Code and Section

Transportation Code **Chapter 707 (new)**

Authorizes and provides local governments with guidelines for establishing a photographic traffic control enforcement system, and provides penalties and enforcement mechanisms. 50% of the proceeds (after subtracting certain allowable expenses) would go to a Regional Trauma account and would be used primarily (96% of funding) for trauma care at state trauma facilities and to a much smaller extent (2% of funding) county and regional emergency medical services. This funding would be distributed among regional trauma centers in proportion to the amount of money that is deposited into the fund by the local authorities.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Public Infrastructure Dept. (PID)

Impact on Department Operations:

Harris County PID staff reported no plans for the County to implement a photographic enforcement system.

Hospital District

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill could result in increased funding for the Hospital District as a result of the fines that are placed into the Regional Trauma Fund by other entities, most notably the City of Houston. The City generated roughly $3 million from red light cameras between Sept. 2006 and May 2007. Given the large increase in installed cameras over the past several months, annual revenues will likely be much higher. Because this is a new program without historical revenue and cost statistics, the total revenues that will be placed in the Regional Trauma Fund and disbursed to the Hospital District are unknown, but could conceivably be several million dollars.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Hospital District

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

This bill could result in increased funding for the Hospital District as a result of the fines that are placed into the Regional Trauma Fund by other entities, most notably the City of Houston. The City generated roughly $3 million from red light cameras between Sept. 2006 and May 2007. Given the large increase in installed cameras over the past several months, annual revenues will likely be much higher. Because this is a new

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1119	**Author:**	Carona
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Murphy
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

program without historical revenue and cost statistics, the total revenues that will be placed in the Regional Trauma Fund and disbursed to the Hospital District are unknown, but could conceivably be several million dollars.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

King Hillier	(800) 436-6484	Discussion	Hospital District

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1123	**Author:**	Ellis
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Miles
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the Harris County Improvement District No. 8; providing authority to impose a tax and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Chapter 3848**

This bill creates Harris County Improvement District #8 for the purpose of developing a major mixed-use project with commercial, office, retail, and residential buildings located on the land which previously had been the site of Astroworld in the south part of Houston. The district will also promote road improvements, landscaping, and other measures to benefit the economic health of the area. The district may levy an ad valorem tax on property in the district.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1127	**Author:**	Hegar
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Cook, Robby
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the penalty for certain violations of county traffic regulations

Bill Category

Transportation

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Transportation Code **Section 251.161**

S.B. 1127 increases the penalty for disobeying, destroying, defacing, removing, or causing damage to county signs or traffic devices. Increases to $200 from $50 the maximum amount for a fine for an offense punishable under this section (Violation of Subchapter; Offense).

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There is no way to know how many citations are issued for this reason. The ticket would fall under a general category of non moving violation.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Other Notes:

No significant fiscal impact is expected as a result of this bill.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1196	**Author:**	Whitmire
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Harless
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to access to criminal history record information by certain county attorneys

Bill Category

New County Authority

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **411.1406**

Gives the County Attorney's office in Harris County the authority to obtain criminal history information that relates to the normal duties of the County Attorney's Office or to a person who applies for employment with the county.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill clarifies existing law that gives the Harris County Attorney's Office the authority to obtain criminal history information from DPS. This data may be accessed by County Investigators to review the histories of employees, prospective employees, persons involved in Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS) cases, etc. Because this bill is simply a clarification of existing practices, no significant financial or operational impacts are anticipated.

Bill Experts

Cathy Sisk	713-755-7872	Witness List - On	County Attorney's office

Other Notes:

This bill essentially codifies the understanding of the Criminal Justice Division that the Harris County Attorney has authority to research criminal histories of job applicants and certain persons against whom a civil action will be taken. While the County Attorney believed the sincerity of the CJC, he did not wish to rely on a handshake agreement in the event a legal challenge to this authority were brought by somebody disgruntled by an investigation of criminal backgrounds.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1244	**Author:**	Whitmire
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Harless
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the authority of an investigator employed by a prosecuting attorney

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **41.109**

The bill allows investigators employed by a prosecuting attorney to serve warrants and other processes in civil cases issued by a district court, county court, or justice court.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

The bill will assist the County Attorney's Office, particularly in CPS cases, in getting faster service on defendants. This will replace, to some extent, the need for private process servers, thereby reducing county costs.

Bill Experts

John Barnhill	County Attorney's Office

Other Notes:

This bill is identical to HB 3210, which was also signed into law by the Governor.

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1264	**Author:**	Brimer
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Truitt
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the authority of a taxing unit to make a loan to the board of directors of a tax increment financing reinvestment zone for deposit in the tax increment fund for the zone

Bill Category

Tax Assessments

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Tax Code **311.01230(e) (1) amended**

Section 1 amends this section of the Tax Code, pertaining to Sales and Use Taxes, to allow proceeds from that source to be used to pay the obligations of TIRZ.

Tax Code **311.014 amended**

Section 2 allows money deposited to the TIRZ to be disbursed to pay obligations of the Zone, in addition to those already specified under subsection (b), and including the repayment of loans made by taxing units that have funds available to loan to the TIRZ.

Tax Code **311.017 amended**

The last section of this bill modifies the events that may lead to the termination of a TIRZ, adding the repayment of loaned funds to city and county tax units.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Community & Economic Dev.

Impact on Department Operations:

The County is unlikely to lend money to a TIRZ - it is more likely that certain municipalities may choose to lend money to a TIRZ, but this cannot be done for any TIRZs in which the County participates because our Interlocal Agreements do not permit such use of TIRZ increment funds. This bill has no operational or financial impact on Harris County.

Bill Experts

Nancy Powell	(713) 578-2254	Email, Report, other	Community & Economic Development

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1269	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Strama
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the performance of certain civil duties by officers in this state

Bill Category

Tort Claims

Code and Section

Civil Practice & Remedies Co

This bill specifies the duties of a constable when executing a writ, seizing, levying or selling property. The bill also limits the liability for failure to levy or sell property subject to execution to actual damages suffered and reduces the penalty for failure to deliver money. The bill stipulates that an officer receiving a writ of execution does not have a duty to search for property belonging to a judgment debtor; determine whether property belongs to a judgment debtor; determine whether property is exempt form the judgment; determine the priority of liens against the property subject to execution; or make multiple levies for cash or multiple levies at the same location.

The legislation also attempts to address an equity issue regarding the potential liability of constables and the counties. The problem with the potential liability was highlighted by a series of lawsuits filed against various counties and constables across the state of Texas in which the plaintiff sought recovery of the entire amount of the underlying judgment from the county and the constable for failing to properly execute their duties.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

There have been several cases statewide where constables have been found liable for not adequately collecting on a judgement, with one such case in Harris County. In the Harris County case, the original judgment against the constable was for the full amount of judgment ($150,000), but was later reduced on post-judgment motion to approximately $110,000 plus interest and costs; with the surety held jointly and severally liable. This case is currently on appeal.

By closing the "loophole", this bill should reduce the time the county attorney spends litigating future cases related to constable liability and should also eliminate any future payments from related lawsuits.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

County Attorney's Office

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

There have been several cases statewide where constables have been found liable for not adequately collecting on a judgement, with one such case in Harris County. In the Harris County case, the original

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1269	**Author:**	West, Royce
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Strama
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

judgment against the constable was for the full amount of judgment ($150,000), but was later reduced on post-judgment motion to approximately $110,000 plus interest and costs; with the surety held jointly and severally liable. This case is currently on appeal.

By closing the "loophole", this bill should reduce the time the county attorney spends litigating future cases related to constable liability and should also eliminate any future payments from related lawsuits.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts			
Michael Hull	(713) 755-6497	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's Office
Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Email, Report, other	County Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1306	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Goolsby
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the attendance by a quorum of a governmental body at certain events under the open meetings law

Bill Category

Open Records/Meetings

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **551.001 (4) amended**

The bill adds "ceremonial event" and "press conference" to those gatherings of a quorum of a governmental body that are excluded from the definition of 'meeting'. The clarification should serve to limit the number of reported violations of the open meetings act.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Commissioners Court

Impact on Department Operations:

There will be no impact, operationally or fiscally, resulting from this act.

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1349	**Author:**	Patrick, Dan
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Van Arsdale
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the annexation of certain municipally owned airports

Bill Category

Other

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Local Government Code 43.1025

The bill allows the City of Tomball to annex Hooks Airport, located in northwest Harris County. The airport is considered an important part of the city's economic development strategy. The bill gives Tomball permission to annex the airport, even though it is noncontiguous to the city's boundaries, and the bill requires consent by the City of Houston.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1404	**Author:**	Whitmire
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Van Arsdale
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to criminal law hearing officers in certain counties.

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

Criminal Court Procedure Change

Code and Section

Government Code **54.856**

Gives a criminal law hearing officer in Harris County concurrent jurisdiction over criminal cases filed in justice courts. Prior to this bill, the hearing officer had limited jurisdiction that did not include hearing JP trials.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

This bill will allow Commissioners Court to appoint additional hearing officers to hear JP cases.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

No fiscal impact is anticipated, except to the extent that Commissioners' Court chooses to hire additional hearing officers to help with JP court workloads.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1405	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Keffer
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unknown

Caption

Relating to the requirement that the chief appraiser of an appraisal district provide an estimate of taxable value and related assistance to certain taxing units

Bill Category

Appraisal Issues

Tax Assessments

Code and Section

Tax Code **26.01 amended**

Current law provides that the chief appraiser of a district must provide to the assessor of each school district participating in the district, not later than June 7, a certified estimate of the taxable value of the property within that school district for the coming tax year.

This bill adds cities and counties that participate in the district to those taxing units for which certified estimates of the taxable value of property must be provided by June 7. The bill also allows a city or county to opt out of such a notification if it so wishes.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

The Assessor & Collector of Taxes is the office most responsible for deciding whether or not to opt out of the county's right to receive a certified estimate of taxable values within its tax boundaries. It seems that the advisement of the County Auditor and the Commissioners would be sought before opting out. The real value of this prior notice is to provide narrower ranges when estimating the actual amounts of ad valorem taxes to be collected for each entity for which the A&CT collects and disburses ad valorem tax dollars.

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The cost is unknown. However, since the Assessor & Collector of Taxes Office pays a portion of the Appraisal District budget, it seems to make sense to opt out only if the perceived value of the service is less than the increased cost.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

		Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1405	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Keffer
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unknown

The Assessor & Collector of Taxes Office did not endeavor to provide any fiscal impact from this bill; it is thought that any impact will be negligible.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1412	**Author:**	Hinojosa
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gonzales
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Yes	**Mandated?**	Funded

Caption

Relating to certain fees collected by justice courts and small claims courts.

Bill Category

Fees/Courts/Mandatory/Amount Change

Code and Section

Government Code **101.141**

Increases the fee for services rendered before judgement from $15 to $25 in Justice Courts and from $10 to $25 in small claims courts.

Local Government Code **118.121**

Increases the fee for services rendered before judgement from $15 to $25 in Justice Courts and from $10 to $25 in small claims courts.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$435,000	$870,000
Net Fiscal Impact	$435,000	$870,000

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

In calendar year 2006, there were 73,006 civil cases filed in justice courts along with 9,295 cases in small claims courts. Using these statistics, a $10 fee increase in justice courts would result in additional annual fees of $730,060 and a $15 fee increase for small claims courts would result in additional annual fees of 139,425.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$435,000**	**$870,000**

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1413	**Author:**	Hinojosa
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gonzales
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed or removed from justice court.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code 26.042

States that JP cases can only be appealed to County Courts if the amount in controversy exceeds $250 (vs. $20 currently).

Civil Practice & Remedies Co 51.001 and 51.002

States that JP cases can only be appealed to County Courts if the amount in controversy exceeds $250 (vs. $20 currently).

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

Because there are very few cases where the amount in controversy is less than $250, this change is not expected to have a material impact on the courts.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Because there are very few cases where the amount in controversy is less than $250, this change is not expected to have a material impact on the courts.

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1416	**Author:**	Hinojosa
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gonzales
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Mandated/No Fiscal Impact

Caption

Relating to the amount of a judgment that may be appealed from small claims court.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **28.052**

Changes the required amount of dispute from $20 to $250 before a small claims case may be appealed to County Court.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Justices of the Peace

Impact on Department Operations:

Because there are very few cases where the amount in controversy is less than $250, this change is not expected to have a material impact on the courts.

County Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Because there are very few cases where the amount in controversy is less than $250, this change is not expected to have a material impact on the courts.

Bill Experts

Janet Marton	713-755-7325	Email, Report, other	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1499	**Author:**	Zaffirini
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Corte
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the meeting notice that a governmental body may post in certain emergency situations

Bill Category

Open Records/Meetings

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Government Code **551.045 (e) added**

This act was inspired by the experiences of San Antonio and other locales that had a sudden and unforeseeable influx of evacuees from Houston and other places during the Hurricane Rita disaster. The added language allows emergency meetings of the commissioners court or other governmental entities provided at least one hour notice is given to the news media, and efforts are made to produce and distribute agendas and post notice at least two hours in advance.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

County Judge's Office

Impact on Department Operations:

Allows the open meeting act to be flexible when called for in dealing with accomodating a mass influx of refugees from a declared disaster elsewhere.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Cathy Sisk	713-755-7872	Discussion	County Attorney's office

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1523	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Dukes
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to facilitating and supporting efforts of certain municipalities and counties to promote economic development, including hosting certain major sporting or athletic events

Bill Category

Economic Development

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Vernon's Texas Civil Statute 5190.6, 5190.14

The bill seeks to help alleviate the costs to local governments from hosting a major sporting event. Counties with a population of at least 800,000 may apply to the State Comptroller to use monies from the newly created Sporting Events Trust Fund to pay for costs associated with a major sporting event. The money in the fund can also be used to pay the principal and interest on bonds issued for the construction or improvement of equipment or facilities related to a sporting event.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Community & Economic Dev.

Impact on Department Operations:

The department indicates that the bill will not have a fiscal impact for Harris County.

Bill Experts

Nancy Powell	(713) 578-2254	Community & Economic Development

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1624	**Author:**	Watson
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Gonzales
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to genetic testing in proceedings to declare heirship; providing a criminal penalty.

Bill Category

Civil Court Procedure Change

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Probate Code **Chapter III**

This bill gives probate judges the authority to authorize or order genetic testing to determine heirship in probate cases. Probate courts currently order genetic testing under the Uniform Parentage Act, a procedure that isn't as streamlined for probate purposes as is the procedure in this bill.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Probate Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

No significant operating or fiscal impact is anticipated.

Bill Experts

Marshall Shelsy	(713) 755-7734	Discussion	County Courts

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1951	**Author:**	Wentworth
Effective Date:	9/1/2007	**Sponsor:**	Hartnett
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	Maybe	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation, operation, and officers of certain courts and juvenile boards.

Bill Category

Commissioners Court - Option

New County Authority

Code and Section

Government Code **54.602**

Repeals Gov't Code Section 54.602, thereby allowing Harris County Commissioner's Court to authorize the judge of statutory probate courts 2 & 4 to appoint a person to act as an associate judge for that court (already Ok for courts 1 & 3). The rules governing Harris County's use of these associate judges are specified in subchapter G of Gov't code chapter 54.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Probate Courts

Impact on Department Operations:

Allows Commissioner's Court to authorize Harris County Probate Courts 2 & 4 to appoint an associate judge. Each of these courts currently have a staff attorney who assists the judges. If given Commissioner's Court permission, it is these staff attorneys could be "promoted" to become Associate Judges, with a corresponding increase in authority. No new staff is expected as a result of this bill.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Probate Courts

		Impact to Harris County:	
		Effective Date Thru-2/08	***FY2009***
	Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Change to FTEs: 0	**Capital Expense**	$0	$0
	Net Cost:	$0	$0
	Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
	Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

The fiscal impact is expected to be the difference in compensation that is provided for two staff attorneys who could be "promoted" to become associate judges. The magnitude of this change depends on: a) whether commissioner's court approves the promotions, and b) what salary increase, if any, is approved. No new staff or other costs are anticipated.

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Bob Wessels	(713) 755-5394	Discussion	Court Services - County (Wessels)

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SB 1999	**Author:**	Jackson, Mike
Effective Date:	Effective Immediately	**Sponsor:**	Davis, John
Bill of Interest?	☐	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Does not apply

Caption

Relating to the creation of the NASA Area Management District; providing authority to impose an assessment, impose a sales and use tax, and issue bonds

Bill Category

Special Districts

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Special Districts Code **Chapter 3842**

The bill creates the NASA Area Management District to promote economic development in the City of Nassau Bay, in Harris County. The district has the authority to impose taxes and issue bonds.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Impact on Department Operations:

None

Other Notes: None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SJR 13	**Author:**	Averitt
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Berman et al
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Caption

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for a reduction of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for public school purposes on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect any reduction in the rate of those taxes for the 2006 and 2007 tax years

Bill Category

Constitutional Amendments

This bill will have no fiscal impact on Harris County.

Code and Section

Constitutional Amendment

Amends the Constitution to allow the legislature to reduce the ad valorem tax rate applied to residential homesteads whose owners have applied for an elderly or disabled homestead exemption to a rate equivalent to the reduction provided homeowners without a homestead exemption.

The Amendment was passed during the election in May, and HB 5, the enabler of this Amendment, was signed into law by the Governor.

Department(s) Operations Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Impact on Department Operations:

The calculations detailed on the tax bill sent to property owners will need to reflect the provisions of the Constitutional Amendment and the terms of HB 5. This is simply a change of calculation; no operational nor fiscal impact is anticipated for the Assessor & Collector of Taxes.

Appraisal District

Impact on Department Operations:

The Appraisal District will be required to honor the provisions of SJR 13 as passed, and HB 5 as enacted, when calculating the amount of public school taxes.

Department(s) Fiscal Impact:

Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Change to FTEs: 0

	Impact to Harris County: *Effective Date Thru-2/08*	*FY2009*
Inc/(Dec) Staff Cost	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Operating Cost	$0	$0
Capital Expense	$0	$0
Net Cost:	$0	$0
Inc/(Dec) Revenue	$0	$0
Net Fiscal Impact	$0	$0

Fiscal Notes, Remainder of Harris County FY2008:

None

Fiscal Notes, FY2009 and Beyond:

None

STATE OF TEXAS 80TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION - SUMMARY OF BILLS
Prepared by the Harris County Office of Budget Management

Bill:	SJR 13	**Author:**	Averitt
Effective Date:	1/1/2008	**Sponsor:**	Berman et al
Bill of Interest?	☑	**Last Action**	Enacted
Fiscal Impact?	No/Insignificant	**Mandated?**	Unfunded

Total Change in FTE's:	**0**	**Total Fiscal Impact**	**$0**	**$0**

Bill Experts

Paul Bettancourt			Assessor & Collector of Taxes
Sonya Aston	(713) 368-2137	Discussion	Assessor & Collector of Taxes

Other Notes: None