



**Update From
Representative
James Frank
84th Legislative Session
May 18, 2015**



This week in the Legislature...

I spent much of this weekend recovering from last week's marathon sessions. We were on the House floor until 10:00 pm Monday through Wednesday only to finish with a midnight session on Thursday. The reason for the breakneck pace? Any House bills that were not voted to 3rd reading by midnight on Thursday were officially dead (which unfortunately included 2 of my more coveted bills of the session).

With exactly 2 weeks to go until the end of session, there have been many good bills that have passed the House. However, virtually all of the significant bills are not certain to pass as they must 1) pass the senate, 2) go to conference committee of the House and Senate (if the bills were different in either chamber) and 3) be signed by the Governor. The bottom line is that there is much to do in the final 2 weeks of session to ensure a good ending.

The final 14 days of session will no doubt have many twists and turns. Most eyes will be focused on which tax cuts will eventually be agreed upon between the House and Senate. My guess is that a reasonably robust franchise tax reduction is most likely as it is the only cut that was a priority of the House, Senate and the Governor's office. I am especially paying attention as failure to reach an agreement will likely mean a Special Session.

While I have not been in the district to enjoy the consistent rains, I have been blessed to watch the level of the lakes climb every day. (You can track lake levels on your computer or phone at waterdatafortexas.org). The lessons that we have all learned and the measures put in place will no doubt serve us for many years to come.

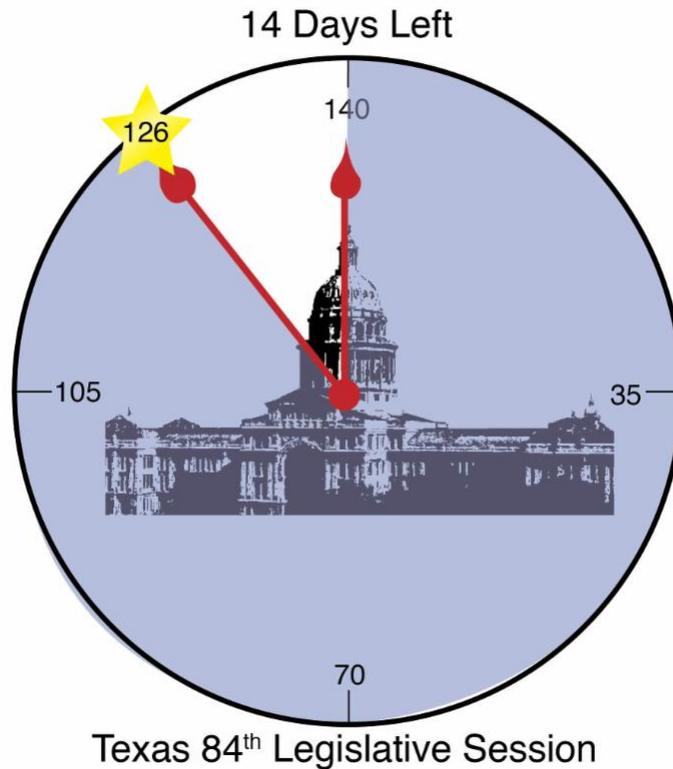
We would love to hear from you with your thoughts on any bills coming up on the floor.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative.

May God bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James B. Frank". The signature is stylized and cursive.

James B. Frank



Legislation - An Update on Where Things Stand

Our Legislation

HB 1268 Passed

I was pleased that the House passed HB 1268 by a vote of 145-0. This bill will change how foster care parents are paid for childcare services for their foster children. Right now, only parents that work full time can be reimbursed for day-care services for foster kids. This bill will expand this so that foster parents will get payment for day-care services they need to put the foster children in, without discriminating based on the number of hours the foster parent works. This will allow foster parents who work part-time to get reimbursed for day-care service costs and hopefully lead to more people becoming foster parents. Now it's been sent to the Senate, where it will have to pass through before getting sent to the governor.

HB 3281 amended onto another bill

We filed HB 3281 this session, which aimed to clean up the language from last year's major charter school reform bill and make some common sense changes to definitions of what constitutes a "strike" against a charter school. That bill did not make it onto the calendar, but I was able to amend a version of this bill onto HB 1842 by Chairman Aycock, which was passed out of the House this week. This will give charter schools more robust appeal options when facing revocation and options for changing administrations so that children are not adversely affected during transitional periods.

Notable Legislation

HB 3074 by Rep. Springer

HB 3074 by Rep Springer passed the House last week, and it would reform end-of-life care to ensure that patients are not denied the basic human care of food, water and pain management. Currently, the Texas Advance Directives Act lacks clarity on end of life care, and this bill would clearly define what healthcare providers are and are not allowed to do. This bill ensures that food and water must be provided unless it hastens the patient's death, causes major medical problems, is ineffective, or is in conflict with the patient's documented wishes.

On a personal note, I want to thank Drew for working with me and several other representatives who filed similar bills (in my case - HB 3414). Drew did a great job listening to all of the representatives and pro-life groups to end up crafting a very good piece of legislation.

HB 3994 by Rep. Morrison

The House passed HB 3994 after 5 hours of debate last week. This bill strengthens Texas's judicial bypass law. Judicial bypass is a process through which minor girls (17 years or younger) can get an abortion when parental consent is not an option, such as in cases of abuse. HB 3994 puts more safeguards in place to prevent abuse of this system, and to ensure that it is only used in cases that warrant it.

HB 681 by Rep. Sheets

HB 681, which also passed the House last week, is a pension reform bill for elected officials. This bill would deny pensions for legislators and statewide elected officials who are convicted of felony offenses arising from their official duties.

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Please also feel free to visit my Texas House of Representatives website at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=69>.



It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. As the session progresses, I look forward to hearing your input on proposed legislation.

Note: Please forward this email to individuals interested in receiving updates from Representative James Frank. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive these updates, please email

District69.Frank@house.state.tx.us

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