

SECOND DAY

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2005

PROCEEDINGS

The Senate met at 1:30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

The roll was called and the following Senators were present: Armbrister, Averitt, Barrientos, Brimer, Carona, Duncan, Ellis, Eltife, Estes, Fraser, Gallegos, Harris, Hinojosa, Jackson, Janek, Lindsay, Lucio, Madla, Nelson, Ogden, Seliger, Shapiro, Shapleigh, Staples, Van de Putte, Whitmire, Williams, Zaffirini.

Absent-excused: Deuell, Wentworth, West.

The President announced that a quorum of the Senate was present.

The Reverend Dr. Sidney G. Hall, Trinity United Methodist Church, Austin, offered the invocation as follows:

We invoke Your presence this day, O God, recognizing You are always here, though we often live as though we are alone. On this day, we pray especially for the people of Texas and all her people. We give You thanks that all people, whether Christian, Muslim, Jew, Buddhist, or Pagan, have the freedom to pray or not to pray as they desire, to whom or not to whom they desire. Guide us to welcome the stranger, to liberate the oppressed, to break the chains of systemic and bureaucratic wickedness. Guide these legislators today, the elected guardians of the State of Texas, to carry on their deliberations, being cognizant of the profane that is in the midst of the sacred and the sacred in the profane, bringing transformation where there is brokenness and suffering. Help them to be aware of all the marginalized, that You are the God of justice and peace and hope, that there is brokenness all around us, but there is also healing. Lead these this day with the conviction of courage, balanced with consideration and compassion. In Your great mercy we pray. Amen.

Senator Whitmire moved that the reading of the Journal of the proceedings of Thursday, July 21, 2005, be dispensed with and the Journal be approved as printed.

The motion prevailed without objection.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Deuell was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator Wentworth was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

On motion of Senator Whitmire, Senator West was granted leave of absence for today on account of important business.

SENATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

The following bills and resolutions were introduced, read first time, and referred to the committees indicated:

SB 4 by Ogden

Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds or other obligations to fund capital projects at public institutions of higher education.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 19 by Gallegos

Relating to residential property exemptions from assessments and impact fees in the Greater East End Management District.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

SB 20 by Averitt

Relating to the regulation of drivers education and driving safety programs by the Texas Department of Regulation.

To Committee on Education.

SB 21 by Lucio

Relating to a risk assessment program for Type 2 diabetes and the creation of the Type 2 Diabetes Risk Assessment Program Advisory Committee.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 22 by Madla

Relating to highway signs for certain businesses related to agriculture.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

SB 23 by Harris

Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for The University of Texas at Arlington.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 24 by Shapleigh

Relating to appropriating money to support the operations and missions of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center—El Paso.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 25 by Shapleigh

Relating to authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for The University of Texas at El Paso.

To Committee on Finance.

SB 26 by Shapleigh

Relating to the use of the power of eminent domain.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 27 by Shapleigh

Relating to the sale of life insurance to military personnel; providing an administrative penalty.

To Committee on State Affairs.

SB 28 by Shapleigh

Relating to the use of certain human cells and tissue; providing penalties.

To Committee on Health and Human Services.

SB 29 by Seliger

Relating to the authority of certain counties to impose a hotel occupancy tax.

To Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

SB 30 by Lucio

Relating to the jurisdiction of certain home-rule municipalities on a barrier island in the Gulf of Mexico.

To Committee on International Relations and Trade.

SB 31 by Wentworth

Relating to increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes to \$22,500, providing for an adjustment of the limitation on the total amount of ad valorem taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect the increased exemption amount and changes in school district ad valorem tax rates, and protecting school districts against the resulting loss in local revenue.

To Committee on Finance.

SJR 6 by Lucio

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board to provide assistance to economically distressed areas.

To Committee on International Relations and Trade.

SJR 7 by Wentworth

Proposing a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from ad valorem taxation for public school purposes to \$22,500 and providing for an adjustment of the limitation on the total amount of taxes that may be imposed for those purposes on the homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect the increased exemption amount and changes in school district ad valorem tax rates.

To Committee on Finance.

GUEST PRESENTED

Senator Zaffirini was recognized and introduced to the Senate Valerie Villarreal, serving today as an Honorary Senate Page.

The Senate welcomed its guest.

RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

Congratulatory Resolutions

SR 2 by Ellis, Commending Bob Lee for promoting racial harmony through his artwork.

SR 3 by Lucio, Recognizing Hugo de la Cruz of the Rio Grande Valley on the occasion of his 38th anniversary with Univision Radio.

SR 4 by Barrientos, Commending The Jason Foundation, Incorporated, for its work in the field of youth suicide prevention.

RECESS

On motion of Senator Whitmire, the Senate at 2:28 p.m. recessed, in memory of James Jay Kaster of Austin, until 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.