

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



**Rep. Alonzo Named to Powerful House Committees;
Speaker Straus Makes Announcement for 84th Session,
Dallas Lawmaker Named to Calendars, Pensions,
Higher Education & Administration Committees**



The Speaker of the House Joe Straus, made his biennial announcement of committees that will carry the load of important work and other legislative priorities during the 2015 84th Regular Session of the Legislature. In making those announcements, Texas State Representative Roberto R. Alonzo (Dallas) was recognized for his past significant contributions, veteran seniority, and legislative priorities by receiving appointments to some powerful committees including the Calendars, Pensions, Higher Education, and House Administration committees, respectively.

"I am honored and privileged indeed to continue serving the people of the DFW and North Texas regions at large, and particularly those constituents from House District 104 specifically through my committee work assignments, which is traditionally considered the crux of the legislative process," said Rep. Alonzo.

"Most importantly, my appointment to Calendars Committee - considered one of the most powerful committees in the House - controls the flow of legislation and sets the daily agenda for bills heard on the House Floor by the full membership of that chamber. The Calendars Committee is also considered the last hurdle before any legislative measure even gets an opportunity for debate on the House floor and the all-important critical vote on whether that bill passes the House or not, and if it does pass then move it on to the Senate for their consideration. Without a doubt, this committee will keep me busy, but I am ready to accept the challenge as I have served on this committee previously. I accept this particular appointment with a lot of respect to Speaker Straus for his confidence in me. This appointment will allow me an excellent opportunity to interact, collaborate and prioritize with my legislative colleagues as to the flow of bills we move along in the legislative process," continued Rep. Alonzo.

Returning for his ninth 2-year term in the House, Rep. Alonzo remains confident that he will use his policy-making expertise, veteran legislative experience, and networking relationship with key lawmakers, to advocate important legislation and pass significant measures that will improve the quality of life for all Texans.

"I cannot wait to roll my sleeves, start the legislative process for my ninth term and begin working on behalf of all Texans in general and my constituents in particular through these important committee assignments," continued Rep. Alonzo.

The Committee on Calendars has 15 members, with jurisdiction over: (1) the placement of bills and resolutions on appropriate calendars, except those within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules and Resolutions; (2) the determination of priorities and proposal of rules for floor consideration of such bills and resolutions; and (3) all other matters concerning the calendar system and the expediting of the business of the house as may be assigned by the speaker.

Rep. Alonzo was also one of only two Dallas area lawmakers appointed to the 10-member **Committee on Higher Education**, which has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to: (1) education beyond high school; (2) the colleges and universities of the State of Texas; and (3) the following state agencies: the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation, the State Medical Education Board, the Prepaid Higher Education Tuition Board, and the Texas Transportation Institute.

"Education at all levels, including accessibility of a college education for all students, has consistently been one of my legislative priorities in the Legislature since I was first elected in November 1992. So with my appointment to this important committee, I will continue to keep that issue at the top of my legislative agenda, ensuring all students have access to a college education in Texas. I will be in an even more influential position to ensure that all colleges and universities in Texas address the needs of all students, educators, and communities alike. As I have always stressed in the past, I want to ensure there are more financial aid resources accessible for all students to be able to afford a quality education, and not only have the opportunity to attend but most importantly, also graduate from college and become productive citizens of society. Finally, I want to ensure that we do more to lessen the gap that currently exists between minority and non-minority students attending college." continued Rep. Alonzo.

As one of 7 members appointed to the very powerful **Committee on Pensions** the Dallas lawmakers want to make pension plans for all stakeholders are financially sound and healthy to protect the retirement of the hard-working Texans they were intended to serve. *"With pensions being one of the hot topic issues this session, I look forward to working with all interested stakeholders to make sure that our police, fire, EMS, and other municipal employees like them who spend their careers providing taxpayers with the services that maintain our quality of life. I want to ensure they receive the well-deserved pension plans due them. We must also not hide the fact that the media is replete with extensive news coverage about some of the serious ills associated with some of our pension plans gone array, financially unsound, and not well-managed. That is among the flaws we need to address as well and give it serious thought and consideration to correct. Additionally, I want to make sure that our state government employees get their fair share of pension plans they deserve as well,"* concluded Rep. Alonzo.

For more information concerning these topics or to schedule an appointment please call (512) 463-0408 or visit www.house.state.tx.us