

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



Rep. Alonzo (at mic.) is joined by colleagues (State Rep. Joe Farias (San Antonio) and State Sen. Jose Rodriguez (El Paso)) at a press conference at the Capitol announcing the selection of Alonzo as the incoming president of the National Labor Caucus of State Legislators. The NLCSL is a bipartisan organization that enables lawmakers from around the U.S. to share ideas and develop a pro-labor agenda.

New Funding Opportunities for Job-Driven Training Programs in Health Care

The Administration for Children and Families is pleased to announce new funding opportunities for the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) program.

- **Health Profession Opportunity Grants to Serve TANF Recipients and Other Low-Income Individuals**
- **Health Profession Opportunity Grants for Tribes, Tribal Organizations or Tribal College or University**

HPOG programs provide education and training to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients and other low-income individuals for occupations in the health care field that pay well and are expected to either experience labor shortages or be in high demand.

HPOG programs can provide critical resources to local communities. Demonstration projects like HPOG allow practitioners flexibility to design services to meet the needs of their local population. HPOG funding can be used to provide eligible recipients with education and training for a variety of healthcare occupations and can provide customized supportive services, such as case management, child care, and tuition assistance. HPOG also offers organizations a tremendous opportunity to build partnerships with employers and other service providers. Many different types of organizations are eligible to apply, and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to work with the selected applicants to build partnerships for successful HPOG programs.

Applications are **due May 29, 2015**. If you have any questions about the funding opportunities, please contact HPOG Program Specialist David Camporeale at david.camporeale@acf.hhs.gov. To stay informed of what is going on with the program, follow HPOG on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HPOGProgram>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/hpogprogram>)

A Number of Alonzo House Bills Move One Step Closer Toward Fruition

Among the measures moving along the legislative process are the following:

HB 452 set for floor debate Friday, May 8, seeks to remedy situations and provide more clarity in cases where rules of evidence and admissibility of evidence in certain courts impact pretrial hearings in criminal cases.

HB 1346 amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to require a convicting court, if at any time the state represents to the court that an eligible indigent defendant who was sentenced or had a sentence suspended by the court is not guilty, is guilty of only a lesser offense, or was convicted or sentenced under a law that has been found unconstitutional by the court of criminal appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court, to appoint an attorney to represent the indigent defendant for purposes of filing an application for a writ of habeas corpus, if such an application has not been filed, or to otherwise represent the indigent defendant in a habeas corpus proceeding based on the application for the writ. The bill applies only to a felony or misdemeanor case in which the applicant seeks relief from a judgment of conviction that imposes a penalty other than death or orders community supervision. The bill requires an appointed attorney to be compensated as provided by statutory provisions regarding compensation of counsel appointed to defend.

HB 2870 passed the House Thursday, May 7, and now moves on to the Senate, would benefit firefighters from across Texas by addressing concerns raised when municipal employees, *other* than permanent, full-time and adequately trained fire protection personnel, are assigned to wildlife firefighting duties that only a well-qualified, and properly trained fireman can perform.

HB 3160 which will be debated on the House Floor, Friday, May 8, amends the Estates Code to establish that the period for filing an application for the grant of letters testamentary or of administration of an estate does not apply if administration is necessary to prevent real property in a decedent's estate from becoming a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public and the applicant for the issuance of letters testamentary or of administration is a home-rule municipality that is a creditor of the estate. The bill specifies that a necessity for a grant of letters of administration is considered to exist if the administration is necessary to prevent real property in a decedent's estate from becoming a danger to the health, safety, or welfare of the general public.



This week Rep. Alonzo (left) took part in a number of Cinco de Mayo events in Dallas and Austin. The holiday commemorates the "Battle of Puebla" a hard fought battle by the Mexican Army led by Gen. Ignacio Zaragoza against the invading French in 1862. The battle of Puebla is known as the turning point for the Mexican Army who then went on to victory. Another reason Texans love to celebrate the Cinco de Mayo is General Zaragoza's Texas connection. Born on March 24, 1829 in what is now known as Goliad, Texas, General Zaragoza is considered by many to be a true Texas Hero.