



District 127 - July 2015

August 3, 2015

Dear Fellow Texan,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying summer together. This last month has been a great and busy time, connecting with people around House District 127, and spending time with my family. The Fourth of July celebrations around our community were a success. I hope that I got to see you at a few of them.

This month's newsletter will outline what's going on in Austin, policy focus from last session, and several resources that you and your family will need to get ready to go back to school. Don't forget that *August 8-10, 2015 is Texas' tax free weekend!* In the Texas Legislature, we're anxious to see how the changes we implemented this session will affect our students around the state. Chairman of House Committee on Public Education, Jimmie Don Aycok recently released an overview of the policies and bills relating to public education. With over 60 bills passing successfully through the public education committee, [this comprehensive guide](#) can help you navigate your way through the changes you can expect this upcoming school year. You can also search bills on [Texas Legislature Online](#) by subject area (e.g. *Education -- Bilingual*).

Also, please take a moment to find me on social media. These websites are the best way to keep in touch with me on a day-to-day basis. You can find me on Facebook [here](#), and you can follow me on Twitter [here](#).

If you have questions about specific policy areas, or need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff. Our contact information can be found at the bottom of this email. We're always happy to help you.

Have a great month.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty

What's Going On in Austin?

Interim Charges

Interim Charge: *(n.) a policy area or issue that the legislature shall study, while the body is not in session.*

Although Session is over, the work is never done. Currently, Speaker Joe Straus are getting together the most important research areas for the interim. This process will allow the Representatives to speak with experts and ask questions about the issues plaguing our state. For example, last interim (2013-2014), the Texas House of Representatives focused on issues like water and transportation. Each committee, that has been given interim charges, is required to release a study report at the end of the interim, to explain their findings and recommendations to the rest of the legislature. You can find previous interim studies [here](#).

Are there issues that you'd like to see as an Interim Charge? [Contact us!](#) We'd love to have your input.



The Texas Capitol via [Sunpix](#).

Rule Making and Agencies

After the successful session with approximately 1,200 bills passed, it's now up to the agencies to create structure and rules around the legislative directives that were sent their way from the Capitol. While some agencies are implementing complete overhauls like the Health and Human Services commission, and some like Texas Education Agency are trying to implement changes for the new school year, the agencies are hard at work trying to keep Texas moving.

Policy Focus

While there were several policy areas that Rep. Huberty focused on this session, a major focus was protecting small business from federal overreach. These bills were great for our district, as well as our entire state. You can read briefly about Rep. Huberty's Policy Focus below:

Consolidated Insurance Programs (H.B. 1206/S.B. 1081)

Senate Bill (S.B.) 1081 amends the insurance code to require the principal of the Consolidated Insurance Program (CIP) to provide certain information about the CIP to a contractor who is to be enrolled in the CIP not later than 10 days before the date the contractor enters into a construction contract. The senate bill was sponsored by Rep. Huberty in the House, and it was identical to his House Bill 1206. This information will allow the contractor to compare the coverage provided by the CIP to the contractor's own insurance and will allow the contractor to make an informed decision on whether or not to enter into the construction contract. The bill also makes the same notification requirement of any contractor when hiring a contractor that will also be covered by a CIP. This ensures that every contractor on the project receives the notification.



The Texas Capitol Dome Under Construction via the Texas State Library and Archives.

The bill prohibits a contractor from being required to enter into a construction contract that requires enrollment in a CIP unless the contractor is provided the required information from the principal, or contractor who is hiring the lower tiered contractor, no later than 10 days before entering into a construction contract.

A contractor who enters into a construction contract who elects not to enroll in the CIP because the notification requirements were not met is required to obtain insurance coverage that substantially complies with the coverage terms of the CIP. The principal, or contractor who failed to provide the required information, is required to compensate the contractor for the actual cost of that insurance coverage.

In addition, a contractor may request in writing from the principal, or contractor who hired the lower tiered contractor, a complete copy of the insurance policy that provides coverage under the CIP. The copy of the insurance policy shall be provided to the subcontractor at the later of the 30th day after the request was sent or the 60th day after the date the subcontractor begins work on the construction project. If the contractor does not specifically request a hard copy of the insurance policy, the policy may be sent via fax or email or by allowing access to the information on a website.

This bill was signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 10, 2015, and the bill will go into effect January 1, 2016.

Professional Employment Organizations (H.B. 3150)

One of Rep. Huberty's final bills to receive Governor Abbott's signature was House Bill 3150, which effectively ends a double-taxation on small businesses in Texas. Currently, unemployment insurance (U.I.) contributions, as set by the wage base for a calendar year, are made by an employer on an employee's wages. However, any monies paid by an employer to the U.I. Compensation Fund do not count toward the employee's annual cap if they move their business to a professional employment organization (P.E.O.) mid-calendar year.

For example, if Company A pays \$9,000 in U.I. to the Compensation Fund, and then in June chooses to move their administrative tasks to a P.E.O., that amount will restart at \$0, causing Company A to have to

again pay the dollars necessary to meet their wage rate cap in the same calendar year. Keep in mind that this is an employer of the same employee, at the same desk, in the same building, having to contribute to the U.I. Fund twice, effectively double-taxing any company who enrolls with a P.E.O. mid-year. This is *not* the case when an employee moves from Company A to Company B mid-year.



H.B. 3150 corrects this violation of small business by simply allowing P.E.O.'s to apply any previous U.I. contributions paid by a company before enrollment to the total for the calendar year. Currently, this is only an issue in Texas as it has been remedied in other states and more recently in federal statute, but that law has not yet been implemented, leaving this as an open issue in Texas. Because of this, H.B. 3150 includes a severability clause in the case that the Department of Labor

finds this provision not to confirm with federal statute if that statute is implemented and effectively becomes redundant.

This bill was signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 20, 2015, and the bill will go into effect September 1, 2015.

(Please keep in mind that these bills are not the only bills that Rep. Huberty championed. There will be more in detail about the other bills he filed in upcoming newsletters.)

Back to School!!

Below, you will find all you need to make sure your child is absolutely ready for the upcoming school year. Resources for individual school districts and tax-free weekend can be found on the next few pages.

Tax Free Weekend

August 8-10, 2015

As in previous years, the law exempts most clothing, footwear, school supplies and backpacks priced under \$100 from sales and use taxes, which **could save shoppers about \$8 on every \$100 they spend.**

Qualifying School Supplies (if under \$100):

- Binders
- Book bags
- Calculators
- Blackboard Chalk
- Compases
- Composition books
- Crayons
- Erasers
- Folders (expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila)
- Glue, Paste, and Paste Sticks
- Highlighters
- Index Cards
- Index Card Boxes
- Legal Pads
- Lunch Boxes
- Markers (including dry erase markers)
- Notebooks
- Paper
- Pencil Boxes (and other school supply boxes)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencils
- Pens
- Protractors
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Writing Tablets

Other Helpful Links from Texas Comptroller, Glenn Hagar:

- [Qualifying School Supplies \(in depth\)](#)
- [Other Qualifying Items](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About the Tax Free Holiday](#)
- ["The Fine Print"](#)

School Calendars:

[Huffman Independent School District Calendar](#)

School Supply Lists:

[Ben Bowen Early Childhood Center School Supply List](#)

[Copeland Elementary School Supply List \(2nd & 3rd Grades Only\)](#)

[Huffman Intermediate School Supply List \(4th and 5th Grades Only\)](#)

[Huffman Middle School Supply List](#)

Athletics:

[Huffman ISD Athletics Calendar](#)



Huffman ISD Logo via [Your Houston News](#).

School Calendars:

[Humble Independent School District Calendar](#)

School Supply Lists:

[Humble ISD School Supply Lists](#)

(Search by School)

Athletics:

[Humble ISD Athletics Calendar](#)

**One Day
School Supply Pack Sale
for Humble ISD
August 7, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**

[See This Link for Details!](#)

School Calendars:

[Aldine Independent School District Calendar](#)

School Supply Lists:

[Aldine ISD School Supply List \(English\)](#)

[Aldine ISD School Supply List \(Spanish\)](#)

Athletics:

[Aldine ISD Athletics Calendar](#)



Aldine ISD Logo via [Aldine ISD](#).

School Calendars:

[Spring Independent School District Calendar](#)

School Supply Lists:

[Spring ISD School Supply List](#)
(Browse by School)

Athletics:

[Spring ISD Athletics Calendar](#)



Spring ISD Logo via [Community Impact](#).

School Calendars:

[New Caney Independent School District Calendar](#)

Athletics Calendar:

[New Caney ISD Athletics Calendar](#)



New Caney Logo via [New Caney ISD](#).

Constituents at the Capitol

This summer, a few groups came to see where the legislative process takes place, and what the Capitol building is like during the Interim. Having constituents from the district come visit Rep. Huberty's Capitol office is a great reminder of home. Here are a few pictures of some of the visits this summer.

Thank you to all who came up to visit.



LEFT

Top row (L-R): Sydney Pierce and Addy Lemoine
Seated: Kennedy Pierce and Ally Lemoine

These young women came up to the Capitol during their summer break to see how the Texas Legislature works and to enjoy some Austin sunshine!

RIGHT

Top row (L-R): Shon Rathke, Abby Caldwell,
Ron Rathke & Abby Randecker
Seated: Audrey Caldwell

This crew came to support swimmers in a competition held at UT's Joe Jamail Swim Center. We're so glad you stopped by during some free time!



Family Focus

The Huberty family is glad that summer is finally here and to have Rep. Huberty back in District 127 on a full-time basis. This past month, the Hubertys celebrated fourth of July at several events around District 127, and are enjoying these last few weeks until Brianna, Ryan, and Dylan go back to school.

Fourth of July Celebrations



Thank you to all who came out to help us celebrate our great country and our brave servicemen and women!



Upcoming August Events

Grand Opening
Harris County Republican Party
Kingwood Satellite Office

August 3, 2015
(6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

You are invited to the Grand Opening of the Kingwood office off of Kingwood Dr. and Highway 59! Join for refreshments, speakers HCRP Chairman Paul Simpson, **Representative Dan Huberty**, Tax Assessor-Collector Mike Sullivan, Houston City Councilman Dave Martin and more!!

It is sure to be a great, fun time for everyone. Come on out August 3rd from 6:30-8 PM to have a great time while catching the vision for Harris County in 2016 and beyond! You can RSVP for the event [here](#).

BizCom - Kingwood
Presented by Kingwood Pines Hospital

August 6, 2015
(11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

The Kingwood BizCom meeting will feature a blend of businesses, community members and school officials coming together to address specific needs and issues of the Kingwood community. Area citizens, community organizations, businesses and other interested parties are welcome to attend. The event is free of charge. A complimentary lunch is included provided an RSVP is made. The event will take place at Kingwood Park High School.

You can RSVP, and find more information about the speakers and the event [here](#).

Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting
The Pediatric Emergency Center
at Kingwood Medical Center

August 6, 2015
(4:30 p.m.)

Please join us for the grand opening of The Pediatric Emergency Center at Kingwood Medical Center. The event will take place at Kingwood Medical Center (22999 U.S. Highway 59 North, Kingwood, Texas 77339). Please park at the Women and Children's Center, South Tower Entrance.

Lake Houston's Got Talent

August 6, 2015
(6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

The Village would like to invite you to the inaugural Lake Houston's Got Talent Show at the Nathaniel Center! The Village wants to provide a venue which is family friendly, and fun! "Lake Houston's Got Talent Show" is our answer! A great event to showcase singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, and anyone who wants to have the spotlight! We will use the "America's Got Talent" style judging, with community choice narrowing down to the top 3 competitors. Judges will determine and distribute trophies to the winners of the Lake Houston's Most Talented Award.

The event will take place on August 6th, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Nathaniel Center. There will be BBQ dinner plates provided by Hickory Hollow BBQ. There will be a Dessert Silent Auction, Games, and many more ways to interact and support The Village.

If you or anyone you know would like to showcase their talent, please contact Erica Badamo at ebadamo@villagelac.org or call 281-358-6172 ext. 150.

There are no age limits, so children and adults can participate. Spectators are \$25 at the door - Cash, Check or Credit Card. To find out how to sponsor, or more about getting involved, you can find more information [here](#).

Focus of the Federal Government Luncheon
Presented by Insperty

August 18, 2016
(11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Get the latest update on Federal legislation and policies that impact the local economy. Congressman Ted Poe will speak about the Trade Promotion Authority law, Export-Import Bank, the Port of Houston and the current Human Trafficking bill.

Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2004 to represent the Second Congressional District of Texas, Congressman Poe brings his no-nonsense style to Washington, DC. He is a leading advocate for limited government, free markets, low taxes and individual liberty. Prior to serving in Congress, Poe served for 22 years as a criminal court judge in Houston where he garnered national media attention for his innovative sentences - dubbed "Poetic Justice". Prior to that, he served for 8 years in the Harris County District Attorney's Office, where he became the chief felony prosecutor and never lost a jury trial.

Deadline to register is 8-7-15 and is \$30 for members or \$35 for guests. Reservations made after the deadline are subject to availability and will be at the rate of \$35 for members or \$40 for guests. The event will be held at the Walden on Lake Houston (18100 Walden Forest Drive, Humble, TX 77346). Contact information can be found [here](#).

Rep. Huberty - State-of-the-State

August 26, 2015
(11:00 a.m.)

Rep. Huberty will be giving a State-of-the-State address to the Kingwood Area Republican Women on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Kingwood Country Club. This event will take place during the KARW's general meeting.

We Hope to See You There!

Contact Information

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