

March 15, 2013 Rotunda Report

Legislative Recap:

As you may know, March 8, 2013 marked the bill filing deadline for the 83rd Legislature. All total, over 4,000 bills were filed in the Texas House, and over 1,850 bills were filed in the Texas Senate. My legislative package includes a number of bills I authored and filed relating to various subjects including education, taxes, economic development, Second Amendment rights, crime, pro-life causes and a range of other topics.

Some of the legislation I have authored and joint-authored include

[House Bill 1057, The Texas Parental Control Accountability Act \(TPCAA\)](#)

Working twofold, the TPCAA requires written consent for students participating in any type of sex education instruction from a third party organization other than a faculty or staff member employed by the school district. Secondly, the TPCAA bans abortion providers and affiliates from providing educational instruction and/or materials on human sexuality in the classroom.

[House Bill 2370, Relating to the Franchise Tax Exemption](#)

House Bill 2370 encourages businesses in other states across the nation to relocate to Texas by providing a franchise tax exemption for a limited period following the relocation. As the national leader in job creation, Texas must continue to support policies that encourage a business-friendly climate and promote a competitive marketplace.

[House Bill 1533, The Texas Gun Ownership Reinforcement Act](#)

House Bill 1533 establishes Texas Independence Day (March 2) as a tax-free holiday, exempting individuals' purchase of firearms and ammunition in the State of Texas from sales taxes. This legislation encourages and supports lawful gun ownership while spurring economic growth in Texas, ultimately benefitting Texas taxpayers and small business owners.

[House Bill 166, Related to the Prevention of Wrongful Convictions](#)

As a strong proponent of criminal justice reforms relating to prosecutorial misconduct, House Bill 166 takes a substantial step towards preventing wrongful convictions, which studies have shown is a widespread and growing problem in Texas. I am proud to Joint Author House Bill 166, which creates a commission appointed by the Governor to investigate wrongful convictions, all at no cost to taxpayers.

[House Bill 204, Related to Zero-Based Budgeting](#)

As a Joint Author of House Bill 204, I believe the practice of Zero-Based Budgeting will increase government efficiency and limit wasteful spending. This legislation would require each

government agency to justify its budget in its entirety once every six years, on a rotating basis, which would force state agencies to rationalize their spending to elected officials. Pure and simple – House Bill 204 increases accountability and government transparency and is a win for taxpayers.

[House Bill 2364, Pre-Born Pain Bill](#)

The most basic duty of government is to protect innocent life. In that regard, as an advocate for the unborn, I believe that it is our duty in Texas not only to protect life, but to actively promote a culture of life. House Bill 2364, which I am proud to Joint Author with Representative Jodie Laubenberg, is based on substantial medical evidence that an unborn child is capable of feeling pain up to 20 weeks after fertilization. By banning the practice of abortion after 20 weeks of conception, this legislation establishes a state interest in protecting the lives of the unborn who feel pain.

[House Bill 2120, Related to Expediting Permits for Water Reservoirs](#)

As you know, addressing our scarce water needs is a top priority this session, and it is my hope that the 83rd Legislature will pass a comprehensive water plan that is responsible and financially sound. In that regard, there is work to be done to reduce the burdensome permitting regulations for water reservoirs in Texas. House Bill 2120, which I am proud to Joint Author with Representative Van Taylor, reduces the reservoir permitting process to a maximum of 180 days, removing a major obstacle in the effort to efficiently expand and develop new water resources in Texas.

[Learn more](#) about additional legislation I have authored, joint-authored, or co-authored.

District Spotlight!

Last week I was pleased to welcome leaders from North Texas to the Texas Capitol for Collin County Days and Richardson Days! I am proud to work alongside such a dynamic group of leaders and I look forward to continuing our great work to make our community an even better place to call home!



All my Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Leach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Leach