



And the work begins...

Now that committees have been announced the next step is to hold committee hearings. I was appointed to the House Committee of Economic and Small Business Development as well as the committee of Higher Education. I am excited to also have been named as the Chairman of the standing Subcommittee on Manufacturing.

The committee Chairman reviews and determines whether bills merit a hearing. Once a hearing is scheduled, the committee is able to review the piece of legislation, in addition provide an opportunity for testimony by witnesses. The hearings are open to the public and are available live and a taped version is offered on our House website (www.house.state.tx.us/video-audio/).

Committees meet until all the proposed bills on the committee's agendas have been reviewed. The length of the hearing depends on how many witnesses would like to testify, and also how many questions the committee members might want to ask. As a result, hearings often continue for hours, and in some cases up until 5 am! Luckily for me, the latest I have ever stayed for a hearing was 1 am.

Nonetheless, it is our priority to ensure that each person who requests to testify is afforded that opportunity. Finally, the next step for a bill is the committee vote. It is sent to one of the calendar committees where it will await there before it is sent to the floor to debate and eventually vote. As you can see, a bill has a long way before it makes it to the floor. Until then, it is our job to make sure every piece of legislation has its chance to be reviewed.

As always, we enjoy working for you and look forward to being of service. Please forward our newsletter to all your friends and family to make sure they receive all our great updates.



Off to the Races

The big news coming out of Austin last Thursday for the House members was the announcement of our committee assignments. These are in part determined by seniority so long term members generally control their picks. Newer members like me have more limited influence so there is a mixed feeling for most of the members as we await the decisions. The feeling is partly Christmas morning (*what did you get?*) and partly Mission Impossible (*Your mission....*).

If you would like to read more, please click [here](#).

Constituent Visits

In the last couple of weeks we have had many of our own constituents from District 133 stop by and pay us a visit.



If you find yourself in the Capitol, please stop by our office for a visit. We look forward to seeing you!

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The Texas Pledge of Allegiance:

"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

Items of Interest

1. 83rd Legislative Session

2. Committee Hearings

3. Memorial Examiner

4. Constituent Visits

Did you know?

- ★ Austin is considered the live music capital of the world.
- ★ Texas is popularity known as The Lone Star State.
- ★ The first suspension bridge in the United States was the Waco Bridge. Built in 1870 and still in use today as a pedestrian crossing of the Brazos River.

We're on the Web!

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[House Website](#)

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