

Abilene Christian University

## Digital Commons @ ACU

---

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

Digitized Manuscripts, Personal Papers and  
Archival Records

---

2-16-1987

### *The Silver Bullet(in)*, Volume 1, Number 1

Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.acu.edu/tshl>

---

Here it is, at long last! The very First issue of our Status Reporter and Newsletter. This will serve as a kind of report of bills concerning our Priorities 1-6 and any other that may be of importance to us as members of the SHL. Each priority chairperson is sending me their report on their subject. If I don't receive a report in time to "go to press", I'll catch it the next go-round. It is my goal to get this out every other week--at least while the 70th is in session. Any of you who has an item of mutual interest and concern, please feel free to send it on, understanding, of course, that the Editor (me) reserves the right to include it, change it or omit it if space or time does not allow it. A special thanks is extended at this time to Paula Johnson at TDoA for the duplicating and mailing of our newsletter--cost free, to us. Also, to Eileen Dalton who continues to be so helpful in all ways and especially in gathering information on bills thru a computer tie-in (she's with our CTCOG AAA). AND also, to those who contributed.

\* \* \*

PRIORITY #1 - Chairman Bob Doolittle reporting. This, as you know, is a combination of Resolutions C-12, R-6 and R-14. "MAINTAINING FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR THE ELDERLY FROM FEDERAL AND STATE SOURCES, AND SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS OF STATE AGENCIES FUNDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING NECESSARY CARE SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS". In the House, no specific bill has been filed but it is in Appropriations and Bob has contacted Rep. Ron Wilson several times on that. Sen. Grant Jones says that his committee (Finance, which he chairs) has included funding in their Appropriations bill but that is not to say there could be cuts if sufficient revenue to cover all the bases is not forthcoming. (Is this a non-answer?) However, Sen. Chet Brooks (a staunch supporter) is in the process of drafting an appropriate bill. Bob will keep us posted.

PRIORITY #2 - Chairman Lucille Biegel reporting. No specific bill here, either, but also included in Appropriations. Eliminating Texas' income eligibility gap for Medicaid would assist at least 3,000 elderly citizens. Our State's current cap is \$650.20 per month while it is \$1,208 at the federal level. Lucille says Rep. Edmund Kuempel is now chairman of Retirement & Aging, so he is passing the torch on this one to Rep. Rudd. Our friend, Sen. Chet Brooks, Chairman of Health & Human Resources, is working on a Senate bill. His number is 512, 463-0111. (Lucille could use our prayers right now for her husband's health.)

PRIORITY #3 - Chairman Forest Scott reporting. Catastrophic Health Care Insurance is now being addressed at the federal level. However, Forest advises continued efforts at the state level inasmuch as our resolution, patterned after

the Maryland Plan, calls for a slightly lower monthly premium PLUS it would be available to anyone, regardless of age. While he has been in contact with Rep. Gavin, no bill as such has yet been filed.

PRIORITY #4 - No response from Chairman Jack Griffin at this time but his last report indicated that Sen. John Montford was supportive of legislation calling for a freeze on all ad valorem taxes on homesteads of those 65 and over. He may have drafted something on that by now. Jack will let me know.

PRIORITY #5 - Dr. Raleigh Jackson took the time to alert me to a resolution just filed this past week by Rep. Betty Denton. It calls for a constitutional amendment to be submitted to the voters in November stating: "The constitutional amendment to require monthly contributions to the teacher and state employees retirement systems and to prohibit diversion or deferral of those contributions."

This is HJR-43 with a companion resolution, SJR-43, filed by Sen. Barrientos. This one is especially important to all you retired teachers. (You may also be interested in HB-263 calling for the elimination of the teachers' career ladder.)

PRIORITY #6 - Chairman Millard Guess reporting. Millard and others have been busy making speeches to various organizations warning about the "Home Equity Loan" bill filed by Rep. Bill Hammond which would virtually eliminate the current protection of the Homestead Act as we know it in Texas. (HB-231 and HJR-24.) YOU need to do the same, as well as contacting your representative and senator of your district asking them to safeguard the Homestead Act. At the Jan. 27th meeting, one of the speakers, Rep. Forest Whaley, told us that a hundred letters to a legislator from his constituents got his attention like nothing else. He said individual letters are much more effective than petitions. If each of us sees that 100 letters, or more, gets to each representative and senator, we should make our presence known. In my own mind, this issue happens to be our first big test as to whether or not the SHL is effective. Support Rep. Smithee's bill, HB-302, calling for the exemption of homestead property from liability satisfaction and HB-275, filed by Rep. Mike Milsap which limits home improvement loan foreclosures (a REAL scam preying on the elderly). Sen. Sarpalius has filed SB-21, which is a companion bill to HB-302 which has just been referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Please be aware that those who favor home equity loans are the bankers and others who say that this would pump millions of dollars into the Texas economy (but at the expense of those least able to afford it!).

Also be aware that while Gov. Clements has stated he favors the Homestead Act as it stands, his Business Development & Jobs Creation Task Force, a collection of 72 business leaders from around the state, favors an end to the state ban on home equity loans--and that ban means eliminating the Homestead Act. They will

work on changing the Governor's mind. Home equity loans are dangerous propositions. They are often more expensive than other types of credit having excessive up-front charges and other closing costs, as well as longer payback periods leading to larger interest charges. Believe me, this bill is NOT for the benefit of you and me. Did you know that in states where there is no homestead act a person can lose his home for non-payment or late payment of his monthly credit card bill?

A REPORT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. Chairman Bill Harper reports that their meeting with the Foundation board members on 1/29 was most productive and informative. As we now know, the first Resolution we adopted was in conflict with some areas of the Foundation's charter, as well as IRS tax exemption guidelines. This Committee met again with the Foundation 2/13 and Poppy Hulsey called to tell me a resolution is now prepared which resolves the problems and will be presented to the general membership (copies to be mailed to each) together with a postcard on which to vote FOR or AGAINST and return ASAP.

A REPORT FROM THE BY-LAWS COMMITTEE. Chairman Glen Schreiner reports they will meet 2/17 so each can report on the assignment given, with the results to be presented later. The work of this committee is possibly the most important one of the three ad hoc committees in that future SHL's will be governed by these rules and, by having them, will be able to avoid some of the anguish we have had, since we did not have any detailed mechanism in place under which to operate when our session was over. Hopefully, these problems will be addressed in a democratic way. Therefore, when each of us receives a copy of the finished product from Glen's committee, please find time to go over it and be satisfied that you fully understand it. If you have any vital input to offer, let Glen hear from you. Then, when the by-laws are voted on, we won't be dismayed or chagrined, or complain.

ET CETERA. Feb. 23rd - Executive Committee meeting at 10 AM in the Sam Houston Bldg., Room 503-G, at which time progress reports from the six Priority chairpersons will be heard as well as briefings from the 3 ad hoc committees, Finance & Foundation, By-Laws and Legislative. This same date is the Long Term Care Coordinating Council Reception from 4-6 PM in the Lt. Governor's Reception Room in the Capitol. If you've been planning to attend the reception, come earlier and attend the Executive Committee meeting--it is open to all.

April 12-15: 1987 Joint Conference on Aging. Houston. Adam's Mark Hotel. 4/14 will be the date on a TASC workshop having as its theme "Texas Senior Centers and the Silver Haired Legislature--Working together and Looking ahead". 4/15 TDOA will present "The Texas Silver Haired Legislature". Hope a lot of you attend.

If you want to know the status of a bill, call 1,800, 252-9693, and give the number. I will do my best to supply you with numbers as soon as there are any. It's still early in the session so there aren't many yet; as the session reaches a close, we'll get slugged with bills, I'm sure, but I will swallow extra vitamin pills and try my best to keep up with those of interest to us.

EDITORIAL: It seems like every time we think we're gaining on it, something else pops up. I know it's discouraging that we aren't making miracles over-night because I get discouraged and a number of you have told me you get discouraged. Well, no one promised us a rose garden even tho we may feel we are getting more than we bargained for and at this age we don't need the hassle. HOWEVER, each of us were elected by people who felt that we would do a good job for them--better than our opponents could. So, even tho we may get side-tracked from time to time, let us keep one main objective in mind--that there are many very needy senior citizens across the State of Texas who are counting on us to see to it that they get the help they need. There couldn't have been a better (or worse, if you prefer) time to lend a hand to see the necessary programs are not cut to the point of depriving the elderly of a decent existence at this stage of the game. Priority No. 1 received overwhelming support by us. This points up the desire in all of us to try to help those who need it most. Let's keep that in the front of our minds and maybe some of the thorns in our sides won't be as noticeable. KEEP ON PLUGGIN'! Thanks for reading this far--ya didn't hafta, ya know.

THIRTY 4 NOW

Aliceanne Wallace, Chair  
Legislative Action Committee

Coming up: more ideas on legislative action such as setting up a telephone tree, and more.

"Old folks talk about the past because they have no future; young folks talk about the future because they have no past."



**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES  
70TH REGULAR SESSION**

State of Texas  
William P. Hobby, Presiding  
Carl Parker, President Pro Tem

---

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Harris, Chairman; Glasgow, Vice Chairman; Anderson, Armbrister, Blake, Green, Henderson, Jones, Leedom, Montford, Sims  
463-0365

---

**EDUCATION**

Parker, Chairman; Truan, Vice Chairman; Barrientos, Brooks, Edwards, Green, Johnson, Jones, Krier, Sarpalius, Uribe  
463-0355

---

**FINANCE**

Jones, Chairman; Glasgow, Vice Chairman; Blake, Brooks, Caperton, Farabee, Harris, Krier, McFarland, Montford, Parker, Santiesteban, Truan

463-0370

---

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Brooks, Chairman; Uribe, Vice Chairman; Edwards, Johnson, Parmer, Truan, Washington, Whitmire, Zaffirini

463-0360

---

**Subcommittee on Health Services**

Truan, Chairman; Whitmire, Vice Chairman; Edwards, Uribe, Washington

463-0330

---

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Parmer, Chairman; Leedom, Vice Chairman; Anderson, Armbrister, Barrientos, Brown, Johnson, Sims, Tejeda, Whitmire, Zaffirini

463-0385

---

**JURISPRUDENCE**

Caperton, Chairman; Brown, Vice Chairman; Anderson, Green, Krier, Parker, Tejeda

463-0395

---

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

McFarland, Chairman; Henderson, Vice Chairman; Farabee, Glasgow, Lyon, Santiesteban, Washington

463-0345

---

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Santiesteban, Chairman; Montford, Vice Chairman; Armbrister, Brown, Lyon, Sarpalius, Sims, Tejeda, Uribe, Whitmire, Zaffirini

463-0390

---

**Subcommittee on Agriculture**

Sarpalius, Chairman; Sims, Vice Chairman; Armbrister, Lyon, Uribe

463-0340

---

**Subcommittee on Water**

Montford, Chairman; Brown, Vice Chairman; Tejeda, Whitmire, Zaffirini

463-0325

---

**STATE AFFAIRS**

Farabee, Chairman; Blake, Vice Chairman; Barrientos, Caperton, Edwards, Harris, Henderson, Leedom, Lyon, McFarland, Parmer, Sarpalius, Washington

463-0380

---

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**ADMINISTRATION**

Blake, Chairman; Brooks, Vice Chairman; Caperton, Edwards, Farabee, Glasgow, Harris, Jones, McFarland, Parker, Parmer, Santiesteban

463-0350

---

**NOMINATIONS**

Edwards, Chairman; Harris, Vice Chairman; Blake, Brooks, McFarland, Sarpalius, Uribe

463-0375

---

**RULES**

Glasgow, Chairman; Blake, Vice Chairman; Brooks, Henderson, Washington

463-0122

---

## **HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES**

Gib Lewis, Presiding  
Hugo Berlanga, Speaker Pro Tem

---

### **AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK**

Harrison, Chairman; Robinson, Vice Chairman; Shaw, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Carriker, Patterson.  
Speaker Appointments: R. Cuellar, Edge, Kubiak, Waterfield.

---

### **APPROPRIATIONS**

Rudd, Chairman; Willis, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: Shaw, Connelly, Ceverha, Whaley, Waldrop, Collazo, R. Smith, McWilliams, McKinney, Denton, Uher, Vowell, Cavazos, Perry, C. Harris, Martinez, A. Moreno, C. Johnson, Colbert, Madla, Hollowell, Sutton, R. Lewis, Tallas, Williamson, Garcia, Geistweidt.

---

### **BUSINESS AND COMMERCE**

Wolens, Chairman; Riley, Vice Chairman; Connelly, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Delco, A. Hill, Horn.  
Speaker Appointments: H. Cuellar, Oakley, Robnett.

---

### **CALENDARS**

C. Evans, Chairman; Berlanga, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: C. Harris, S. Hudson, C. Johnson, R. Lewis, Perry, Robnett, Tallas.

---

### **CORRECTIONS**

Hightower, Chairman; Carter, Vice Chairman; Ceverha, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Burnett, Granoff, Melton.  
Speaker Appointments: Repp, Telford, Valigura.

---

### **COUNTY AFFAIRS**

Stiles, Chairman; Eckels, Vice Chairman; Whaley, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Harrison, Jones, Robinson, Willy.  
Speaker Appointments: Campbell, Carriker, Edge, Finnell, Melton, Patterson.

---

### **CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE**

Hinojosa, Chairman; Parker, Vice Chairman; Waldrop, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Danburg, L. Evans.  
Speaker Appointments: S. Johnson, Morales, Ovard, T. Smith.

---

### **CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

Wallace, Chairman; Polumbo, Vice Chairman; Collazo, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Givens.  
Speaker Appointments: Ovard, Pennington, Roberts, Warner, Willy.

---

## **ELECTIONS**

Glossbrenner, Chairman; Hilbert, Vice Chairman; R. Smith, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Aikin.  
Speaker Appointments: Arnold, Beauchamp, Horn, Hunter, Seidlits.

---

### **ENERGY**

Hackney, Chairman; Clark, Vice Chairman; McWilliams, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Pennington, A. Smith.  
Speaker Appointments: Agnich, Craddick, Smithee, Yost.

---

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Saunders, Chairman; Watson, Vice Chairman; McKinney, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Agnich, Hightower, Kuempel.  
Speaker Appointments: Oakley, Staniswalis, Valigura.

---

### **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

Gibson, Chairman; Price, Vice Chairman; Denton, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Robnett, Wallace.  
Speaker Appointments: Berlanga, Larry, Lucio, Marchant.

---

### **GENERAL INVESTIGATING**

Finnell, Chairman; Hollowell, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: Shaw, Parker, G. Luna.

---

### **GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION**

A. Smith, Chairman; Granoff, Vice Chairman.  
Seniority Appointments: Staniswalis, P. Hill.  
Speaker Appointments: L. Guerrero, C. Evans, A. Hill, Laney, Millsap.

---

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Delco, Chairman; D. Hudson, Vice Chairman; Uher, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: C. Evans, Rangel, Schlueter.  
Speaker Appointments: Millsap, Rodriguez, Watkins.

---

### **HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**

Millsap, Chairman; McKinney, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: Connelly, Rangel, Riley, Shea, Sutton, Vowell, Whaley.

---

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

Barton, Chairman; Cooper, Vice Chairman; Vowell, CBO.  
Speaker Appointments: Blair, R. Cuellar, Grusendorf, Larry, Earley, Waterfield.

---

### **INSURANCE**

Gavin, Chairman; S. Hudson, Vice Chairman; Cavazos, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Criss, Price, S. Thompson.  
Speaker Appointments: Patrick, Shea, Taylor.

---

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STANDING COMMITTEES **JUDICIAL AFFAIRS**

Hury, Chairman; Rangel, Vice Chairman; Perry, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: S. Hudson, G. Luna, Parker.  
Speaker Appointments: Schoolcraft, Smithee, S. Thompson.

---

**JUDICIARY**

Toomey, Chairman; Dutton, Vice Chairman; C. Harris, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Eckels, Hury, Perez.  
Speaker Appointments: Seidlits, Shine, Warner.

---

**LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS**

Criss, Chairman; Roberts, Vice Chairman; Martinez, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Betts, G. Thompson.  
Speaker Appointments: Hinojosa, P. Moreno, Shine, G. Watkins.

---

**LIQUOR REGULATION**

Wilson, Chairman; G. Thompson, Vice Chairman; A. Moreno, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Barton, Watson, Willis.  
Speaker Appointments: H. Cuellar, Patronella, Repp.

---

**LOCAL AND CONSENT CALENDARS**

Hammond, Chairman; Granoff, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: Clemons, L. Evans, A. Hill, Madla, Martinez,  
Patronella, Williamson.

---

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Smith, Chairman; J. Harris, Vice Chairman; C. Johnson, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Russell, Yost.  
Speaker Appointments: Hammond, Holzheuser, Shelly, Toomey.

---

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**

Haley, Chairman; G. Luna, Vice Chairman; Colbert, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Glossbrenner, Hammond.  
Speaker Appointments: Aikin, Culberson, Dutton, Grusendorf.

---

**PUBLIC HEALTH**

Wright, Chairman; Clemons, Vice Chairman; Madla, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: McDonald, Schoolcraft.  
Speaker Appointments: Givens, J. Harris, Heflin, Rodriguez.

---

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

Leonard, Chairman; Burnett, Vice Chairman; Hollowell, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Arnold, Stiles.  
Speaker Appointments: Betts, D. Hudson, S. Johnson, Telford.

**RETIREMENT AND AGING**

Kuempel, Chairman; Patronella, Vice Chairman; Sutton, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Clark.  
Speaker Appointments: Cooper, Finnell, Heflin, Jones, Richardson.

---

**RULES AND RESOLUTIONS**

S. Thompson, Chairman; Guerrero, Vice Chairman.  
Speaker Appointments: Cavazos, Colbert, Cooper, Danburg, Hilbert,  
McDonald, G. Thompson.

---

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

A. Luna, Chairman; Blackwood, Vice Chairman; R. Lewis, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Campbell, Kubiak, Richardson.  
Speaker Appointments: Culberson, Hunter, Shelly.

---

**STATE AFFAIRS**

Laney, Chairman; P. Hill, Vice Chairman; Tallas, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Cain, Gavin, Gibson, Haley, Leonard.  
Speaker Appointments: Danburg, Guerrero, Perez, Riley, Saunders.

---

**TRANSPORTATION**

Cain, Chairman; Russell, Vice Chairman; Williamson, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Edwards, Pierce, Wright.  
Speaker Appointments: Carter, Clemons, Taylor.

---

**URBAN AFFAIRS**

Pierce, Chairman; Shea, Vice Chairman; Garcia, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Marchant, Polumbo.  
Speaker Appointments: Beauchamp, Blackwood, Blair, Edwards, Holzheuser,  
Lucio, P. Moreno, Patrick.

---

**WAYS AND MEANS**

Schlueter, Chairman; Morales, Vice Chairman; Geistweidt, CBO.  
Seniority Appointments: Berlanga, Craddick, Hilbert, A. Luna.  
Speaker Appointments: Earley, L. Evans, Hackney, McDonald, Wilson, Wolens.

CBO—Chairman for Budget and Oversight



