



Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas, Inc.

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88th Legislative Session Monday Brief, March 6th

This is the latest update from your President Judge Sergio De Leon and your Legislative Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs, Judge J.R. Woolley, Constable Carlos Lopez, Judge Nicholas Chu, and Constable Buck Stevens

Please keep in mind we are currently tracking hundreds of bills pertaining to Justices of the Peace and Constables. We will continue to keep you updated throughout the 88th Legislative Session.

The following will be a brief overview of where JPCA priorities are for this session.

Updates from Last Week

- Constable Carlos Lopez testified in the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety for their organizational hearing. Constable Lopez testified in support of increased funding for law enforcement and educated the committee on the duties of a constable.
- Many bills have been filed. JPCA is working diligently to analyze the hundreds of bills that may impact our offices. The last day to file non-local bills is Friday, March 10th.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

- Tuesday, March 7th
 - Senate Committee on Criminal Justice at 8:30am E1.016
 - [SJR 44](#) by Huffman | et al. Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the denial of bail under some circumstances to a person accused of a violent or sexual offense or of continuous trafficking of persons and requiring a judge or magistrate to impose the least restrictive conditions of bail that may be necessary to ensure the person's appearance in court as required and the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense.
 - JPCA will be testifying in support of this bill.
 - [SB 1318](#) by Huffman Relating to the release of defendants on bail, the duties of a magistrate in certain criminal proceedings, and the appointment of certain criminal law hearing officers; creating a criminal offense.
 - JPCA will be testifying in support of this bill. However, we are working closely with Sen. Huffman to ensure some changes be made.



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- House Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence at 10:30am/upon adjournment E2.016
 - [HB 291](#) by Murr. Relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses.
 - JPCA will be testifying in support.
 - [HB 409](#) by Collier. Relating to the governance and administration of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission and to certain disclosures made in relation to the provision of funding for indigent defense services.
 - JPCA will be testifying in support.
 - [HB 842](#) by Patterson. Relating to prohibiting the extension of the period of a driver's license suspension for certain driving while license invalid convictions.
 - JPCA will be registering in support but not testifying. Judge DePiazz (Precinct 2-Denton Co.) will be testifying in support on behalf of himself and his office.
- The 200th Anniversary of the Offices of the Justices of the Peace and Constables was March 5th. The House and Senate will be passing resolution to commemorate this historic anniversary on Tuesday, March 7th. We will have numerous members in town to celebrate and be recognized.
- Wednesday, March 8th
 - House Committee on County Affairs at 10:30am/upon adjournment E2.012
 - The Committee will hear testimony from the following areas:
 - County jails/courts/inmate issues
 - County hospital districts and rural hospitals
 - County mental health issues
 - Jail diversion - county programs

You can view committee hearings [here](#).

That is all for this week. Please expect the next brief to occur on Monday, March 13th