



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ernest Bailes

Serving House District 18:
Liberty, San Jacinto, and Walker Counties

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85th Legislative Session

February 13, 2017

Dear Neighbors,

On January 31, 2017, Governor Abbott delivered the 2017 State of the State Speech.

A few of the issues he stressed were better funding of the child protective system, addressing the school finance system, and banning so-called "sanctuary cities."

Although there is no State of HD 18 speech we hope this newsletter will help keep you informed.

We have had many calls and emails concerning school ratings, private property rights and new residential developments. I can assure you we are aggressively working on these and many other issues.

There is much work to be done and with committee assignments completed we are ready to move forward on many pressing matters.

**God Bless You All and
God Bless our Great
State of Texas**



Ernest

Representative Bailes Receives Committee Assignments

On February 9th, Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, named committees for members of the Texas House. The Speaker assigned Representative Bailes to three committees.

(1) **The House Committee on Economic & Small Business Development** which focuses on topics such as workforce training, commerce, trade, manufacturing, supporting small businesses, and job creation. As a business owner, Representative Bailes clearly understands the importance of small business and economic development in our area. This committee will provide an excellent opportunity for him to impact legislation which will benefit local citizens and our area in general.

(2) **The House Committee on Land & Resource Management** addresses the issues of annexation and zoning, the management of public lands, the power of eminent domain, and works closely with the

General Land Office.

As HD18 grows we will see more legislation which will impact our area. Many of the issues Representative Bailes is currently working on tie directly to private property rights, annexation and zoning. This assignment is an excellent fit for issues we face in HD 18.

(3) **The House Committee on Rules & Resolutions** is a procedural committee that does not hear bills, but in-

stead, has jurisdiction over the Rules of Procedure in the House of Representatives and all proposed amendments as well as Joint Rules of the House and Senate.

Representative Bailes' strong leadership skills will be an asset on these committees. He looks forward to the work ahead and bringing about positive legislation that will support and protect HD 18 and the entire state of Texas.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Legislation Filed by Representative Bailes:

HB1028 — Relating to the designation of Farm-to-Market Road 2666 in San Jacinto Co. as the Josey Scott Memorial Highway.

HB1469 — Relating to qualifications for certain teachers employed by open-enrollment charter schools.

HB1479 — Relating to the small-sized district under the Foundation School Program.

Joint and Co-Authored Legislation:

HB 435 by Representative Ken King — Relating to the application of certain laws to and liability for certain actions of volunteer emergency services personnel licensed to carry a handgun.

HB 1290 by Representative Kevin Roberts — Relating to the required repeal of a state agency rule before adoption of a new state agency rule.

HB 1390 by Representative Trent Ashby — Relating to the small-sized district under the Foundation School Program.

A Quick Glimpse...

Bailes Joins fellow Legislators on Handgun Legislation

Representative Bailes joined his colleagues Ken King and Drew Springer in sponsoring HB 435. This legislation addresses volunteer emergency services personnel (volunteer firefighters and emergency medical services volunteers) who are legally carrying a handgun.

This bill would provide protection to such volunteer personnel for the purpose of carrying handguns while on duty.

Equitable School Funding Bill

For more than 40 years, small school districts have been penalized with less funding simply because of their size. Representative Bailes knows this is wrong.

After reaching out to the local Superintendents and school board members in HD 18 concerning this issue he filed HB 1479. This legislation addresses equitable school funding and benefits more than half of the school districts in HD 18.

To highlight the importance of this issue, five fellow legislators have filed similar bills.

Representative Bailes looks forward to working with his colleagues to get this important legislation passed.

Local Open-Enrollment Charter School Bill to Support Vocational Ed.

HB 1469, which applies to Local Open-Enrollment Charter Schools, was recently filed by Representative Bailes. As a strong supporter of vocational education he believes career and vocational training is instrumental in preparing our students for the work force.

Gulf Coast Trades Center, located outside of New Waverly in Walker County, is an open-enrollment charter school.

This bill would allow schools such as Gulf Coast Trades Center to employ individuals with highly skilled trades experience as teachers for noncore and academic career and technical education courses, waiving the standard requirement of a baccalaureate degree.

A Strong Voice for HD18 through Republican Rural Caucus

Understanding that a strong, unified voice is more effective for our rural area than going it alone, soon after his swearing in Representative Bailes joined the Republican Rural Caucus.

He was recently elected by his peers to serve as the Caucus's Vice Chairman, a position which will allow him a stronger voice for HD 18.

Texas Association of School Administrators

At the end of January, the Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) held their annual Mid-winter Conference in Austin.

Rep. Bailes was grateful for the opportunity to share a few words at the conference regarding his thoughts and hopes for the future of public education. This included discussion on a fair, locally controlled accountability system as well as equitable school funding.



It was great to sit down and discuss the needs and concerns of organizations such as Bridgehaven Children's Advocacy Center in Dayton. Bridgehaven strives to help minimize the trauma associated with child abuse investigations.



Thankful for the opportunity to gather in Cleveland with fellow Christians for a "Day of Humiliation, Fasting & Prayer."



Officer Lowe enlisted into the U.S. Army on July 6, 2004 and was deployed to Afghanistan in 2005-2006 and to Iraq in 2007-2008. He served his country as a Field Artillery Fire Finder Radar Operator & Paratrooper for the 82nd Airborne Division. Lowe later attended Warrant Officer Candidate School in Alabama, where he also attended Flight School to become an AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter Pilot.

HR 134: Honoring the Life of Liberty Co. Serviceman, Officer Lucas Lowe

On December 28, 2016, Texas Army National Guard Chief Warrant Officer II Lucas Lowe of Hardin, Texas—a resident of HD18, passed away during a training flight when the Apache Helicopter he was flying in crashed into Galveston Bay.

On February 7th Representative Bailes honored the life of Officer Lowe by introducing and reading a memorial resolution on the floor of the House of Representatives. The resolution was unanimously adopted by all 150 legislators.

Family members and close family friends, Dr. Rachel Myers Childs, and Tommy and Jennilea Chase

gathered at the Speaker's dias for the reading of the memorial.

Officer Lowe leaves behind his wife, Kami, sons, Clayton and Lance, daughter, Alysen, and twins on the way.

Also lost in the accident was Officer Dustin Mortenson. May God bless these fallen soldiers, their families and friends and all who serve our country.



SPOTLIGHT of SERVICE

Today we salute 4-H Leaders and Volunteers in HD 18

A heartfelt thank you to each 4-H Adult Leader and Volunteer for making a difference in the lives of our youth in HD18. You are appreciated! Your work provides excellent learning opportunities for youth to develop life and leadership skills that are essential to their future success. You Make a DIFFERENCE!

February 8th was 4-H Day at the Capitol and Rep. Bailes had the honor of welcoming Texas 4-H'ers to their capitol. 4-H is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. Founded in 1908, it is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching over 550,000 youth each year and over 30,000 dedicated volunteer leaders.



Honored to welcome the future Leaders from Walker Co. to their capitol. Hats off to these outstanding 4-H members and their leaders.

Interested in being an Honorary Page at the Capitol?

Do you know a student that would like to visit us in Austin and learn more about the legislative process?
If so, share this info...

Each session, we are allowed to invite 8 children, ages 8-18, to participate in the program. This welcomes young men and women to the capitol to work with the House Sergeant's Office in a morning shift (8:30 a.m. to noon) or an afternoon shift (1:30 to 5 p.m.)

For details or to apply for this program, email our office at: nick.raymond@house.texas.gov

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Meet Nick Raymond, Chief of Staff

Nick proudly served 5 years in the US Navy as a Second Class Petty Officer-Naval Aircrewman. He was assigned to a fleet logistic squadron, supporting naval operations around the world. After his tour in the Navy, Nick received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Texas State University.

Nick's legislative experience is broad. He worked three legislative sessions in Austin before joining the Bailes campaign, as the campaign manager. Now, as Rep. Bailes' Chief of Staff, Nick oversees the daily operations in the Austin office. We are proud to have Nick as a part of our team.



Chief of Staff, Nick Raymond

I VALUE and NEED YOUR FEEDBACK:

Please take a few moments to tell me about the issues that affect the lives of you and your family most.

(Your Name)

(Your Mailing Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Your Email)

(Your Phone)

Issues or Concerns:

Complete and mail to Austin, mail/drop off at office in Shepherd,
or email to: District18.bailes@house.texas.gov