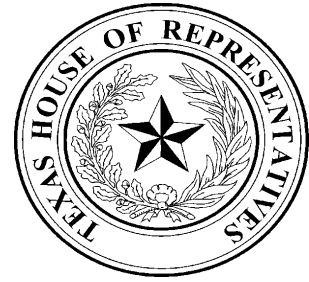




**Update From
Representative
James Frank
84th Legislative Session
March 27, 2015**



This week in the Legislature...

This was the first long week of session as bills are finally coming to the floor, committees are truly in full swing, and we are in the heart of the budget process. While the number of bills making it to the floor is still small, some of the larger and more controversial bills were discussed this week. We debated on the floor for over 5 hours on the texting while driving bill. None of the debate was about whether texting while driving is dangerous (which is obvious), but whether the bill was enforceable as written, and whether it may have serious unintended consequences. The Natural Resources Committee discussed numerous water bills until well after midnight Wednesday. It clearly reminded me how passionate people can and will get over the precious resource of water. It was also a reminder of how the entire state needs to work together to ensure our water supplies, as opposed to the incredibly fractured water supply system that we have now.

The House Budget was distributed this week for an initial vote next week. Remember, this is just the very first step in a lengthy process. The bill will be up for debate on the House floor March 31st, with many proposed amendments (estimated to be 250+) and long debates to follow. It then goes to the Senate where it will be debated in committee, and upon approval, will go the full Senate. Upon approval by the full Senate, the two chambers will appoint 5 members each to work out the differences and produce a state budget which returns to each chamber for an up or down vote - no more amendments. We will be sending out an extra newsletter on this next week.

We also had 3 amazing groups of young people visit the Capitol from the district this week.

Alisha, the boys and I are doing well, but are all looking forward to being back home in early June.

May God bless you and your family,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Frank". The signature is stylized and cursive.

James B. Frank

Legislation - An Update on Where Things Stand

House passed HB 80

This makes texting while driving illegal unless the vehicle is stopped. It will now be sent to the Senate.

Distracted driving is dangerous and is a problem on Texas roads. However, I voted against HB 80 because it will be exceedingly difficult for law enforcement personnel to enforce and could make their already difficult job even tougher. There are so many exceptions to the prohibition on texting while driving that distinguishing between drivers who are texting and those who are using the phone for legal purposes is practically impossible. Regardless of my feelings about the bill, texting

while driving is a behavior all of us should discourage.

Meetings This Week

It is an honor to have constituents make the 300-mile trip to Austin to participate in their government. Please let us know if you would like to visit us here at the Capitol.

Arc of Wichita County

People First Advocates from the Arc of Wichita County made the trip down to Austin to inform me of their legislative priorities for the session. I love getting to see them, and appreciate them coming down. We had a great discussion on how to improve the lives of people living with disabilities.



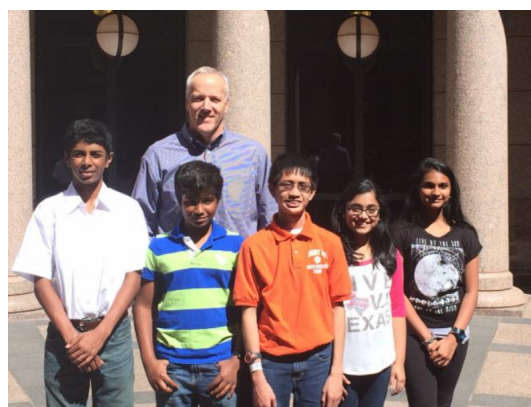
4-H Members

A group of 4-H members came down from the district for 4-H day at the Capitol. I was able to step off the floor for a little bit to visit them. I love getting to see parents and kids engaged in the legislative process.



Kirby Middle School

Rohan Tanjuvar, Krishna Reddy, Ila Kamath, Manasvi Reddy, and Alexis Nicolas from Kirby Middle School were in town with their coach Lynn Seman for the state Math Counts competition this weekend. I hope they do well, and move on to Nationals.



Other Visitors:

- Youth in Action group from Wichita Falls
- Tobacco Prevention and Control Coalition from Wichita Falls

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If you have not done so already, please find me on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Please also feel free to visit my Texas House of Representatives website at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/member-page/?district=69>.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative. As the session progresses, I look forward to hearing your input on proposed legislation.



Note: Please forward this email to individuals interested in receiving updates from Representative James Frank. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive these updates, please email District69.Frank@house.state.tx.us.

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