



Austin Landline Report May 2021

Things are starting to happen swiftly and furiously at the Texas Capitol now that session deadlines loom. Happily, some bills that we have inspired are alive and moving forward. Those bills include HB 687 and SB 576 which would make it easier and more effective to prosecute human smugglers. The smuggling bills have passed committees in their respective chambers, the Senate's being referred to the local and consent calendar. The Carrizo cane bills, HB 3668 and SB 634, are in even better shape, both having been referred to local and consent calendars. Another important bill we have inspired is HB 4107 requiring pipeline companies to provide notice before conducting surveys on private property. That bill just passed the House committee yesterday!

Other eminent domain legislation that we have been monitoring and/or helping guide are making their way through the session. Most notably, HB 2730, a fairly comprehensive reform of eminent domain proceedings, passed the House committee yesterday, too. That bill has been at least three sessions in the making, conceived, crafted, and advocated for by our friend and ally, Rep. DeWayne Burns.

Another very notable bill, SB 152, has also been several sessions in the making and would provide further guidance to groundwater conservation districts in performing their regulatory and managerial duties. That bill has passed the Senate and the House Natural Resources Committee. It is generally seen as a benefit to property owners, but has also been agreed to by groundwater districts after some modifications.

Our legislative report next week will begin culling bills from our tacking list as they become unviable. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information. As we continue to try to stop bills we oppose and support bills we favor all the way to the finish line, we'd like to give a special thanks to Susan Kibbe for her leadership, inspiration, and guidance!

Your Austin Team,
Eric Opiela, Joe Maley, Charles Maley, and Robert Howard