



## **BikeTexas 2017 Legislative Summary and Cyclists in Suits Texas' Bike Lobby Day**

As a valued friend and supporter of BikeTexas, we wanted to share this brief up-to-the-minute summary of our early efforts during this state legislative session, and invite you to participate in our advocacy efforts. **What can you do?**

**Please attend Cyclists-in-Suits, March 27, in Austin.** We'll meet at the Capitol Auditorium (E1.004) which is across from the Capitol Grill at *9am sharp* for a welcome and brief training session. Please check in at least 15 minutes prior. ***No food or drinks are allowed in the auditorium.*** The Capitol Grill near the auditorium has breakfast foods, and coffee at a very reasonable price. It is open early. [Sign up here!](#) Although participation is free, registration is important. If you are in the Dallas/Fort Worth area [sign up for the bus sponsored by Richardson Bike Mart here!](#)

After orientation, volunteers from across the state (including bus loads of individuals from bike groups in Houston, San Antonio, Dallas and Fort Worth) will visit legislative offices to ask for support for our priority bills.

We'll end the day with a social hour from 4-6 pm at [The Bonneville Restaurant](#) overlooking Lady Bird Lake! The Bonneville sits in the ATX Urban Core within Walking/Biking distance from the Capitol. Enjoy the views, conversation and upscale, casual New Classic American happy hour fare and refreshments. Special thanks to Jenn and Chris - Bonneville Chef Owners - for their hospitality, and to our partner, the **YMCA** for sponsorship of our happy hour food. Your first two beverages are on us!

Keep on the lookout for email blasts this spring. Sign up for our E-newsletter., and Action Alerts, which are time sensitive during the session. [Sign up here!](#) We don't ask often, but you may be asked to contact legislators at critical times on behalf of the bills.

## **Summary of bills BikeTexas is supporting this session:**

Please note, legislative sessions are fluid and bills can change at any time. [Consult this bill tracker](#) for current information.

**Iris Stagner Safe Passing Act for 2017-House Bill (HB) 1236** Author: Representative Mando Martinez; **Senate Bill (SB) 1274** Author: Senator Jose Rodriguez.

Named for a popular bicycle safety advocate and BikeTexas board member, who died on the road in 2012. This Safe Passing Bill will establish for unprotected road users a standard safe passing distance of 3 ft. (or 6 ft. for Commercial Vehicles) that only applies when road conditions allow. It also prohibits the “right hook” (turning dangerously in front of an unprotected road user) and failing to yield when making a left turn at an intersection.

Comments: No fiscal note. Twenty-five Texas cities and twenty-five other states have enacted safe passing laws.

**The Vision Zero Legislative Task Force by the 85th Legislature - House Bill (HB) 1677** Author: Representative Celia Israel; **Senate Bill (SB) 1245** Author: Senator Jose Rodriguez.

This legislation would direct the Texas Department of Transportation to establish The Task Force on Vision Zero: Achieving Zero Traffic Crashes, Injuries and Fatalities, to report findings to the 2019 legislature, based on the Task Force review of a) current state of roadway fatalities and serious injuries and b) identification of effective measures to reduce the number of roadway fatalities to zero by no later than 2050. Comments: No fiscal note. Vision Zero is a national and international effort to reduce fatalities to zero. BikeTexas is proud to be a member of a coalition of Texas-based health concerns supporting this bill.

**Safe Neighborhoods Bill – House Bill (HB) 1368** Author:Celia Israel; **Senate Bill (SB) 1244**

This legislation would amend the Transportation Code to change the lawful speed from 30 miles an hour to 25 miles an hour in an urban district on a street other than an alley unless a special hazard exists. Comments: no fiscal note. Uses speed reduction as a tool for reduction of fatalities and serious injuries.

**Alex Brown Memorial Act – Distracted Driver - House Bill (HB) 62 / Senate Bill (SB) 31** Authors: Tom Craddick, Judith Zaffirini

This legislation relates to the use of a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, creating a criminal offense and modifying existing criminal penalties.