

FROM: Darrin Hall

RE: Week 2 –83rd Legislature

DATE: January 18, 2013

It was a slow week in the legislature. After four hours of debate on Monday, the House adopted their rules of procedure. Also on Monday, the Senate spent two hours honoring Senator John Whitmire, a UH alumnus, for his 40 years of service in the legislature. Both houses adjourned on Tuesday until next Tuesday. They are breaking for the inaugural and Martin Luther King Day. However, we expect Lt. Governor Dewhurst to announce committee assignments later today.

Senate Finance Chairman Tommy Williams (R-Woodlands) and House Appropriations Chairman Jim Pitts (R-Waxahachie) filed SB 1 and HB 1, the appropriations bills. The following chart shows the difference between the current appropriations and the proposed bills.

Biennial General Revenue Change vs Current Biennium		
	House	Senate
UH	\$7,800,704	\$10,729,373
UHCL	(\$1,291,540)	(\$779,401)
UHD	(\$2,237,279)	(\$1,689,887)
UHV	\$383,848	\$608,203
UHSA	(\$2,703,673)	(\$2,703,673)

Committees have not been named in either house but the Senate Finance Committee has posted its initial hearings. They are starting with higher education next week. On Friday Chancellor Khator and Presidents Staples, Flores and Castille will present their budgets.

On Thursday, Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury) filed SB 182 authorizing concealed handgun carry on college campuses. He has thirteen cosponsors.

For more information go to <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>.