

The state legislature of Texas just finished their 81st session in June. With one of the largest budgets in the country, the Texas House and Senate usually file over 1,000 bills to be heard during a session. This last session saw heated controversy with the partisan Voter ID bill and the highway transportation bill that ended the session in a meltdown sine die (adjournment). As citizens of Texas and students at a public institution, the issues brought before the Texas legislature affect our everyday operations.

Your Task:

Visit the Texas Legislature Online (TLO), at <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>. Find out who represents you in the Senate and in the House of Representatives. Research your elected officials by visiting their home pages on the Texas Senate or Texas House websites.

Find a bill that either your Senator or Representative authored. This can be found by clicking “Members” on the left sidebar from the TLO homepage. Then click on your Senator or Representative, and scroll to the bottom of the page where you will see “Bills Authored” under the 2009 81st Regular Session.

Choose a bill that interests you from the brief captions, and click the bill number. This will take you to the bill’s webpage where you can find the bill’s text, actions taken on the bill by the legislature, any companions the bill has, and the stage of the bill. You may need to research the legislative process to fully comprehend this information.

After researching the bill, summarize in your own words what the bill does. Your summary should include answers to several questions: what action does the bill take, who does the bill affect, what are the fiscal implications, who are the primary supporters of the bill, who are the primary opponents of the bill, and is this a partisan issue?

Then write your own bill analysis. Do you agree with the bill? Why or why not? What would you change about the bill? Is the fiscal impact worth the bill’s implications? How would you vote for the bill?

Please submit a 2 page response of your research and analysis to your UGTA.

If you have any questions, please email Prianka at prianka22@gmail.com