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Governor Perry Signs Business Portion Of Tax Reform Plan

Governor signs business component of tax reform plan

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry on May 18 signed into law House Bill 3, subjecting most Texas businesses to a 1 percent tax on profit, minus deductions for either cost of goods sold or personnel costs.

The tax will take effect on Jan. 1, 2008. It is a component of a wide-ranging plan hailed by the governor's office and many others as "the largest property tax cut in Texas history," amounting to \$15.7 billion.

Combined, these cuts are expected to reduce the school district property

tax rate by one third. Of course, if appraisals increase at a normal rate, the sensation of a lower tax burden might not last for long.

Perry's office said HB 3 will:

- Reward employers for creating jobs and investing in employee benefits. "Every time a business puts a Texan to work, pays for health insurance or invests in a pension plan... their tax liability will go down."

- Protect small employers so that they can continue to drive Texas' economic growth.

- Exempt sole proprietors and general partnerships from the tax, as well

as businesses whose gross receipts total \$300,000 or less, and those whose tax bill is less than \$1,000; and

- Reward employers who create jobs and contribute to the economy, but will penalize businesses that hire illegal immigrants with higher taxes.

HB 2, another part of the tax reform plan, devotes future excess revenue to property tax reduction until the rate reaches 75 cents per \$100 valuation. The governor had not signed HB 2 into law as of May 21.

Members of the 80th Texas Legislature will file bills making clarifications to HB 3 and perhaps carving out exceptions to it in the next regular session, which convenes in January.

Damper on tax-cut euphoria

Already, critics of the tax reform plan are saying it will create a \$25 billion revenue deficit between now and 2010.

Chief among those critics is state Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, whose assertions may be colored by the fact that as an independent can-

didate, she is campaigning to get her name on the election ballot and unseat Perry as governor in November.

Strayhorn said that if elected, she will work to repeal the Perry tax reform plan and come up with something better.

Meanwhile, Perry is waiting for Strayhorn — the state's chief accountant — to certify HB 1 before he can sign it into law.

HB 1 is a major component of the tax reform plan passed by the Legislature during the special session that ended May 16. It is supposed to hack down the maintenance and operations portion of all school district property tax rates by 17 cents per \$100 valuation in 2007 and by 33 cents per \$100 valuation in 2008.

Power struggle in ballot process

Strayhorn turned in more than 230,000 signatures to get on the ballot, but the signatures must be verified by Secretary of State Roger Williams.

A Perry appointee, Williams seemed to be in no rush to verify signatures submitted by either Strayhorn or entertainer-novelist Kinky Friedman, who also is running against Perry as an independent.

Signatures were delivered to Williams' office by the May 11 deadline, but no verification had been done in the week following the deadline.

Gas pill business forced to stop

Attorney General Greg Abbott obtained a temporary restraining order and asset freeze against BioPerformance Inc.

Abbott said the firm, organized as an illegal pyramid scheme, markets a fuel pill it falsely claims will boost gas mileage and save consumers money.

Autoclaves required, AG says

An opinion released May 18 by the Office of the Texas Attorney General says a barber or cosmetologist who treats nails, hands or feet under state law must sterilize nondisposable in-

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

State Capital



HIGHLIGHTS
By Ed Sterling

struments with an autoclave.

The owner or manager of a barber or cosmetology shop or school must do likewise.

Law bans protests at funerals
Gov. Perry signed legislation outlawing public protests at funerals and burials of military men and women.

Rep. Brian McCall, R-Plano, and Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, authored the legislation.

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Let's Look Back... 24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 20, 1982
Two separate accidents during the past weekend resulted in serious injuries to two Eagle Lake youth, one 10 and the other six years old. The first accident involved Darrell Estlinbaum. The other involved Regina Upson...
Jim Epps and Michaelanne Hefner were named the 1982 Band

Beau and Sweetheart for the Mighty Raider Band...
Funeral services for **Frank Joseph Kasmiersky, Sr.**, of Nada were held May 16 in Nada...
Clayton Smith of Garwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Smith of Garwood and a 1978 graduate of Rice High School, graduated summa cum laude from Abilene Christian University...
Funeral services for **Douglas Tate** of Eagle Lake were held May 20 from Mill-Bauer Funeral Home...
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Popp Jr., **Clark and Sharon** honored their daughter and sister, **Sharla Popp**, with a hamburger supper on May 14...
Funeral services for **Mrs. Ruth Patterson Fudge**, mother of A.D. Fudge of Altair, were held May 12 in Pearsall. She passed away May 10 in San Antonio...
Members of the Rice High School Band selected as "Outstanding Marchers" during the current year were **Karen Rucka, Shawn Spanihel, Rachelle Hunt and Cindy Rodriguez...**
"Outstanding Band Members" of the Mighty Raider Band were **Temple Thomas, Julia Rosprim, David Adkins and Kitty Thomas...**
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hense honored his sister-in-law and nephew,

Mrs. Vera Hense and Mitchell Hense of Rocklin, California, at a BBQ...
Carolyn Pavlu, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pavlu of Garwood, and **Marcy McInteer Popp**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.E. McInteer of Eagle Lake, were among those honored in the 1982 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges"...

May 29, 1958
A new gas well has been brought in southeast of Lissie in George R. Brown No. 1. I.V. Duncan with the well gauged at 18,500,000 cubic feet...
In 1908, fifty years ago, **Mrs. Baird** baked her first commercial loaves for the public...
Final rites were held Tuesday, May 27 for **Elmo G. Wilson**, former resident of Eagle Lake. Interment was in Lakeside Cemetery...
Jack Dowdy, son of Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Dowdy, received his degree in mechanical engineering from Southern Methodist University...
Miss Virginia Fojtik, bride-elect of **Charles Pavlovsky**, was complimented with a bridal show at the Nada Parish Hall Sunday...
Gus Miller, brother of Mrs. **Sam Davidson** and Mrs. **Elmo Sens** of Eagle Lake passed away Sunday. Funeral services were held in Victoria Tuesday, May 27 with interment in Lakeside Cemetery...
George Svatek, son of Mr. and Mrs. **John Svatek**, received a baccalaureate degree in agricultural education...
Marine Cpt. Anthony Duyka, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Anton Duyka**, is now stationed in San Diego, California...
Raymond Kohleffel was honored on his 57th birthday May 24 by Mrs. **Kohleffel**.

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Headlight Photograph Policy

The following is The Headlight's policy on publishing pictures of accident scenes.

The Headlight does publish photographs of accident scenes.

The Headlight received several requests not to publish any photographs of the scene of a fatal accident last week.

The picture that was published was a picture of the vehicle after the

accident.

The Headlight chose not to publish other pictures of a more graphic nature.

Reporting on fatal accidents is never easy.

This accident happened at an intersection where, the Headlight has been told, there have been a number of accidents in the past.

Can steps be taken to minimize

further the risk of an accident at that location?

Will publishing a picture of the accident, instead of just a story, help bring attention to this situation?

The Headlight does not know the final answers to those questions, but we publish accident photographs as part of our role of providing information to the public.

IF YOU JUST RELAX, YOU'LL GO TO SLEEP...

HOW CAN I RELAX WHEN TH' LAWN KEEPS GROWIN'?!?

HUM-M-M-M-M-M-M-M-M-M

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