

TACCA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Texas Air Conditioning Contractors Association

May 2017

HB 3029 Update!

HB 3029, TACCA's legislative effort to modify the current Technician Certification has been voted out of committee as of April 27th. The bill will now move onto the Local and Consent Calendar where we will have a vote to get the bill out of the Texas House of Representatives. This should occur within the next 10 days or so. From there, onto the Senate side. Thanks to all who have helped along the way to gain support and efforts in getting this important piece of legislation passed. Our industry needs a change, and this COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY legislation will help offer a change and give new entries into our industry a much needed credentialing that can be used to set a minimum level of competency when it comes to hiring and a technicians skills. Look for more information as we continue to move through the process.

Challengers to Sen. Ted Cruz Face Uphill Climb

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-San Antonio) \$218,822 raised; \$63,219 spent; \$282,835 cash-on-hand; \$0 debt
Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-El Paso) \$590,656 raised; \$353,785 spent; \$398,699 cash-on-hand; \$0 debt

Rep. O'Rourke has now announced for the Senate, and did so at the tail end of the quarter. Therefore, he will have to make substantial fundraising progress to obtain the multi-millions of dollars it will take to run a credible challenge against Sen. Cruz.

Rep. Castro says he will make a decision in the next several weeks about also entering the Senate race. His fundraising so far suggests that he will not do so.

In 2012, Sen. Cruz spent over \$14 million to win the seat for the first time.

Key Components of the TACCA Technician Certification Changes:

BECOMING A CERTIFIED TECHNICIAN IS CURRENTLY, AND WILL BE VOLUNTARY UNDER THIS BILL.

HB 3029 amends the definition and standards for achieving "certified technician" status to align the HVAC statute with SB 22 by Chairman Larry Taylor, the P-TECH schools model, and with Texas' "60x30TX" plan: *By 2030, at least 60 percent of Texans ages 25-34 will have a certificate or degree.* The amended technician certificate will indicate that those students who complete the HVAC training program in high school, an apprenticeship, community college, technical institute, or military training, have identifiable, marketable skills.

Those students who receive the technician certificate pursuant to a P-TECH or high school CTE program will have zero student debt as they begin their careers. Students graduating from a P-TECH HVAC program will also have completed HVAC internships while in school.