

# Legislature Opens, TAHU Tracking Begins

The legislative session is here, folks, and TAHU's Legislative Council and lobbyist Lee Manross are in full swing tracking it for you. As some of you might be following, committees in the House have been named and as of Wednesday, Feb. 18, more than 2,000 bills had been sent to committees!



Misty Baker  
Treasurer  
TAHU



## *Postcards From the Ledge*

I wanted to highlight just a few bills that we are tracking (54 on our list so far):

**Senate Bill 80 (author: Sen. Jane Nelson)** -- This legislative proposal is aimed at getting more "working uninsured" Texans covered in small group plans by encouraging 100% participation by all employees. This is one of TAHU's top initiatives for this session.

**Senate Bill 79 (author: Sen. Jane Nelson)** -- Another TAHU legislative initiative, SB 79 would create a voluntary, specialty agent certification for people specializing in small group. TDI Commissioner Mike Geeslin described agents who participate in this proposed program as having the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

**Role of an Agent** – While we don't have a bill filed on this topic, TAHU wants to stress the importance of our profession. If you haven't printed your copy of the Agent brochure yet, click here: <http://www.tahu.org/associations/1290/files/brochureAgentRole.pdf>

If you aren't already registered for Day at the Capitol on March 2, in Austin, what are you waiting for? This could be the most influential session for our industry, don't let someone else decide your future, come to Austin and make your voice be heard! Click here to register: <http://tahu.org/cde.cfm?event=218135>.

Do you know what the best use of taxpayer money is? The Texas Capitol website. [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) You can look up who represents you, track legislation, download pictures of the Capitol, watch the House or Senate meetings online and so much more. Take a few minutes and check it out.

Federally speaking, you have heard a lot about the recovery/stimulus bill, right? Well, here is the official website, complete with FAQ's, diagrams and a feedback page. It is transparency at its finest! Check out [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) for more information.

Keep your eyes open for more Postcards from the Ledge. We are so excited to share legislative information with our most valued members. As always, if you have comments for the TAHU Legislative Council please email us: [legcouncil@tahu.org](mailto:legcouncil@tahu.org)