



# John Zerwas, M.D.

## State Representative

### District 28

Capitol Update - April 29, 2011

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### Legislative Update from the Texas House of Representatives

#### ***House Bill 150***

HB 150 is the enabling legislation that will establish the new district lines for the state's redistricting plan. With the large influx of individuals to Fort Bend County since the last census, District 28 had to reduce its size in order to meet the average district population of 167,000 constituents. Under this plan, District 28 will encompass the western portion of Fort Bend County. Waller and Wharton counties will now be included in two new districts with new representatives.

#### ***House Bill 273***

The interstate compact is a tool that can be used to move control of health care from the federal government to the states. This bill by Representative Zerwas would create the Texas Health Care Compact Advisory Committee, and this committee would conduct a study to determine the state's ability to assume regulatory control over health care. HB 273 was voted out of the House on Wednesday.

#### ***House Bill 2245***

HB 2245 by Representative Zerwas will require HHSC to study the physician incentive programs offered by the Medicaid HMO's. Medicaid clients frequently use expensive emergency rooms for conditions that could easily be treated in a less expensive primary care setting. HB 2245 aims to reduce the non-emergent use of the ER by directing patients to a more appropriate setting. This bill was voted out of the House on Tuesday.

#### ***House Bill 3299***

HB 3299 by Representative Zerwas relates to services provided by a health care professional at an assisted living facility. This bill clarifies the ability of a resident to receive nursing services directly from a licensed health care professional employed by an assisted living facility at the facility. The legislation was heard before the Public Health Committee on Thursday.

#### ***Legislative Resources***

There are a multitude of resources available to the public that can help an individual follow the legislative process. From audio and video archives to a legislative bill search portal, the House website provides plenty of helpful links and information. Please visit [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us) for more information.

#### ***Capitol Visits***

If you would like to set up a Capitol tour through Representative Zerwas's office, please send an email to [caroline.dickerson@house.state.tx.us](mailto:caroline.dickerson@house.state.tx.us). Due to the amount of individuals visiting the Capitol during session, please give our office at least two weeks notice from when you would like to schedule the tour.



Representative Zerwas met with Major General John Nicholas, Adjutant General and Commander of the Texas National Guard on Wednesday.

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