

To: Speak Up Volunteers
From: Mayor Elsie Thurman

April 25, 2025

Once again, thank you for your letters and phone calls to our HSB representatives! We are continuing to make a difference, but there is still work to do. We are a little over halfway through the session (ending June 2nd), but many bills are still in committees waiting for hearings.

This week I'm asking for your help with two bills described below: **House Bill 134** and **House Bill 5148**.

HB 134: This bill will change where sales tax is collected for online purchases. Currently, when a HSB resident buys something online, the sales tax is collected in the city where the item is shipped out. This bill will allow HSB to collect the sales tax. The resulting revenue may allow HSB to keep a lower property tax rate by offsetting sources of revenue.

HB 5148: This bill would prohibit cities from requiring more than one stairway in a multifamily residential building under certain conditions. This bill is a degradation of current fire safety standards. HSB Fire Chief Fowler says his industry has worked hard to advocate for two ways of escaping in an emergency. This bill takes that away. There is no reasonable business reason to eliminate this safety measure other than to increase profits for those building such structures. Another example of the power and influence the "developers" lobbies have in Austin.

What can you do?

Click on your Representative's name below to be taken to their "Contact Me" webpage. It is helpful if you send a separate message for each bill, but you can combine them if time is an issue.

In the form, provide the requested information (Title=Citizen, Company (if asked) = Horseshoe Bay, TX) in the form. In the Subject line, type the bill number (**HB 134** or **HB 5148**).

In the message portion, include at least the bill number and the fact that you oppose or support it. We **support HB 134** (increasing sales tax revenue in HSB) and **oppose HB 5148** (removing fire safety standard) (**example messages are below**).

Click here to contact: [House Representative Wes Virdell \(Llano County citizens\)](#)

Click here to contact: [House Representative Ellen Troxclair \(Burnet County citizens\)](#)

House Bill 134 Support Message: I support HB 134, which will allow cities to collect sales tax on the purchases made by their citizens.

House Bill 5148 Opposition Message: I am opposed to HB 5148, which seeks to remove a city's ability to require certain fire safety standards in multifamily housing.



More resources online!

We are building a new page on the city's website to include information and updates about the session. Please visit the link below when you have time and let us know what you think (email: speakup@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov).

Speak Up Horseshoe Bay webpage: <https://horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/974/Speak-Up-Horseshoe-Bay>

We will continue to monitor these bills closely and keep you informed of any developments. Your engagement is our community's greatest strength.

With sincere appreciation,

Elsie Thurman

Mayor

City of Horseshoe Bay

(505) 690-5705