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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016

CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM HEARING LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR INTERIM STUDIES

Austin –The House Committee on Culture, Recreation and Tourism met on Tuesday, January 26, to hear invited testimony on all five of its interim charges. Chairman Ryan Guillen (D – District 31) called the hearing to address issues of disaster relief, state park expansion, illegal behavior on the San Marcos River, and the state’s promotion of tourism, youth education, and economic development.

“The wealth of testimony we heard on these issue,” said Guillen. “That’ll give us a solid foundation for our work over the next year. The goal is to study these issues, inside and out, so that we can come up with strong recommendations for the 85th Legislature.”

In November, House Speaker Joe Straus assigned interim charges on a variety of issues to committees based on their jurisdiction. The committees are tasked with examining the issues and reporting their findings and recommendations to the full body of the legislature in 2017.

The Committee on Culture, Recreation, and Tourism was issued charges related to monitoring state park expansion and disaster relief efforts, exploring ways to improve and promote tourism and economic development, addressing issues on the San Marcos River, and conducting legislative oversight of the agencies under the purview of the committee.

At the hearing, invited agencies and stakeholders will testify to inform the members on the issues. The January hearing will take place at the State Capitol in Austin at 11am. The committee intends to hold additional field hearings as needed to investigate the charges.

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