

**SUBJECT:** Redesignating Speaker's Day as Speaker's Reunion Day

**COMMITTEE:** State Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 13 ayes — Seidlits, Turner, Alvarado, Black, Bosse, Carter, Danburg, Hilbert, B. Hunter, D. Jones, McCall, Ramsay, Wolens

0 nays

2 absent — Craddick, Hochberg

**WITNESSES:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code Chapter 303 authorizes a Speaker's Day ceremony to honor the service of the speaker of the House of Representatives to the state. The code requires the chairman of the ceremony to report to the secretary of state contributions of \$50 or more made to finance the event.

**DIGEST:** HB 1527 would redesignate Speaker's Day as Speaker's Reunion Day. The purpose would be to honor former members of the House of Representatives. HB 1527 would also set a limit of \$100, in cash or in kind, per contributor, toward Speaker's Reunion Day events. The bill would take immediate effect if approved by two-thirds of the membership of each house.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** In recent years Speaker's Day has been used as a way to honor all former members of the House of Representatives. HB 1527 would simply codify this practice and help ensure its continuation.

The \$100-per-contributor limit would assure that no one may try to use the event to make excessive contributions. Speaker's Day had been criticized in the past as a means for lobbyists to bestow gifts on the speaker and other House members. Setting this limit low would prevent any person or organization from contributing more than the average person could contribute.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition