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Former state lawmaker joins think tank

Former state Rep. Talmadge Heflin, who chaired the powerful Texas House Appropriations Committee in 2003-04, will help the [Texas Public Policy Foundation](#) study the state's budget, the Austin research group said Monday.

Heflin, a Houston Republican, will be a visiting research fellow at the foundation's Center for Fiscal Policy Studies. Heflin will work indefinitely in the part-time position, says Michael Quinn Sullivan, vice president of the group.

In Houston, Heflin works primarily as a private business consultant.

Heflin served 11 terms in the House before narrowly losing to Democrat Hubert Vo last November.

At the foundation, Heflin will team up with Byron Schlomach, the group's chief economist, to review the state budget in an effort to recommend cost savings during the 2007 legislative session.

"As the budget continues to grow, the public needs to understand what they are getting," Heflin says.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research institute.

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