

**NEWS****Texas Legislature**

## Under the Dome

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**From Staff and Wire Reports**

Perry: Richards wouldn't object to selling lottery

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry continued his pitch for selling the lottery to raise money for public education, health insurance and cancer research Thursday before a gathering of state leaders. Speaking at a policy meeting of the Texas Public Priorities Foundation, a conservative think-tank, Mr. Perry said that taking the \$14 billion he believes the state could get for the lottery and applying part of it to a fund for cancer research would win approval from the governor who pushed to create the lottery in 1991. "Ann Richards would look with pride upon us for what we are doing to find the cancer cure that's out there in the future," Mr. Perry said. Ms. Richards died in September of esophageal cancer. Mr. Perry also said he would push for an end to budget-balancing practices that use accounting tricks and redirect specialized fees from taxpayers, amounting to about \$5 billion.

Christy Hoppe

Senator: Take Texas justice international

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AP

Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls, hopes to establish a Texas prison in Mexico.

AUSTIN – With so many nonviolent Mexican citizens clogging an increasingly jammed Texas prison system, a state lawmaker thinks it may be time for Texas to set up its own prison in Mexico. State officials fear a looming crunch in Texas' prison system. As of Dec. 31, 8,058 Mexican nationals were among the 152,671 convicts in 110 Texas prisons. About half of those Mexican prisoners are considered nonviolent and would be prime to send to a prison in Mexico, said Sen. Craig Estes, R-Wichita Falls. Texas prison officials won't comment on pending legislation, but Sen. John Whitmire, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, put the idea on death row, saying it is "unconstitutional and unworkable." Mr. Estes submitted a similar bill late in the Legislature's session two years ago.

Lawmakers want kids to have more PE time

AUSTIN – Two lawmakers are calling for more physical education in Texas schools to help combat obesity-related diseases like diabetes. The proposal, filed in their respective chambers by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Lewisville, and Rep. Rob Eissler, R-The Woodlands, would require moderate to vigorous daily activity for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade for at least 30 minutes a day. It would require a physical fitness assessment of all public students at the beginning and end of each school year and reported to the Texas Education Agency, with students' names made anonymous. Current law requires 30 minutes of physical activity per day or 135 minutes per week for children up to the sixth grade, but some critics say that no checks are in place and schools have too much wiggle room to avoid the physical activity requirement.