

88TH RESULTS

2023 Legislative Session



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Friends,

With the tireless dedication of our members, the TAB team, and partner organizations, we helped to achieve our top priorities: secured a new economic development tool, community college finance reform, regulatory consistency, data privacy, and broadband enhancement.

We also played some good defense. We preserved ERISA and pushed back against numerous healthcare mandates and private rights of action.

This is a strong ROI for employers across our state. I want to personally thank our Chairman Massey Villarreal and our Board Members. When the dust settles this will go down as one of the best sessions for businesses.

Thank you for your commitment to TAB and to Texas. The Texas Miracle is alive and stronger than ever.

GLENN HAMER

President & CEO

Texas Association of Business



TAB BY THE NUMBERS

88th Texas Legislative Session | January - May 2023

Verbal Testimony



40

Written Testimony



30

Letters Circulated



14

Cards Dropped



186

Tweets

300

Impressions

234,200

Op-Eds + Blogs

22

LinkedIn

109

Impressions

15,135

Press Releases

12



TEXAS
ASSOCIATION OF
BUSINESS

THE TEXAS STATE CHAMBER

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HB 5 (Hunter) — Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act — FOR Results: PASSED

Establishes a new, transparent and accountable state economic development incentive tool that provides temporary tax limitations for large capital investments, bringing jobs and long-term revenue to Texas communities.

HB 8 (VanDeaver) — Community College Finance Reform — FOR Results: PASSED

Establishes an outcomes-based funding model for community colleges that rewards colleges for positive outcomes, ensures equitable access through financial aid, and helps community colleges increase capacity to meet rapidly changing workforce needs.

HB 2127 (Burrows) — Texas Regulatory Consistency Act — FOR Results: PASSED

Prevents local governments from implementing regulations on private-sector employment, such as mandates on paid time off, overtime, and predictive scheduling to create a consistent set of laws for employers to operate under.

HB 4 (Capriglione) — Texas Data Privacy & Security Act — FOR Results: PASSED

Establishes a state data privacy standard that enables private sector innovation and protects the privacy and security of consumer data.

HB 9 (Ashby) — Broadband Enhancement — FOR Results: PASSED

Creates broadband infrastructure fund, allocating \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years, to ensure the program is fully funded and is accessible and affordable to Texans.

HB 19 (Murr) — Business Courts — FOR Results: PASSED

Creates specialty trial courts, giving businesses confidence knowing there are judges with the expertise necessary to deal with complex disputes among business parties.

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HB 290 (Oliverson/Hancock) – Health Plan Options for Employers – FOR

Results: PASSED, Governor Signed

Creates a new pathway for chambers to offer health insurance to their member companies.

SB 28 (Perry) — Texas Water Development Board — FOR

Results: PASSED

Relating to financial assistance provided and programs administered by the Texas Water Development Board. Establishes the New Water Supply for Texas Fund, which allows investments in new water sources such as desalination.

HB 12 (Rose) – Medicaid Following Pregnancy – FOR

Results: PASSED

Extends the time Medicaid is able to be used from two months to 12 months following pregnancy.

HB 3447 (Bonnen/Huffman) – Texas Space Commission – FOR

Results: PASSED

Establishes the Texas Space Commission and Texas Aerospace Research and Space Economy Consortium to leverage state resources on major space-related initiatives and fosters continued investment in the state's space economy.

HB 2466 (Button) – Texas Technology and Innovation Program – FOR

Results: *Did not make it out of calendars*

Creates the Texas Technology and Innovation Program to increase economic development and job creation.

SB 1238 (Nichols/Ashby) – Broadband Development – FOR

Results: PASSED

Updates statute to better align with updated federal guidelines on broadband mapping and availability.

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SB 1499 (Nichols/Canales) — Funding for Ports — FOR

Results: PASSED

Allows funding from the port access account fund to be used in support of infrastructure projects and limits the amount of funds given to a specific district or port authority.

SCR 2 (Nichols/Canales) – State Highway Fund – FOR

Results: PASSED

Allows the Comptroller of Public Accounts to deposit tax revenues to the State Highway Fund.

HB 1595 (Bonnen/Huffman) – Texas University Fund – FOR

Results: PASSED

Redesignates the National Research University Fund as the Texas University Fund and offers performance-based funding for research institutions. This redesignation will allow universities to accelerate their progress in fulfilling the Building a Talent Strong Texas program that was established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

HB 5174 (Bonnen/Huffman) — Texas CHIPS Act — FOR

Results: PASSED

The Texas CHIPS Act would strengthen Texas' investments in the semiconductor industry, encourage semiconductor-related companies to expand in the state, leverage the expertise and capacity at Texas higher education institutions, and maintain Texas' position as the nation's leader in semiconductor manufacturing.

HB 1707 (Klick/Hughes) — Regulatory Consistency for Charter Schools —

FOR Results: PASSED

This legislation will end city-level discrimination against charter schools in zoning and permitting processes.

SJR 81 (Birdwell) – Permanent Instruction in Manufacturing and Technical Workforce Operations Funds – FOR Results: CCR not filed before deadline

Creates the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and workforce education fund to support Texas State Technical College System programs.

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HB 1515 (Clardy) – Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office – FOR

Results: PASSED

Creates an advisory committee that will make recommendations on programs and policies conducted by the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office.

HB 2575 (Button) – Workforce Diploma Program – FOR

Results: PASSED

Postpones the expiration of the workforce diploma pilot program and specifies that for a provider to be eligible under the program, the provider must be working in partnership with an entity that can authorize and grant a high school diploma.

HB 3060 (Thompson) – Advanced Recycling – FOR

Results: PASSED

Expands the scope of technologies included in advanced recycling to promote growth of the industry and increased use of recycling technologies.

HB 1605 (Buckley/Creighton) – Foundation School Program – FOR

Results: PASSED

Provides schools with high quality, grade-level instructional materials, allows certain materials to be procured from the Foundation School Program, and revises the material review process.

HB 2660 (Capriglione) – Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council – FOR

Results: PASSED

Establishes the Artificial Intelligence Advisory Council to study and monitor the use of AI systems by state agencies in Texas.

SB 1017 (Birdwell) – Regulating Energy Source – FOR

Results: PASSED

Prohibits political subdivisions from regulating a specific energy source or engine.

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SB 784 (Birdwell) – Greenhouse Gas Preemption – FOR

Results: PASSED

Preempts local governments and jurisdictions from being able to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

HB 1598 (Darby) – Regulation of Solid Waste Facilities – FOR

Results: PASSED

Preempts local governments and political subdivisions from being able to regulate certain solid waste facilities.

SB 502 (Hughes) – Disposal of Drill Cuttings – FOR

Results: PASSED

Revises tort liability shield provisions to include ancillary disposal of transferred drill cuttings. Includes expanded definition for drill cuttings.

HB 2416 (Paul) – Gulf Coast Protection Trust Fund – FOR

Results: PASSED

Creates the gulf coast protection trust fund administered by the General Land Office to fund infrastructure necessary to protect the coast.

SB 2294 (Creighton/Kuempel) – Texas First – FOR

Results: PASSED, Governor Signed

Expands eligibility for the Texas First programs to more higher education institutions and establishes programs that facilitate early high school graduation and early enrollment into higher education institutions.

HB 681 (Bell/Bettencourt) – Virtual Commission – FOR

Results: *Died on point of order*

This legislation was the result of an interim commission established to develop and make recommendations regarding the delivery of virtual education in the public school system and state funding for virtual education under the Foundation School Program.

Died on a point of order

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HB 2262 (Darby) – Gas Utility Expenses – FOR

Results: *Not placed on intent calendar*

Allows gas utilities to blend gas to supplement current natural gas portfolio for commercial and residential uses.

SB 1204 (Paxton) – Information Security – FOR

Results: *Did not make it out of calendars*

Requires an independent cybersecurity assessment for state and local government agencies. It also facilitates cybersecurity resource sharing related to information security and information technology.

SB 896 (Hughes) – Anti-SLAPP – FOR

Results: *Did not make it out of calendars*

Provides a temporary stay of proceedings where a motion is denied for not being timely filed, is exempt under anti-SLAPP law, or is deemed frivolous.

HB 1755 (Button) – Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund – FOR

Results: **PASSED, Governor Signed**

Creates the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund to increase current and future Texans to fill workforce gaps.

HB 2729 (Harris, Cody) – Teacher Requirements for PreK Programs – FOR

Results: **PASSED**

Allows school districts to utilize public-private partnerships to find adequate teaching personnel by eliminating certain certification requirements for prekindergarten classrooms.

HB 2263 (Darby) – Energy Conservation Programs – FOR

Results: **PASSED**

Gives authority to natural gas local distribution companies to offer energy conservation programs.

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HB 2073 (Price/Metcalf/Hefner/Dean) – Purchased Power Cost Recovery – FOR - Results: PASSED, Governor Signed

Allows electric utilities to recover fuel and purchased power costs.

HB 4390 (Button/Bettencourt) - Definitional Clarification for IRAP - FOR Results: Died on point of order

This bill would clarify the definition of Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) to be tied to the Texas Workforce Commission rather than the Dept. of Labor's rescinded rule under the Biden Administration. Updating the IRAP definition will allow Texas's IRAP Grant Program (\$20 million) to be funded.

SB 9 (Creighton) and HB 11 (Dutton) – Teacher pay raises, school funding, increasing basic allotment – FOR - Results: Died, could be added to a special session.

Major Business Budget Wins:

- Texas Enterprise Fund - \$150 million
- Community Colleges (HB 8) - \$683 million in additional funding
- Nearly \$17.6 billion in property tax relief, including \$12.2 billion in new tax cuts from the passage of SB 3 & SJR 3.
- Texas University Fund – \$3 billion
- Broadband funding (HB 9 contingency) - \$1.5 billion (Federal dollars are available on a 4:1 match)
- Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium - \$698 million
- CPA (SB 28 & SJR 75) – Texas Water Fund - \$1 billion
- Texas Space Commission - \$350 million
 - Construct facilities adjacent to Johnson Space Center - \$200 million
 - Texas Space Commission \$150 million
- TAMU - quantum and artificial intelligence chip fabrication - \$200 million
- Continued funding within the Office of the Governor to operate foreign trade offices to promote Texas investment and tourism. Including dedicated funding to support an economic development office in Taiwan.
- Appropriated \$150 million to the Moving Image Industry Incentive Program to incentivize investment from the moving image industry and create jobs in Texas