

Texas 81st Legislative Session Highlights

Changes to Texas Laws
Impacting Our Industry



2009 Session by the Numbers



REGULAR SESSION

Jan 13–Jun 1

7,419

Bills Filed

1,459

Passed

39

Vetoed

1ST CALLED SESSION

Jul 1–Jul 2

24

Bills Filed

2

Passed

0

Vetoed



Texas' 81st Legislative Session

The 81st Legislative Session provided a backdrop for many regulatory and governmental issues that involved the trucking industry setting the framework for TXTA's legislative agenda. Topics ranged from the fuel tax increases to fuel tax rebates and clean air. The Texas Margins Tax was then—and still remains—a great concern for the highly capital-intensive trucking industry now hindered by the unintended consequences of the reformed business tax..

Bills Passed and Impacting Our Industry

Cell Phone Use

Drivers may not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle within a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or the wireless communication device is used with a hands-free device.

Idling in Sleeper Berth

A driver will no longer have an exemption to idle while getting mandated rest.

Post Office Box Not Valid as Address

An applicant for a commercial driver's license may receive delivery of their license at a post office box only if the applicant has provided the DPS with documentation necessary to verify the validity of the physical address where the applicant resides.

Life Time CDL Ban

A person is disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle for life if the person uses a motor vehicle in an offense that involves the transportation, concealment or harboring of an alien.

State and Employer Notification of Motor Vehicle Traffic Violation

A driver of a commercial driver's license must notify the State and their employer within seven days of a conviction of any motor vehicle traffic law or ordinance violation.

For additional summaries, statistics and information related to the 81st Texas Legislative Session and other past sessions please visit the Legislative Reference Library of Texas at www.lrl.texas.gov/sessions/sessionYears.cfm