

Texas 82nd Legislative Session Highlights

Changes to Texas Laws
Impacting Our Industry



2011 Session by the Numbers



REGULAR SESSION

Jan 11–May 30

5,796

Bills Filed

1,379

Passed

25

Vetoed

1ST CALLED SESSION

May 31–Jun 29

114

Bills Filed

8

Passed

0

Vetoed



Texas' 82nd Legislative Session

TXTA led successful efforts to reform and modernize several regulatory laws that affected the trucking industry. TXTA won the support of several Texas environmental groups during our push to allow for unrestricted idling for Certified Clean Idle Engines. On the law enforcement front, TXTA advocated to enhance penalties for non-registered Household Goods Carriers, which led to an increase in prosecutions and a subsequent decrease in “hostage loads.” Additionally, TXTA’s agency relationships helped guide a transfer of oversize/overweight permitting and weight enforcement functions from TxDOT to the TxDMV.

Bills Passed and Impacting Our Industry

SB 493

Will allow “certified clean idle engines” to idle without restrictions in the State. The bill also allows up to a 400 pound weight exemption for trucks with an operational idle reduction system.

HB 441

Eliminates the higher token trailer fee and rolls it into the 2060 permit base fee.

HB 1523

Increases penalties of non-registered Household Goods carriers that engaging in or solicits household goods moves for compensation.

SB 1420

(TxDOT Sunset Bill) contains language to move the administrative functions of the issuance of oversize/overweight permitting away from TxDOT and to the Department of Motor Vehicles. It also moved the TxDOT size and weight enforcement functions to DMV as well.

SB 385

Allows for monies in the Texas emissions reduction plan fund to be used for infrastructure under an existing alternative fuel program.

HB 2694

(TCEQ Sunset Bill) contains an affirmative defense to the imposition of an administrative penalty under certain circumstances such as registration information for the underground storage tank obtained from the commission’s Internet website not more than 30 days before the date of delivery.

SB 20

Encourages companies with on-road heavy-duty vehicles to either replace the vehicles with natural gas vehicles or repower the vehicles with natural gas engines by creating a natural gas vehicle grant program administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The bill also provides grants for the construction of natural gas fueling facilities.

HB 1330

Requires flaps on the rear tires if the vehicle has super single tires.

For additional summaries, statistics and information related to the 82nd Texas Legislative Session and other past sessions please visit the Legislative Reference Library of Texas at www.lrl.texas.gov/sessions/sessionYears.cfm