87th Regular Legislative Session ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX North Texas Delegation

Allen Fairview Chamber
Cedar Hill Chamber
Colleyville Chamber
Dallas Regional Chamber
East Parker County Chamber
Fort Worth Chamber
Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber
Frisco Chamber
Garland Chamber

Grand Prairie Chamber
Grapevine Chamber
Grapevine Chamber
Hurst Euless Bedford Chamber
Irving Hispanic Chamber
Irving-Las Colinas Chamber
Kaufman Chamber
Longview Chamber
Mansfield Chamber

McKinney Chamber Metrocrest Chamber North Dallas Chamber North Texas Commission North Texas LGBT Chamber Plano Chamber Richardson Chamber



The North Texas Commission formed the Regional Chamber Coalition (RCC) in 2018 to create an unified regional advocacy effort. Prior to the start of the 87th Regular Legislative Session, over 100 chambers of commerce met and identified key legislative priorities that will support growth of the North Texas economy, business competitiveness, local governments, water and infrastructure, health care systems, public schools, higher education, and workforce development. **Pro-business** priorities and positions (Support or Opposition) were selected. Along with the Commission's Advocacy team, nine Chambers have dedicated government relations professionals. These advocacy professionals led a specific legislative priority throughout the session. In addition to tracking bills and providing topic-specific information, we frequently communicated with our delegation to influence legislation.

The Accountability Index serves as a record of how the North Texas Delegation voted on each of the RCC's priority bills that reached the House and Senate for final consideration. The RCC appreciates the leadership of each of our 50 North Texas representatives and senators. The RCC will continue to advocate for legislation which is **pro-business** and makes Texas a more competitive state in terms of attracting and retaining talent, and we encourage our delegation members to take the same approach during the two special sessions.

PRIORITY BILLS

Maintain public school funding levels established in HB3 including full funding for high-quality pre-K and early childhood education for all eligible children.

SUPPORT: SB 1 and HB 1525

Maintain higher education formula funding from the 86th Session including restoring 5% mid-biennium cuts to higher education institutions.

SUPPORT: SB 1, HB 1530, and HB 3767

Maintain funding for the Skills Development Fund grants to improve workforce training including 60X30TX, the Texas Reskilling & Upskilling Through Education initiative, and continuing investment in SBDCs to support small businesses.

SUPPORT: SB 1102

Maintain all economic development tools available, reauthorizing Chapter 313 to enable Texas the ability to compete for major capital-intensive projects, fund the Texas Enterprise Fund, Event Trust Fund, Texas Tourism, the Texas Music Office, and the Texas Film Commission at levels that keeps Texas competitive with other states.

SUPPORT: HB 1556* and HB 4242

Support the reduction of the number of uninsured Texans by securing federal/state funds to reform and renew opportunities to broaden the net of coverage for the uninsured.

SUPPORT: HB 133, SB 117/HB 3871*, and SB 1 Amendment 54

Keep Texas open for business by ensuring all persons are welcome regardless of race, religion, or gender expression including supporting comprehensive non-discrimination policies.

SUPPORT: HB 3860*; OPPOSE: SB 29 and HB 4042

Support innovative financing tools that would leverage state funds to create jobs and expedite delivery of needed transportation and infrastructure projects as well as maintenance.

SUPPORT: HB 2219, HB 2905*, HB 3159*, HB 3160*, and HB 4420

Oppose any attempt to limit or prohibit the authority of city, county, and/or school district officials to use public funds to communicate with legislators and state agencies.

OPPOSE: SB 10 and HB 749*

Continue the exercise of equitable eminent domain to allow for construction of roads, pipelines, power transmission lines, rail, and water infrastructure.

OPPOSE: HB 3312* and HB 3633*

Developing plans and resources needed for greater broadband connectivity to enhanced access to public education, healthcare, employment, news, and information.

SUPPORT: HB 5

Additional RCC Priority Bills that impact the business climate and economic viability of the North Texas region.

SUPPORT: SB 3 (Power Grid Reform), SB 6 (Pandemic Reliability Act), and HB 1195 (PPP Tax Exemption)

OPPOSE: SB 19 (Prohibits Contracts with Companies that Discriminate Against Firearms) and SB 219 (Limits Civil Liability & Contract Negotiations)

* Bill died in legislative process

North Texas Regional Chamber Coalition (RCC) **ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX**

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McKinney Chamber Metrocrest Chamber North Dallas Chambe North Texas Com North Texas LGBT Chamber Richardson Chamber



XVoted AGAINST RCC Position Voted FOR RCC Position NV - No Floor Vote A - Absent PNV - Present Not Voting C - In Speaker's Chair

	Senate
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The RCC will continue to work on the following:

House

- * The Chapter 313 reform bill, **HB1556**, which attempted to improve the existing process, died in the House due to a lack of support.
- * Unfortunately, SB 117/HB 3871, the "Live Well Texas" bills died. Despite a bipartisan effort in the House, HB 3871 was not given a hearing in the House Human Services committee. (SB 1 Amendment 54 allowed for debate of the benefits of Medicaid expansion during the budget discussion, but ultimately failed on the House floor.)
- * HB 3860, would have provided comprehensive support for non-discrimination of LGBTQ individuals, did not move forward as it did not receive a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.
- * HB 2905 regarding the use of water-related projects was left pending in the House Natural Resources Committee. HB 3159 and HB 3160 (regarding the use of comprehensive development agreements) were left pending in the House Transportation Committee.
- * HB 749 would have prohibited the use of taxpayer dollars to hire lobbyists to communicate with legislators and state agencies. The bill died in the House State Affairs Committee.
- * Neither HB 3312 nor HB 3633 (which would have negatively impacted the high-speed rail project) were successful as they were left pending in committee, which is a win for our region.