

2023 TX Legislative Wrap-Up Virtual Event Transcription
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Spilman, Annie0:03

Thank you for attending today.

We've got our NFIB Texas legislative wrap up.

I'm Annie Spilman.

I'm our Texas State director and we've also got Sarah Horn with us, our Texas assistant state director.

This webinar is being recorded and will take question and answer at the end of the program so you can also put those in the chat box or you can email those to us later and we'll provide that contact information at the end.

So prior to legislative session and if I be identified 4 main priorities and those priorities are business, personal property, tax relief, regulatory consistency and reform, reeling in health insurance costs and workforce development, we didn't just come up with those on our own.

We worked with our in FIBA membership.

You all through our ballot process to create our legislative agenda.

So let's dive right in.

We're going to start out with the most important and sort of go out of order, regulatory consistency and reform.

We were very proud to Pass Hospital 2127, the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act.

The governor actually mentioned this as a priority of his own at our small business day in February and what this says purely and simply is that cities and counties must forego regulating issues that are already being regulated at the state and federal level.

That's pretty simple, right?

Well, it was very controversial because cities felt like through this legislation that state was trying to, you know, take away some of their regulatory authority.

But for years and years and years, we've seen cities begin to regulate private employment practices, begin to tell you how to operate your business, who to hire, how to hire, what benefits to offer, how much to pay and get into, you know, your your labor and business and commerce type issues.

Those have never been issues that cities have regulated on the local level.

Those have always been regulated on the state and federal level, and that's where we want to keep it for the sake of consistency.

So this, that's where this legislation was born.

And it's something that Anna 5, be along with many other business groups.

This is something we've worked on for multiple sessions and we're very proud of this legislation.

It's gotten national news.

We believe it's a fair piece of legislation that sort of takes the pressure off of small businesses from being regulated at all levels and it helps you really comply with, you know, important laws that have statewide implication and understand those laws, especially if you're operating in multiple jurisdictions.

And so obviously your your your locals will still be able to do their regulating of public health and safety, but local infrastructure zoning, permitting, all of those things.

But things that are really regulating how you operate your business and employment law, those are all going to be dealt with on the state and federal level.

We're very proud of this legislation and again the governor recently signed this.

He put an exclamation point next to his signature, and it's really a historic piece of legislation.

Again, that's called the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act and you can go to our NFIB, Texas website to read more about that.

Very proud of that.

Another build that NFIB supported, sort of in the same vein, prohibits cities, counties and the Department of State Health Services from restricting the packaging, utensils or straws that are food service business would provide to its customers.

You know, that seems pretty narrow.

That then also goes into the same vein of cities trying to regulate what a business does or how they operate, adding to the cost and compliance of what you do on a daily basis.

You've heard the along the years of the bag bans or the can bans, which would just end up ultimately costing you more money or potential fines if you're actually still using a plastic bag or an aluminum can or using straws.

So this legislation that NFIB supported was actually driven by the Restaurant Association and we partner with them a lot.