



Texas Legislative Session Stats

NFIB entered the 88th Legislative Session with four main priorities based on member feedback: Business Personal Property Tax Relief, Regulatory Consistency & Reform; Reeling in Health Insurance Costs, and Workforce Development.

NFIB scored big wins on many of these issues, but legislators let our small business owners down by not passing tax relief of any kind during the regular session. While NFIB checked off many of the priorities this session and successfully killed extremely harmful legislation that would threaten the livelihood of our members, challenges still lie ahead for the small business community.

Business Personal Property Tax Relief

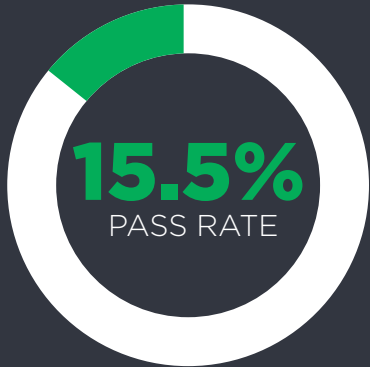
Prior to the legislative session, NFIB heard from thousands of members who said that they specifically needed tax relief on their business personal property or "inventory tax". The current inventory tax exemption stands at a di minims \$2,500 in Texas. Both Governor Abbott and Lt. Governor Patrick initially urged the legislature to increase the exemption to \$100,000 to provide meaningful relief, but neither body produced a bill that would accomplish that goal. Further, the legislature failed to pass tax relief of any kind for small businesses, forcing the Governor to call them into a special session immediately following adjournment of the regular session. *(special session was not concluded prior to print)

Regulatory Consistency & Reform

For years, NFIB has fought against labor union efforts that chip away at private business operations in this country. We've been successful on the state level by opposing and killing costly and burdensome legislation, while supporting measures to ensure regulatory certainty and a strong economy. However, labor unions have had the support of cities and counties in Texas that lack oversight and accountability. These localities have consequently passed ordinances into local law that are well outside of their regulatory jurisdiction. These "local" ordinances have statewide implications on business activity and create major cost and compliance burdens on small businesses. This session, NFIB led the effort in passing the Texas Regulatory Consistency Act -- historic legislation that will curtail local efforts to regulate private employment practices and major streams of commerce. The legislation directs local governments to forgo regulating issues that are already addressed at the state level and will force local governments to analyze ordinances before they pass them in law.

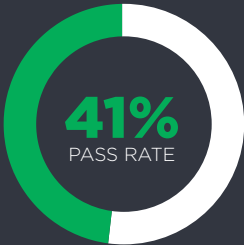
Session Stats (House & Senate)

TOTAL BILLS FILED: 8,046
TOTAL BILLS PASSED: 1,246



NFIB Registered a position on
134 BILLS
(Card/Testimony)

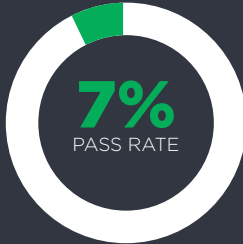
SUPPORT: 120 | OPPOSED: 14



BILLS WITH
NFIB SUPPORT

BILLS NFIB
OPPOSED

NFIB opposed 14
bills, only 1 passed



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BILLS FILED VS PASSED

37 HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATE BILLS



23 UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES BILLS

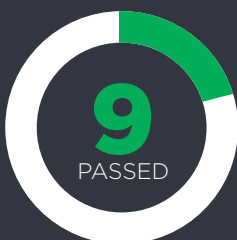
(creating cause of action against employers)



9 MINIMUM WAGE BILLS



48 WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION BILLS



Reeling in Health Insurance Costs

In a survey of NFIB's members, the cost of health insurance was ranked the number one biggest problem and priority for small business owners in Texas. Health insurance mandates are the driving factor for increased health insurance costs. Texas holds the title for one of the worst states in number of costly insurance mandates, ranking third in the nation. Each mandate can increase premiums by approximately one to five percent, which may seem insignificant, but every one percent increase in premiums costs consumers and employers \$230 million per year in the fully insured market.

This session, legislators filed an unprecedented amount of health mandate bills (37), but only three made their way to the Governor's desk. NFIB remained neutral on two of those due to the negligent cost. The third bill was negotiated down to have less of an impact on the pockets of small business policyholders than the originally filed bill.

NFIB supported a bill that will help consumers by banning anti-competitive contracting terms in the health care market. This new legislation will help keep costs at bay for small business owners and their employees.

Workforce Development and Lack of Skilled Workforce

Workforce development has long been a priority for NFIB, as the ongoing labor shortage and "finding and keeping skilled workers" has been identified by our members as their second biggest problem. Building a strong and steady workforce begins in schools with career pathways and training.

This session, the legislature passed nine separate bills to improve career and technical development programs in our schools and community colleges and provide funding and infrastructure for these critical programs. These measures are going to help small and large businesses alike find the workers they desperately need while strengthening our economy and reducing unemployment numbers.