

Arlington Chamber of Commerce, Legislative Agenda, 81st Legislative Session -- Final

Mobility Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation
Eliminating Diversions from State Highway Fund	No	Diversions slightly less than in previous sessions, but no prohibition on them and no guarantee it won't be worse in the future
Enabling Legislation for \$5 million in highway bonds	No	Died in TxDOT sunset bill
Funding Rail Relocation Fund	Yes, sort of	\$182 million appropriated in TxDOT overall budget but can't be spent until end of biennium if money hasn't been used for other things
Local Option Transportation Funding Authorization	No	
Indexing the motor fuels tax	No	Never seriously considered
Regional Rail Authorization	No	
Economic Development Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation
Funding Texas Enterprise Fund	Yes	Funded, but not at requested levels
Emerging Technology Fund	Yes	Funded, but not at requested levels
Expand HB 1200, the Economic Development Act	Yes, sort of	Reauthorized but not for as long as previous act, added data centers as acceptable use of funds; restricted outside payments to school districts, more work to do in 2011, resisted by Senate leadership
Texas Enterprise Zone Program	Yes	Renewed
Skills Development Fund	Yes	Funded, but not at requested levels
Allowing margins tax credits for research, job creation	No	
Public Education Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation
Improve Education Accountability System, focus on college and workplace readiness	Yes	Massive bill full of moving parts, increases testing requirements for graduation, retains 4x4 and end of course exams
Update funding formulas	No	Finance band-aid approved, formulas very out of date
Fund Pre-K and early childhood education for any student needing to make them ready for kindergarten	Yes, sort of	Major Pre-K formula funding turned into \$25 million grant
Improve Career and Technical Course curriculum as alternative for students who aren't going to college	Yes	Progress made as part of overall accountability re-write

Higher Education Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation

Develop and fund process to create more Tier 1 universities from the state's seven Emerging Research institutions	Yes	
Keep UT-Arlington funding whole	Yes	Major accomplishment given the state's revenue problems

Health Care Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation

Create programs to expand primary and preventive care	no	
Ensuring 12-month eligibility process for Medicaid and CHIP	No	
Maximize Federal Funding	No	
Focus on quality by promoting patient safety through defining a common set of indicators for clinical quality for hospitals and physicians	Yes	
Providing credits,tax incentives for businesses that offer employee health coverage and encourage healthy choices and behaviors	No	
Extending coverage to small employers and sole proprietors through creation of more health insurance pools	No	
Providing full appropriation of state funding for uncompensated trauma care services	Yes	
Oppose efforts to impose mandary nursing staff ratios	Yes	Nurse unions no doubt will be back next session
Protect medical liability reforms	Yes	
Encourage initiatives that support regional exchange of health care information	Yes,	A small step in the right direction
Restore Graduate Medical Education funding to hospitals	No	

Air Quality Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation

Support full funding for TERP and LIRAP programs	Yes, sort of	Programs funded at last minute but not at full amounts
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Water Availability		
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Protect existing state water management strategies	Yes	No meaningful rollbacks passed; eminent domain issues on horizon could be problematic next session
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Margins Tax Issues		
Issue	Passed	Explanation
Increase business exemption to \$1 million in annual revenue	Yes	Passed with note that it will create further funding problems for public schools; exemption reduces state income from an already underperforming revenue source
Provide latitude to deduct either cost of goods sold or compensation	No	
Limit application of tax when businesses are taking net losses	No	
Reinstatement of business tax credits	No	
Adopt a minimum tax to avoid filing paperwork for legal entities that still exist but are not active	No	
Property Tax Caps/Local Government Revenue Caps		
Oppose further caps below 10% on residential appraisals and oppose caps on local government revenue	No	No revenue or appraisal caps were approved

