

2007 TEXAS LEGISLATURE

SENATOR JOHN CARONA

LEGISLATION PASSED*

9/21/07

BILLS INTRODUCED	HOUSE BILLS	SENATE BILLS	TOTAL BILLS PASSED
186	48**	36	84

***11 additional Senator Carona Senate bills passed attached to other legislation**

****one of these House bills was vetoed**

AUTHOR/SPONSOR OF 4 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS ON 11/6/07 BALLOT

***Proposition 8: would clarify provisions in the home equity loan area**

***Proposition 9: would authorize the Legislature to exempt all or part of the homestead of a totally disabled veteran from property taxes**

***Proposition 11: would require record votes in the House and Senate and posting on the Internet**

***Proposition 12: would authorize the state to issue \$5 billion in bonds to provide funding for highway improvement projects**

TRANSPORTATION

- *helped enact moratorium on toll road expansion**
- *increased regulation of existing or approved toll roads**
- *standardized temporary tag license plates and procedures**
- *clarified laws related to illegal signs on Texas roads**
- *prohibited municipalities from using speed cameras to enforce speeding tickets**
- *established law regulating red light cameras and their revenue**
- *updated and strengthened commercial motor vehicle standards**
- *increased fees and regulation for overweight truck permits**
- *clarified several traffic law violation procedures**
- *increased regulation of certain towing industry practices**
- *clarified regulations relating to wrecking and salvage yards**
- *reestablished the motor vehicle inspection advisory committee at DPS**
- *simplified registration requirements for semi-trailers**
- *significantly increased protections in connection with transportation of children on buses**
- *clarified the language in statutes regulating motor vehicles to allow increased anti-theft efforts**
- *streamlined the hearings process for motor vehicle sale/lease hearings**
- *imposed additional reporting obligations on TXDOT to provide for greater transparency**
- *clarified requirements for DPS reporting of drug and alcohol use**
- *clarified obligations of owners of personal and commercial vehicles to follow certain federal laws**
- *allowed non-commissioned DPS officers to conduct commercial motor vehicle inspections**

***prohibited certain practices in the refuse industry to provide for safer conditions on roadways**

***clarified the role of certain DPS officers in enforcing commercial motor vehicle safety standards**

***provided for additional performance audits for local transportation authorities**

***modified procedures for obtaining a driver's license**

***allowed for use of advertising in mailings relating to driver's licenses to offset increased postage costs**

***streamlined programs for issuance of commercial paper for certain local transit authorities**

***created a database for vehicle numbers issued for temporary license tags**

***issued request that Texas Transportation Commission cease efforts to influence Congress for changes in federal law relating to the statewide transportation enhancement program**

HOMELAND SECURITY

***created the Border Security Council**

***updated the criminal street gang intelligence data base**

***established homeland security contracting procedures**

***codified the Texas Fusion Center**

***regulated the sale of ammonium nitrate, which is used to make explosives**

*** created landmark mutual aid provisions cutting red tape for first responders from different jurisdictions working together**

***enhanced law enforcement ability to detect threats**

***prohibited confiscation of firearms by state and local governments during a disaster**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- *improved reporting requirements for DWI fatalities**
- *established procedures to stop child identity theft**
- *enacted three new laws related to copper theft**
- *curtailed use of fraudulent liens by inmates for harassment purposes**
- *made additional types of protective orders available to victims of sexual assault**
- *increased the penalty for committing worker's compensation fraud**

INDUSTRY REGULATION

- *clarified laws for air conditioner technicians, plumbers, CPAs**
- *clarified laws relating to promotional prize contracts**
- *implemented notification requirements for early pay off of mortgage loans**
- *clarified requirements for providing notice of intent to prosecute the issuer of a dishonored check**
- *created a pre-paid plan for utilities relating to relocation of right of ways.**
- *provided for the licensing of installers of major appliances**
- *provided for updated safety codes for elevators, escalators and similar equipment**
- *extended no-call coverage to cell phones**

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- *broadened authority of hospital authorities and districts to allow for increased ability to compete**
- *required municipalities to disclose the fiscal impact of amendments to charters**

JURISPRUDENCE

***provided for increased financial disclosure by justices of the peace**

***modernized the language of the oath taken by grand jury witnesses**

***clarified how an accident victim's recovery of damages should be allocated among stakeholders**

***provided for the availability of information necessary to locate judgment lien debtors**

REAL PROPERTY

***clarified and strengthened tenants' rights**

***clarified regulations relating to residential condominium projects**

***authorized title companies to issue title policies to protect liens for commercial loans using personal property as collateral**

***streamlined processes for clearing title to property**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

***required additional exit conferences in assisted living facilities to be conducted in person**

NATURAL RESOURCES

***clarified duties of the Texas Water Development Board**