

# Texas 84th Legislative Session Highlights

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Changes to Texas Laws  
Impacting Our Industry



# 2015 Session by the Numbers



**6,276**

Bills Filed

**1,323**

Bills Passed



**21**

Percent  
Passage Rate



**600**

Bills Viewed  
By TXTA



**41**

Number  
Vetoed

## Bills Passed And Impacting Our Industry

### HB 1252

Requires the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas (DPS) to establish by rule uniform weighing procedures to ensure an accurate weight is obtained for a motor vehicle by a weight enforcement officer who has reason to believe that the single axle weight, tandem axle weight, or gross weight of a loaded motor vehicle is unlawful. The bill authorizes DPS to revoke or rescind the authority of a weight enforcement officer who fails to comply with those rules or a weight enforcement officer of a municipal police department, sheriff's department, or constable's office that fails to comply with those rules.

### SB 1828

Creates the offense of cargo theft for a person who knowingly or intentionally conducts, promotes, or facilitates an activity in which the person receives, possesses, conceals, stores, barter, sells, abandons, or disposes of stolen cargo or cargo explicitly represented to the person as being stolen cargo.

## **SJR 5**

Will deposit to the credit of the state highway fund \$2.5 billion of the net revenue derived from the imposition of the state sales and use tax on the sale, storage, use, or other consumption in this state of taxable items under Chapter 151, Tax Code, or its successor, that exceeds the first \$28 billion of that revenue coming into the treasury in that state fiscal year.

Thirty-five percent of the net revenue derived from the tax authorized by Chapter 152, Tax Code, or its successor, and imposed on the sale, use, or rental of a motor vehicle that exceeds the first \$5 billion of that revenue coming into the treasury in that state fiscal year.

## **HB 1888**

The penalty for driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license is now \$500 for the first offense and \$1,000 for the second offense if it's within one year of the first. It amends the Commercial Driver's License Act to make the conforming changes necessary to maintain federal compliance. Finally, it authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles or the county assessor-collector to register a vehicle that is not in compliance with the applicable inspection requirements if the vehicle is located in another state at the time the applicant applies for registration or registration renewal and the applicant certifies that the vehicle is located in another state and the applicant will comply with the applicable inspection requirements and DPS's administrative rules regarding inspection requirements once the vehicle is operated in Texas.

## **HB 32**

Reduces the franchise tax by 25 percent. It specifically provides the rate of the franchise tax is 0.75 percent, rather than one percent, of taxable margin. It also provides that a taxable entity whose total revenue from its entire business is not more than \$20 million can apply the E-Z tax rate of 0.331 percent, rather than the current 0.575 percent rate.

## **SB 1820**

Adds to the definition of "tow truck," to exclude a car hauler that is used solely to transport motor vehicles as cargo in the course of a prearranged shipping transaction.

## **HB 3225**

Restricts a commercial motor vehicle to a specific lane of traffic in a construction or maintenance work zone for certain highways under certain conditions if it is determined to be necessary to improve safety.

## **HB 716 & SB 58**

Collin and Denton Counties, as well as the cities of Galveston and Gregory were given authority to enforce commercial vehicle safety after receiving DPS training.

For additional summaries, statistics and information related to the 84th Texas Legislative Session and other past sessions please visit the Legislative Reference Library of Texas at [www.lrl.texas.gov/sessions/sessionYears.cfm](http://www.lrl.texas.gov/sessions/sessionYears.cfm)