

Bills of Interest to Texas Neighborhoods Together (TNT)
in the 80th Legislature - Regular Session
Final Post-Session Report

(103 total bills – including 20 which passed)

PRIORITY (58 bills – 13 have or will become law.)

Municipal Authority (31 bills – EIGHT HAVE OR WILL BECOME LAW.)

Zoning (5 bills – All failed)

HB 252 (Mowery)

Description: Restricts rezoning if the property value would decrease more than 10%
Status: Pulled from March 7 agenda of the Land and Resource Management Committee
Note: Rep. Mowery is the Chair of the Land and Resource Management Committee.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 1732 (Kuempel)

Description: Adds a two year delay for certain zoning changes
Status: Approved by the Land and Resource Management Committee. Died in Calendars Committee.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 1736 (Kuempel)

Description: Restricts lot coverage characteristics cities can regulate through zoning
Status: Approved by the Land and Resource Management Committee. Died in Calendars Committee.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 3604 (Kuempel)

Description: Perpetual permit vesting, negating later zoning changes
Status: Referred to the Land and Resource Management Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

SB 1677 (Hegar)

Description: Define zoning and other government actions as regulatory takings
Status: Referred to the Natural Resources Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

Abandoned or Junked Vehicles (4 bills – TWO BECOME LAW THIS YEAR.)

HB 559 (Noriega)

Description: Public hearing, if requested, before removal of an abandoned vehicle
Status: Not heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Identical bill SB 350 did pass.
TNT position: none

HB 560 (Noriega)

Description: Confirmed mail notice regarding abatement and removal of a junked vehicle
Status: Not heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Identical bill SB 351 did pass.
TNT position: none

SB 350 (Ellis)

Description: Public hearing, if requested, before removal of an abandoned vehicle
Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.
TNT position: none

SB 351 (Ellis)

Description: Confirmed mail notice regarding abatement and removal of a junked vehicle

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: To be determined

Other Code Enforcement and Nuisance Abatement (9 bills – TWO HAVE BECOME LAW.)

HB 561 (Noriega)

Description: Confirmed mail notice regarding substandard buildings

Status: Not heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Identical bill SB 352 did pass.

TNT position: none

HB 812 (Dutton)

Description: Allows residents to sue cities to require abatement of public nuisances

Status: Heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Died there.

TNT position: none

HB 1368 (Hochberg)

Description: Enhances city abilities to abate public nuisances

Status: Referred to Urban Affairs Committee. Did not get a hearing.

HB 1551 (Hochberg)

Description: Courts may order cut off of utilities at nuisance locations

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: none

HB 1883 (Anchia)

Description: Strengthens illegitimate massage parlor regulation

Status: Heard by the Government Reform Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

HB 2946 (Murphy)

Description: Allows cities to remove signs from businesses that have been closed for a year or longer

Status: Heard by the Transportation Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

HB 2957 (Jackson)

Description: Weakens illegitimate massage parlor regulation

Status: Heard by the Government Reform Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Oppose

SB 352 (Ellis)

Description: Confirmed mail notice of all proceedings regarding substandard buildings

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: none

SB 1437 (West)

Description: Provides additional means of enforcing building ordinances

Status: Passed by the full Senate as well as House committees. Died on House floor.

TNT position: Support

Photographic Traffic Law Enforcement – Direct or Indirect Prohibition (4 bills – ONE PASSED.)

HB 55 (Isett)

Description: Prohibits red-light camera systems

Status: Referred to the Urban Affairs Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 922 (Truitt)

Description: Prohibits speeding camera systems

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: None

HB 985 (Isett)

Description: Prohibits red-light and speeding camera systems

Status: Heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

SB 195 (Jackson)

Description: Repeals city authority for civil enforcement of traffic laws

Status: Heard by the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, left pending.

The committee instead elected to report out SB 125.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

Photographic Traffic Law Enforcement – Standards and or state/local revenue-sharing
(7 bills – TWO BECOME LAW ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.)

HB 1052 (Callegori)

Description: Signage requirements for red-light camera sites

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.

TNT position: None

HB 1570 (Murphy)

Description: State and local revenue-sharing

Status: Heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Identical SB 125 made more progress.

TNT position: None

HB 1621 (Goolsby)

Description: Sets a \$75 maximum fine

Status: Heard by the Transportation Committee. Died there.

TNT position: None

HB 3620 (Raymond)

Description: State and local revenue-sharing (35-65)

Status: Heard by the Urban Affairs Committee. Died there.

TNT position: None

SB 125 (Carona)

Description: State and local revenue-sharing

Status: Passed by the full Senate as well as House committees. Died on House floor.

TNT position: None

SB 939 (West)

Description: Explicitly authorizes, sets standards and revenue-sharing

Status: Referred to the Transportation and Homeland Security Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: None

SB 1119 (Carona)

Description: Explicitly authorizes, sets standards and revenue-sharing

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.

TNT position: None

Manufactured Housing (2 bills – ONE BECOMES LAW JANUARY 1, 2008.)

HB 1460 (Haggerty)

Description: Allows replacement, irregardless of city zoning

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008.

TNT position: Oppose

SB 1320 (Harris)

Description: Allows replacement, irregardless of city zoning

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Oppose

Property Owner Associations (16 bills filed, 4 become law this year.)

Governance, Assessments, Fines, Fees and/or Foreclosures – State-wide Applicability
(10 bills filed – TWO BECOME LAW SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.)

HB 222 (Solomons)

Description: Numerous new requirements and restrictions for associations.

Most related to making more information readily available to realtors.

Status: Heard by the Business and Industry Committee. Died in a subcommittee.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 493 (Orr)

Description: Makes homeowner payment of fines or attorney fees voluntary through specifying application of payment priorities

Status: Heard by the Business and Industry Committee. Died in a subcommittee.

Similar language was in SB 979, which made more progress.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 749 (Dutton)

Description: Prohibits association foreclosure of homesteads

Limitation: Applies to future developments

Status: Heard by the Business and Industry Committee. Died in a subcommittee.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 1171 (Bailey)

Description: Numerous new requirements and restrictions for associations

Status: Heard by the Business and Industry Committee. Died in a subcommittee.

A substitute version was identical to SB 979, which made more progress.

TNT position: Oppose

HB 1630 (Martinez)

Description: Applies the Open Records and Open Meetings acts to all associations state-wide

Status: Heard by the Business and Industry Committee. Died in a subcommittee.

TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 2218 (Hochberg)

Description: Establishes authority for an architectural control committee in the absence of an association

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.
TNT position: Support

HB 2402 (Truitt)

Description: Association may not establish an easement without the consent of the property owner.
Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.
TNT position: Support

HB 2403 (Darby)

Description: Prohibits transfer fees.
Status: Passed the full House. Referred to Senate IGR Committee, who did not hear it.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

HB 3673 (Davis, J.)

Description: Applies the Open Records and Open Meetings acts to all associations state-wide
Status: Referred to Business and Industry Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

SB 979 (West)

Description: Various provisions
Status: Passed by the full Senate as well as House committees. Died on House floor.
The full Senate revived the bill through amendments to HB 3674.
A conference committee stripped out the amendments.
TNT position: Support in part. Oppose in part.

Governance and Foreclosures - Houston Area (3 bills filed – TWO BECOME LAW THIS YEAR.)

HB 3232 (Olivo)

Description: Additional requirements for replats affecting common areas
Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.
TNT position: None

HB 3674 (Davis, J.)

Description: Applies the Open Records and Open Meetings acts to a single Clear Lake association
Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007
TNT position: Strongly Oppose

SB 645 (Ellis)

Description: Authorizes a study of residential foreclosures
Limitation: Scope is the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown MSA
Status: Passed by the full Senate as well as House committees. Died on House floor.
TNT position: None

Renewable Energy (3 bills filed – All failed)

HB 231 (Ritter)

Description: Associations cannot prohibit or restrict renewable energy technology
Status: Referred to Business and Industry Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Oppose, but support empowering associations to adopt standards

HB 1651 (Leibowitz)

Description: Associations cannot prohibit or restrict solar panels but allows some association regulation
Status: Approved by House committees. Died on House floor.
Added by full House by amendment to SB 12. Stripped out in conference committee.

TNT position: Oppose, but support empowering associations to adopt standards

SB 358 (Jackson)

Description: Associations cannot prohibit or restrict solar panels

Status: Feb 28 hearing before the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, left pending

This bill was merged into SB 979, which made more progress.

TNT position: Oppose, but support empowering associations to adopt standards

Homeowners Insurance (7 bills – ONE BECAME LAW ON MAY 21, 2007)

HB 981 (Veasey)

Description: Prohibits use of credit scoring in underwriting, setting premiums or setting payment plans

Status: Referred to Insurance Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Strongly Support

HB 1873 (Coleman)

Description: Prohibits use of credit scoring in underwriting

Status: Referred to Insurance Committee. Did not get a hearing

TNT position: Strongly Support

HB 3312 (Martinez)

Description: Requires disclosure on website if credit scoring in underwriting

Status: Referred to Insurance Committee. Did not get a hearing. Identical SB 611 made more progress.

TNT position: Support

HB 3331 (Hilderbran)

Description: Prohibits use of credit scoring in underwriting, setting premiums or setting payment plans and requires re-underwriting and re-rating if credit scoring was used in the past

Status: Referred to Insurance Committee. Did not get a hearing

TNT position: Strongly Support

HB 3565 (Rose)

Description: Prohibits use of credit scoring in underwriting, setting premiums or setting payment plans

Status: Referred to Insurance Committee. Did not get a hearing

TNT position: Strongly Support

SB 533 (Ellis)

Description: Prohibits use of credit scoring in underwriting, setting premiums or setting payment plans

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce Committee. Did not get a hearing

TNT position: Strongly Support

SB 611 (Lucio)

Description: Requires disclosure on website if credit scoring in underwriting

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2007

TNT position: Support

Notification (4 bills filed – All failed)

HB 3388 (Olivo)

Description: Gives associations (and others) standing to request reviews of solid waste facility permits

Status: Heard by the Environmental Regulation Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

HB 3768 (Smith, Todd)

Description: Cities must notify property owners outside cities of zoning changes within 200 feet.
Status: Passed the full House. Referred to the Senate IGR Committee, who did not hear it.
TNT position: Support

HB 3794 (Bolton)

Description: Associations must receive and approve applications for group homes not protected by the Federal Fair Housing Act
Status: Referred to Business and Industry Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Support

SB 1864 (Zaffirini)

Description: Gives associations (and others) standing to request reviews of solid waste facility permits
Status: Heard by the Natural Resources Committee. Died there.
TNT position: Support

SUPPORT (45 bills – including 7 which passed)

Recorded Votes (11 bills – ONE WILL BE ON THE BALLOT NOVEMBER 6, 2007)

Broad Requirement (8 bills filed – All failed)

HB 108 (Goolsby)

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Committee. Died there.
TNT position: Support

HB 132 (McCall)

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Committee. Died there.
TNT position: Support

HB 666 (Naishtat)

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Committee. Died there.
TNT position: Support

HB 2633 (Bolton)

Status: Referred to State Affairs Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Support

HB 2801 (Garcia)

Status: Referred to State Affairs Committee. Did not get a hearing.
TNT position: Support

HJR 17 (Naishtat)

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Committee. Died there.
TNT position: Support

SB 102 (Carona)

Status: Referred to Administration Committee. Not heard. Identical HB 666 made more progress.
TNT position: Support

SJR 7 (Carona)

Status: Referred to Administration Committee. Not heard. Identical HJR 17 made more progress.
TNT position: Support

Final Passage (3 bills – ONE WILL BE ON THE BALLOT NOVEMBER 6, 2007)

HB 83 (Swinford)

Status: Approved by House committees. Died on House floor.

TNT position: Support if broader legislation does not progress

HJR 19 (Branch)

Status: Passed the House and Senate. GOES TO THE VOTERS ON NOVEMBER 6, 2007

TNT position: Support if broader legislation does not progress

HJR 77 (Goolsby)

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support if broader legislation does not progress

Deed Restriction Amendments (4 bills – ONE BECOMES LAW ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.)

HB 976 (Van Arsdale)

Description: Enable amendments of restrictions if covenants provide for extension of restrictions for terms of at least 10 years.

Status: Passed the full House. Referred to the Senate IGR Committee, who did not hear it.

TNT position: Support

HB 3709 (Callegari)

Description: Enables amendments even if covenants provide for none post-development

Status: Passed the full House. Referred to the Senate IGR Committee, who did not hear it.

TNT position: Support

HB 3518 (Creighton)

Description: Expands ease of amendment

Limitation: Applies only to Galveston and Montgomery counties

Limitation: Does not apply to gated communities with private streets

Status: Neither signed nor vetoed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

TNT position: Support

SB 566 (Wentworth)

Description: Expands ease of amendment from small rural counties to most of Texas

Status: Heard by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Merged into SB 979, which made more progress

TNT position: Support

Burglary of Vehicles (10 bills – ONE BECOMES LAW ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.)

Bills matching TNT position (2 bills – Both failed.)

HB 267 (Anchia)

Description: makes second theft a state jail felony

Status: No action by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Identical HB 303 heard.

TNT position: Support

HB 303 (Farrar)

Description: makes second theft a state jail felony

Status: Heard by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

Bills close to TNT position (8 bills – ONE BECOMES LAW ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2007.)

HB 79 (Branch)

Description: Makes all thefts a state jail felony

Status: Heard by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 128 (Truitt)

Description: Makes all thefts a state jail felony

Status: Referred to Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Not heard. Identical HB 79 made more progress.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 1779 (Latham)

Description: makes third theft a state jail felony if the value is less than \$1,500.

First thefts are state jail felonies if the value is over \$1,500.

Thefts over \$20,000 are higher felonies.

Status: Approved by the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee. Died in Calendars Committee.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 1887 (Truitt)

Description: makes third theft a state jail felony

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

SB 145 (West)

Description: makes third theft a state jail felony

Status: Referred to Criminal Justice Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

SB 313 (Carona)

Description: Makes all thefts a state jail felony

Status: Referred to Criminal Justice Committee. Not heard. Identical HB 79 made more progress.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

SB 807 (Whitmire)

Description: makes third theft a state jail felony

Status: Passed by Criminal Justice Committee. Did not get to Senate floor.

Identical HB 1887 made more progress (and becomes law on September 1, 2007)

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

SB 1327 (Patrick)

Description: Makes all thefts a state jail felony

Status: Referred to Criminal Justice Committee. Not heard. Identical HB 79 made more progress.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

County Land Use Authority (12 bills – FOUR BECAME LAW JUNE 15, 2007.)

HB 591 (Escobar)

Description: Gives municipal powers to small counties on or near the international border

Status: Approved by House committees. Died on House floor Identical SB 63 became law.

TNT position: None

HB 617 (Quintanilla)

Description: Requires counties to adopt and enforce building codes

Status: Heard by the State Affairs Jurisprudence Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

HB 2591 (Bonnen)

Description: Allows counties improve subdivision roads, including roads within cities

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: None

HB 3068 (Guillen)

Description: Regulation of subdivisions near the international border

Status: Passed House and Senate. Killed by House procedural motion after Conference Cmte appointment

TNT position: None

HB 3581 (Howard, C.)

Description: Authorizes counties to remove or remediate solid waste nuisances

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: Support

HB 3883 (Gattis)

Description: Gives municipal utility districts zoning authority

Status: Referred to Land and Resource Management Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Support

HB 3956 (Macias)

Description: Kendall County development regulations

Status: Referred to Land and Resource Management Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Support

SB 63 (Zaffirni)

Description: Gives municipal powers to small counties on or near the international border

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: None

SB 542 (West)

Description: Authorizes counties to require limited fire suppression systems

Status: Passed by the Senate.

Heard by the House Land and Resource Management Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

SB 680 (Williams)

Description: Gives urban counties authority to regulate swimming pools in unincorporated areas

Status: Signed by the Governor. EFFECTIVE JUNE 15, 2007.

TNT position: Support

SB 1241 (Shapleigh)

Description: Establishes county zoning authority in certain counties near the international border

Status: Heard by the International Relations and Trade Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

SB 1869 (Zaffirni)

Description: Regulation of subdivisions near the international border

Status: Referred to International Relations and Trade Committee. Not heard.

Identical HB 3068 made more progress.

TNT position: None

Retaliatory Lawsuits (2 bills – Both failed.)

HB 1089 (Raymond)

Description: Allows recovery of damages from one who files suit in an attempt to intimidate or harass someone filing a good faith complaint with a government or quasi-governmental agency

Status: Approved by the Civil Practices Committee. Died in the Calendars Committee.

TNT position: Support

HB 1130 (Leibowitz)

Description: Similar to HB 1089

Status: Heard by the Civil Practices Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

Public Recording of Real Property Sales Prices (6 bills – All failed.)

HB 133 (Villareal)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure to the county appraisal districts

Status: Withdrawn. Revised bill HB 2996 filed.

TNT position: Support

HB 1552 (Villareal)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure in the conveyance instruments filed with county clerks in counties where voters authorize in a local option election

Status: Heard by the Local Government Ways and Means Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 2996 (Villareal)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure to the county appraisal districts in counties where voters authorize in a local option election

Status: Referred to Local Government Ways and Means Committee. Did not get a hearing.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 3820 (Villareal)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure in the conveyance instruments filed with county clerks in counties where voters authorize in a local option election

Status: Heard by the Local Government Ways and Means Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support if better legislation does not progress.

HB 3821 (Villareal)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure in the conveyance instruments filed with county clerks

Status: Heard by the Local Government Ways and Means Committee. Died there.

TNT position: Support

SB 270 (Wentworth)

Description: Requires sales price disclosure in the conveyance instruments filed with county clerks

Status: Approved by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Died on the Senate floor.

TNT position: Support