



State Representative Jim Jackson District 115

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State Rep. Jim Jackson Reports on the 81st Session

Austin--The 81st Session of the Texas Legislature has adjourned "Sine Die." There were 7,609 House/Senate bills and constitutional amendments filed during the session - 1,462 were passed. The Governor has until June 21st to sign or veto bills sent to him or allow them to become law without his signature.

Because some Democrats chose to delay the House's business by chubbing, hundreds of bills died when we reached the deadline for consideration of legislation. Chubbing resembles a series of mini filibusters. While many of the bills that died had various degrees of importance, a few such as sunset continuation of the Texas Department of Insurance and the Texas Department of Transportation were very important. Of course, each member, including me, who had bills left on the calendar at the end, regrets that we did not have an opportunity to take them up.

In spite of the partisan squabbling and delaying of the state's business, the legislature managed to pass some important laws that include:

- Adoption of the 2010-2011 biennial state budget and reducing general revenue spending by 1.9 percent.
- Passage of new education reforms that focus on student growth and achievement when rating schools.
- Making a \$1.9 billion dollar increase in public education dollars.
- Making \$1.2 billion dollar increase in higher education funding.
- Providing seed money to lay the groundwork for additional Tier One Texas universities.
- Giving \$250 million in financial aid to make college affordable for 35,000 more students.
- Reforming of the Top Ten Percent rule to give the University of Texas more flexibility.
- Providing a tax cut which will benefit approximately 40,000 Texas small businesses.
- Protecting the \$9.1 billion dollars in the state's Rainy Day Fund.

My legislative accomplishments include 11 bills I authored or sponsored. To review those bills, please go to www.repjimjackson.com. Although it was a long and difficult session, I am honored to be State Representative for District 115.

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