

Fiscal Responsibility Index

A measure of lawmakers' performance in the 81st Session using votes on core budget and free enterprise issues. Lawmakers also received extra weighting in their score (positively) for sponsoring good legislation or (negatively) very bad legislation.

Votes used for the House Index

1. HB 1038. Property tax appraisal reform (Record Vote 81)
2. Amendment 213 to CSSB 1, the state budget. Ordering the Legislative Budget Board to study spending limits (RV 185)
3. HB 1462. Allowing state employees to be paid by the taxpayers while performing volunteer service (RV 329)
4. Amendment 35 to HB 300, TxDOT reauthorization. Allowing "best value" addition to contracting (RV 662)
5. HB 482. Creating a program through Texas Department of Agriculture that gives small retailers in low-income neighborhoods grants to purchase refrigerators (RV 216)
6. HJR 112. Creating new taxing jurisdictions for existing services that should be funded through general revenues (RV 730)
7. HB 2291. Bringing greater transparency to the setting of property tax rates (RV 653)
8. HB 130. Creating a new pre-K program (RV 656)
9. SB 1071. Providing transparency for state pension funds (RV 570)
10. HB 4765. Temporarily increasing the small business exemption in the Gross Margins Tax (RV 537)
11. HB 2962. Expands the Children's Health Insurance Program to 300% of poverty, or \$66,000 for a family of four (RV 881)
12. HB 2511. Imposing McCain-Feingold style speech limits on Texas politics (RV 889)
13. HB 464. Requiring dynamic fiscal impact statement for certain bills and joint resolutions affecting taxes and fees (RV 897)
14. Amendment 13 to SB 1569 the expansion of Unemployment Insurance benefits. Allowing drug users to qualify for unemployment benefits (RV 1052)
15. Motion to instruct House conferees on HB 300, TxDOT reauthorization. Keeping the gas tax and local fee hikes out of the conference report (RV1373)
16. HB 681. Requiring sellers of fresh fish to post signs about mercury (RV 206)
17. HCR 50. Affirming state's rights under 10th Amendment (RV 1544)
18. Amendment 148 to SB 1 the state budget. Mandating a duplicative study by the agency responsible low-income housing (RV 181)
19. HB 2888. Creating a state-financed 'income tax assistance' program (RV 1708)
20. SB 968. New regulations on 'water features,' needlessly creating additional expenses and burdens (RV 1016)
21. HB 2559. Reforming state's employee pension system (RV 1525)

Additional positive weighting was granted for the authoring/co-authoring:

- A. HB 1575: Property tax relief
- B. HJR 30, HJR 16, HB 832, or HB 1613: Gross Margins Tax reform
- C. HJR 13 or HJR89: Ending gas tax diversions
- D. HB 994: Limiting government growth
- E. HJR 38: Dedicating surplus revenues to property tax relief

Negative weighting was added to the authors/co-authors of these opposed measures:

- F. HB 2623: Changing Unemployment Insurance rules to accept stimulus dollars
- G. HB 9: Creating new gasoline taxes and transportation fees