

★  
**TEXAS**  
RESTAURANT  
ASSOCIATION

**87<sup>th</sup>**

**Regular Texas  
Legislative Session  
Accomplishments**

When the Texas Legislature convened in January 2021, it began a six-month journey that would be filled with pandemic response, balancing a smaller state budget, addressing critical utility failures revealed by Winter Storm Uri, and a host of Republican primary issues ranging from abortion to gun rights. With such a full agenda, the Legislature ended up passing only about 15% of the 7,148 bills that were filed.

In spite of these challenges, the Texas Restaurant Association had a breakthrough session, thanks to a bold strategy, strong grassroots engagement, and strategic alliances.



**TRA's Impact by the Numbers**

19

Bills passed

Times TRA testified  
before a committee

24

100%

Success rate at blocking  
TRA-opposed bills

Bills tracked

865

3,289

Emails sent from TRA's  
grassroots network to  
lawmakers

# TRA successfully passed 6 of its 8 priority bills, allowing restaurants to:

- ✔ Permanently sell alcohol to-go
- ✔ Keep franchise tax deductions on federal relief dollars
- ✔ Protect themselves in the third party delivery market
- ✔ Continue to sell bulk foods and meal boxes
- ✔ Prevent frivolous pandemic lawsuits
- ✔ Avoid unemployment insurance tax hikes



TRA also worked with a diverse coalition of business groups and policymakers to:

- Block expensive employment mandates and harmful alcohol policies;
- Protect restaurants' access to natural gas hookups;
- Clarify that credit card processing fees are not subject to the sales tax;
- Create new tools to help small businesses impacted by a disaster; and much more.

With special sessions already planned for this summer and fall, now is the time to build on our progress.

We're still working hard on our two outstanding priority items for statewide advocacy—financial relief from the pandemic and regulatory consistency to ensure restaurants don't face a patchwork of different rules on leave, benefits, and scheduling practices.

Visit [TXRestaurant.org/Advocacy](http://TXRestaurant.org/Advocacy) to join your voice with ours today!

