



Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

The Texas Legislature commenced its 87th session on January 12th, 2021 and convened on May 31st, 2021. Throughout the Legislative session, the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce advocated for our members and actively engaged with our partners including the Mexican American Legislative Caucus (MALC) and the Multi-ethnic Chamber Alliance (MECA). Additionally, the GAHCC authored unity statements following the U.S. Capitol insurrection and voicing out against Texas' voter suppression law. Below is a recap of bills that the Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce followed through its completion.

Economic Development

- HB 4242: Relating to the extension of the expiration of certain parts of the Texas Economic Development Act.
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Legislation Status: **Did Not Pass**
 - Note: This bill would extend the Texas Economic Development Act by two years. It is scheduled to expire in 2022, this bill would extend to program to 2024
- HB 1556: Relating to the Texas Economic Development Act; requiring the imposition of an authorized fee and changing the amounts of certain fees
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Legislation Status: **Did Not Pass**
 - Note: Under HB 1556, the Texas Economic Development Act would be extended for 10 years and streamlines the application and reporting procedures.

Racial and Social Equity

- SB 7: Relating to election integrity and security, including by preventing fraud in the conduct of elections in this state; increasing criminal penalties; creating criminal offenses.
 - GAHCC Position: **Against**
 - Legislation Status: **Did Not Pass**
 - Note: SB 7 would create restrictions for early voting, ban drive-thru voting, and make it harder to vote by mail. In April 2021, the GAHCC convened the Presidents and CEOs of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce to speak out against this legislation and issued a statement, you can read our statement [here](#).

Small and Minority Business

- HB 3271: Relating to establishing loan programs to assist certain micro-businesses by increasing access to capital; authorizing fees.
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Legislation Status: **Passed**

- Note: HB 3271 establishes two new programs under the Office of the Governor. The first program will be the Micro Business Capital Access Program which establishes a revolving loan fund in partnership with Community Development Financial Institutions. The second program is the Micro-Business Access to Capital program which is a reserve account for lending institutions to cover losses arising from a default of a loan made by the lender to micro-businesses.
- SB 678: Relating to the creation of the small business disaster recovery loan program
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Legislation Status: **Passed**
 - Note: Under SB 678, the State of Texas will create a state small business disaster recovery loan program.
- HB 3561: Relating to the elimination of the state's historically underutilized business program
 - GAHCC Position: **Against**
 - Legislation Status: **Did Not Pass**
 - Note: Under HB 3561 the State of Texas' Historically Underutilized Business Program would be eliminated.

Transportation and Infrastructure

- HB 5: Relating to the expansion of broadband services to certain areas.
 - GAHCC Position: **For**
 - Legislation Status: **Passed**
 - Note: Under HB 5, the State of Texas will create the Broadband Development Office which will create a state broadband plan, manage information and outreach about broadband access, and oversee the creation of updated broadband development maps.

For more information, please contact:

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