

**The Greater Lake Palestine Council is a member of the Texas Neighborhoods Together Alliance. This Alliance is composed of HOA/POA members from Austin, Dallas area (North. Dallas, Garland, Plano), North Ft. Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and GLPC (Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Smith, & Van Zandt Counties) This report was provided by David Smith, TNT Legislative Affairs. David Smith is not an attorney and this document is intended for information only and is not to be considered or used as a legal document.**

**Texas Neighborhoods Together  
Final Report from the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature  
June 2015**

(Click on the subjects below to go directly to them)

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All in all, the recent legislative session was good for neighborhoods. A number of good bills passed. Many bad bills failed. The number of filed bad bills targeting mandatory homeowner associations was down dramatically from some past sessions.

Ninety-three bills of interest to the Texas Neighborhoods Together (TNT) Legislative Agenda were filed in the biennial Texas Legislature session that ended on June 1, 2015. Twenty-two became law, and one goes to the voters on November 3, 2015. Sixteen of the twenty-two included new **laws** are beneficial to neighborhoods

### Summary by TNT Legislative Area

LEGISLATIVE AREA	Good Bills Filed	Good Bills Passed*	Bad Bills Filed	Bad Bills Passed*
City Authority	18	4	38	4
County Authority	13	1	5	1
POA/HOA	14	10	6	2
Energy and Water Conservation	2	2	0	0
Public Disclosure of Sales Prices	0	0	0	0
Homeowners Insurance	2	0	2	0
Alcohol Issues	5	1	0	0
Recorded Votes	0	0	0	0
Group Homes	1	0	1	0
TOTALS**	46	16	45	6

\* - includes companions to bills that passed

\*\* - Totals may be less than the sum of the numbers above because some bills are assigned to multiple categories.

TNT had **favorable** results with the subset of bills actively supported or opposed. These included fourteen good bills and seven bad bills. Eleven of the good bills became law. Four of the seven bad bills became law, but all included favorable amendments.

LEGISLATIVE AREA	Filed Bills SUPPORTED	Supported Bills that Became Law*	Filed Bills OPPOSED	Opposed Bills that Became Law*
City Authority	0	-	1	1
POA/HOA	14	11	4	3

Energy and Water Conservation	2	2	-	-
Homeowners Insurance	0	-	2	0
TOTALS**	14	9	7	4

\* - includes companions to bills that passed

\*\* - Totals may be less than the sum of the numbers above because some bills belong to multiple categories.

Below is a brief discussion of each legislative area, followed by a list of all bills that were followed **by TNT**.

## Municipal Authority

As is typical in a legislative session, hundreds of bills affecting city authority were filed. TNT followed 57 of them (36 bad, 18 good and 1 neutral from a neighborhoods perspective).

A large number of bills sought to broadly preempt city authority by various means. Seven would have been applicable to virtually all areas of city authority. One was focused on hunting. Ten were focused on oil and gas operations.

All the broad preemption measures made little or no progress. Hunting and oil and gas bills did pass the legislature.

## Constitutional Right to Hunt

A constitutional right to hunt could have preempted city ordinances on discharging firearms. The final form, which goes to the voters on November 3, 2015, preserves existing city authority.

## Oil and Gas Operations

In response to a City of Denton ordinance banning fracking, ten bills were filed preempting city authority over all oil and gas operations (not just fracking). One of these, HB 40, did become law. It was amended to allow continued regulation of oil and gas operations for cities that have an ordinance that is at least five years old and has not been used to deny any operations. Otherwise, cities may not regulate oil and gas operations that are “commercially reasonable” in the judgement of the operator.

## Alcohol and Sexually Oriented Businesses

In this area, a number of legislators are filing bills that help cities and neighborhoods. This session saw five good bills, one bad and one neutral.

**HB 2296** was the one good bill that became law. It allows city regulation of open containers in central business districts by city ordinance, rather than through petition to the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

## Graffiti

Graffiti control is another area where some legislators are trying to help cities and neighborhoods. Two good bills were filed, and one came close to House passage.

## Illegal Dumping

Two good bills were filed, and one became law. **HB 274 increases the maximum penalty for illegal dumping.**

## Fire Safety

Legislators eager to ease government regulation filed four bad bills. Three would make neighborhoods less safe from fire. In the name of fire safety, one would have preempted ordinances limiting the cutting down of trees and other vegetation. The one bill that became law is SB 1593. It preempts city regulation of fireworks in extraterritorial jurisdictions more than 5000 feet from city limits.

## Other

An assortment of bills on other city subjects, were also followed. Two bills good for neighborhoods became law, as did one potentially detrimental bill. HB 819 expands the definition of mosquitoes in regard to public health nuisances. SB 1264 increases the size of industrialized buildings that can be subject to regulation. HB 1558 prohibits cities from banning churches from providing overnight shelter to children.

## **County Authority**

A number of bills filed would enhance county authority favorable to neighborhoods. On the other hand, a number of the bills preempting city authority would also preempt county authority. Eleven of the eighteen bills followed had state-wide applicability. Three applied just to Harris County. Four applied just to certain border counties.

Fire safety was the predominant topic, with three good bills and two bad bills. The one fire safety bill that became law, HB 1150, adds more days for fireworks sales. Another bill becoming law, HB 1643, affects nuisance abatement in Harris County.

## **Property Owner and Homeowner Associations**

This was the major area of focus for TNT, bringing the perspective of the volunteer association leaders. See a separate report for a description of the bills that became law. See the list below for all the filed bills, including those that did not pass.

## **Energy and Water Conservation**

HB 3539/SB 1626, narrowing the “developer loophole” regarding solar devices, was the only legislation filed in this category. SB 1626 did become law. (These bills are listed below in the Property Owner and Homeowner Associations category.)

## **Public Disclosure of Real Estate Prices**

No bills were filed. After the session, the City of Austin filed a lawsuit alleging current law, which includes no public price disclosure and other inequities disproportionately shifting property taxes to homeowners, is unconstitutional under the state constitution.

## **Homeowners Insurance Reform**

Two bills were filed supporting the TNT objective of eliminating the use of credit scoring in setting insurance rates. One got a committee hearing but advanced no further.

Separately, TNT opposed legislation which would have made successful filing of claims by homeowners and others far more difficult. This had a lot of momentum, passing the Senate as well as the House Insurance Committee. It was finally stopped in the House Calendars Committee.

**Alcohol Issues** – See the Alcohol section under Municipal Authority above.

**Recorded Votes** – No bills were filed.

## **Group Homes-**

One good bill and one bad bill were filed. Both got committee hearings but advanced no further.

**The full list of all bills filed along with brief descriptions and dispositions are listed below:**

### **Bills of Interest to Texas Neighborhoods Together in the 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature 2015 Regular Session**

## **Municipal Authority**

**Preemption of Municipal Authority** – General – (8 bad bills, 1 passed in a non-harmful form)

**HB 540 (King, Phil)** – require submission of initiative or referendum ballot proposals to the Attorney General

Status: Heard in State Affairs. Died there.

**HJR 55 (Villalba)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion

Status: Referred to State Affairs. No hearing at the request of the author.

**HJR 125 (Krause)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion

Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 178 (Nichols)** – prohibit use of eminent domain for recreational purposes (incl. hike-and-bike trails)

Status: Heard in State Affairs. Died there.

**SB 343 (Huffines)** – preempt local regulation if not expressly authorized by the state

Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 360 (Estes)** – expanded definition of regulatory takings, incl. reduction of revenue by more than 20%

Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1806 (Estes)** – broad preemption of city authority where state regulation exists and prohibition of city plastic bag bans

Status: Heard in State Affairs. Died there.

**SJR 22 (Creighton)** – establishing a constitutional right to hunt

Status: Goes to the voters November 3, 2015, after amendment to preserve city right to regulate firearm discharges.

**Preemption of Municipal Authority** – Oil and Gas Operations – Direct preemption  
(6 bad bills, 1 became law)

**HB 40 (Darby)** – with some exceptions, preempts city regulation of oil and gas operations

TNT Position: STRONGLY OPPOSE

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**SB 1165 (Fraser)** - preempts city regulation of oil and gas operations

Status: Passed by Natural Resources & Economic Development

Companion bill HB40 was also passed and instead moved to the Senate floor.

**Preemption of Municipal Authority** – Oil and Gas Operations – Indirect preemption (4 bad bills, all failed)

**HB 539 (King, Phil)** – require obtaining a fiscal note from the Texas Legislative Council before oil and gas regulation

Status: Heard in Energy Resources. Died there.

**SB 809 (Taylor, Van)** – add oil and gas regulation to the definition of regulatory takings

Status: Referred to Natural Resources and Economic Development, who did not give it a hearing.

**Alcohol and Sexually Oriented Businesses**

(5 good bills, of which 1 became law; 1 bad bill which failed; 1 clean-up bill which became law)

**HB 143 (Menendez)** – prohibit alcohol consumption within 300 feet of a bus stop

Status: Referred to Licensing and Administrative Procedures, who did not give it a hearing

**HB 148 (Menendez)** – establish a public consumption permit requirement for BYOB establishments  
Status: Referred to Licensing and Administrative Procedures, who did not give it a hearing

**HB 2035 (Raymond)** – allow regulation of more establishments within 50 miles of the Mexican border  
Status: Passed both houses. Became law without the governor's signature. Effective September 1, 2015

**HB 2047 (Ashby)** – allow school district petitions to establish 1000 foot alcohol-free zones  
Status: Referred to Licensing and Administrative Procedures, who did not give it a hearing

**HB 2296 (Smith)** – allow city regulation of open containers in central business districts by ordinance rather than petitioning the ABC  
Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 2533 (Goldman)** – repeals an offensive noise alcohol code offense applicable to licensees. Retains a penal code offense.  
Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 3768 (Zedler)** – establish state regulation of sexually oriented businesses, preempting city regulation  
Status: Referred to Licensing and Administrative Procedures, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1318 (Menendez)** – prohibit alcohol consumption within 300 feet of a bus stop  
Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1320 (Menendez)** – establish a public consumption permit requirement for BYOB establishments  
Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1653 (Taylor, Larry)** – establish state regulation of sexually oriented businesses, preempting city regulation  
Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**Graffiti** – 2 good bills which failed

**HB 883 (Moody)** – establish a lower Class C misdemeanor for graffiti if damage value is less than \$50  
Status: Reported favorably by the Criminal Jurisprudence and Calendars committees. Died awaiting full House consideration.

**HB 1057 (Rodriguez. J.)** – increase community service hours for graffiti offenses  
Status: Referred to Criminal Jurisprudence, who did not give it a hearing

**Illegal Dumping** – (2 good bills, 1 became law)

**HB 273 (Miles)** – set minimum jail time for illegal dumping  
Status: Heard in Criminal Jurisprudence. Died there.

**HB 274 (Miles)** – increase maximum fine for illegal dumping  
Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**Automated Traffic Enforcement** (general, including red light and other cameras)  
(4 bad bills for enforcement, all failed)

**HB 142 (Stickland)** – prohibit automated traffic enforcement  
Status: Heard in Transportation

**HB 3817 (Elkins)** – prohibit photographic traffic enforcement  
Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 340 (Huffines)** – prohibit automated traffic enforcement  
Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1340 (Huffines)** – prohibit photographic traffic enforcement  
Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**Automated Traffic Enforcement** (red light camera specific) – (6 bills bad for enforcement, all failed)

**HB 13 (Pickett)** – transportation funding bill amended to prohibit red light cameras  
Status: Bill passed in different forms by the House and Senate. Senate transportation funding bill instead advanced.

**HB 1034 (Geren)** – prohibit refusal of vehicle registration due to unpaid red light camera violations  
Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**HB 1131 (Elkins)** – ban red light cameras  
Status: Heard in Transportation. Died there.

**HB 2442 (Zedler)** – prohibit refusal to register vehicles due to unpaid red light camera citations  
Status: Heard in Transportation. Died there.

**HB 2779 (Elkins)** – prohibit red light camera tickets for right turns on red

Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 714 (Hall)** – ban red light cameras

Status: Passed the Senate. Killed by a vote in House Transportation.

**Fire Safety** – (4 bad bills, 1 became law)

**HB 1442 (Workman)** – preempts ordinances to allow owners to remove trees or vegetation they believe are fire hazards

Status: Heard by Business and Industry. Died there.

**HB 2426 (Kuempel)** – limit city and county regulation of fire extinguishers

Status: Passed the Urban Affairs and Calendars committees. Did not get to the House floor.

**SB 1593 (Lucio)** – preempt city regulation of fireworks in extraterritorial jurisdictions more than 5000 feet from city limits

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**Other** – (9 good bills, 2 became law; 3 bad bills, 1 became law)

**HB 381 (Burkett)** – increase penalties for burglary of vehicles

Status: Passed by the House. Referred to Senate Criminal Justice, who did not give it a hearing

**HB 819 (Sheffield)** – expand definition of mosquitoes in regard to public health nuisances

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**HB 907 (Phillips)** – enable city and county regulation of halfway houses

Status: Heard in County Affairs. Died there.

**HB 936 (Murphy)** – allow neighborhood electric vehicle operation at night and for more than 2 miles

Status: Scheduled for a Transportation hearing. Withdrawn by the author.

**HB 1558 (Parker)** – prohibit cities from banning churches from providing overnight shelter to children

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 1990 (Kuempel)** – increase the size of industrialized buildings subject to regulation

Status: Companion SB 1264 passed.

**HB 3266** – preempt city regulation of campgrounds and RV parks

Status: Passed by Culture, Recreation & Tourism. Died in Calendars Committee.

**HB 3060 (Anchia)** – expand building and standards commission authority to include animal control and water conservation

Status: Vetoed by the governor, who objected to additional water conservation authority

**SB 1264 (Eltife)** – increase the size of industrialized buildings subject to regulation

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**SB 1552 (West)** – expand building and standards commission authority to include animal control and water conservation

Status: Heard in Intergovernmental Relations, who instead passed companion HB 3060, which was vetoed by the governor

**SB 1717 (Ellis)** – default 25 mph speed limit on residential and urban streets

Status: Referred to Transportation, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1679 (Huffines)** – add onerous requirements for cities considering adoption of national model building codes

Status: Passed the Senate. Referred to House Urban Affairs, who did not give it a hearing.

### **County Authority**

**Generally Applicable State-wide – Fire Safety** – (3 good bills, all failed; 2 bad bills, 1 became law)

**HB 684 (Sheets)** – allow smaller counties to adopt fire codes

Status: Passed the House. Heard by the Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Died there.

**HB 1150 (White, James)** – adds days during which fireworks sales can be allowed

Status: Signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 2426 (Kuempel)** – limit city and county regulation of fire extinguishers

Status: Passed the Urban Affairs and Calendars committees. Did not get to the House floor.

**HB 2556 (White, Molly)** – add penalty options in regard to illegal outdoor burning

Status: Passed the County Affairs and Calendars committees. Did not get to the House floor.

**Generally Applicable State-wide – Other** – (3 good bills, 3 bad bills, all failed)

**HB 907 (Phillips)** – enable city and county regulation of halfway houses

Status: Heard in County Affairs. Died there.

**HB 1639 (Farias)** – provide information to the public about the impact of military installations  
Status: Passed by the House and the Senate Business and Commerce Committee. Did not get to the Senate floor.

**HB 2600 (Rodriguez, Eddie)** – enable county regulation of cottage food producers  
Status: Referred to Public Health, who did not give it a hearing

**HJR 55 (Villalba)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion  
Status: Referred to State Affairs. No hearing at the request of the author.

**HJR 125 (Krause)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion  
Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 178 (Nichols)** – prohibit use of eminent domain for recreational purposes (incl. hike-and-bike trails)  
Status: Heard in State Affairs. Died there.

**Bracketed to Harris County** – (3 good bills, 1 became law)

**HB 152 (Harless)** – give the Harris County Commissioners Court authority to call an election on fireworks regulation  
Status: Heard in County Affairs. Died there.

**HB 153 (Harless)** – give Harris County authority to regulate noise in unincorporated area  
Status: Scheduled for a County Affairs hearing but not heard

**HB 1643 (Riddle)** – adjustments to nuisance abatement law affecting Harris County  
Status: Passed both houses. Became law without the governor's signature. Effective immediately.

**Bracketed to Certain Border Counties (4 good bills, all failed)**

**HB 316 (Canales)** – give certain border counties the ability to contract with attorneys to enforce subdivision platting requirements  
Status: Heard in County Affairs. Died there.

**HB 3793 (Lucio)** – land development authority for certain border counties (*colonia* prevention)  
Status: Heard by International Trade and Intergovernmental Affairs. Died there.

**SB 1375 (Lucio)** – land development authority for certain border counties (*colonia* prevention)  
Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing.

**SB 1575 (Rodriguez)** – allow county to apply current standards to subdivisions more than 25 years old and less than half developed

Status: Passed the Senate and House County Affairs and Calendars. Did not get to the House floor.

### **Property Owner and Homeowner Associations**

#### **Governance**

(10 bills supported by TNT, all of which became law; 1 other good bill which failed)  
(1 bill opposed by TNT and 2 other bad bills, all of which failed)

**HB 971 (Bohac)** – Require board members to read and uphold governing documents

TNT Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed by Business and Industry. Died in Calendars.

**HB 1072 (Thompson)** – allow felons 20 or more years beyond final incarceration or probation to serve on POA boards

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed both houses. Became law without the governor's signature. Effective immediately.

**HB 2147 (Keffer)** – clarify that secret ballots are allowed

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Companion bill SB 864 signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 2148 (Keffer)** – clarify that voting options are permissive

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Companion bill SB 862 signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 2797 (Villalba)** – various modifications and clarifications to the major 2011 POA legislation

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Companion bill SB 1168 signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HB 3539 (Dukes)** – narrow the developer solar devices exception to neighborhoods with 50 or less units

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed by the Business & Industry and Calendars Committee to the full House, who instead passed companion bill SB 1626

**SB 862 (Birdwell)** – clarify that voting options are permissive

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**SB 864 (Birdwell)** – clarify that secret ballots are allowed

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Signed by the governor. Effective immediately

**SB 1168 (West)** – various modifications and clarifications to the major 2011 POA legislation

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**SB 1244 (Burton)** – lowers CC&R amendment threshold to 60% of those voting, increases minimum vote notice from 10 to 30 days

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1535 (Burton)** – lowers CC&R amendment threshold to 60% of those voting

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1538 (Burton)** – prohibits covenants requiring owners use of a particular telecommunications provider

Status: Referred to Natural Resources and Economic Development, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1626 (Rodriguez)** – narrow the developer solar devices exception to neighborhoods with 50 or less units or lots

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**SB 1852 (Nichols)** – expands ability to amend CC&Rs in the county that includes Lake Livingston

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed both houses. Became law without the governor's signature. Effective immediately.

### **Deed Restrictions**

(3 bills supported by TNT, 2 of which became law)

(2 bad bills that became law with favorable amendment, 6 other bad bills which failed)

**HB 748 (Isaac)** – HOA regulation of propane tanks

Status: Reported favorably by the House Business & Industry and Calendars committees. Died awaiting full House consideration.

**HB 939 (Dale)** – HOA regulation of standby electric generators

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**HB 1178 (Isaac)** – prohibits covenants requiring owners use of a particular fuel or fuel provider

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed by Business and Industry and Calendars. Did not get to the House floor.

**HB 1442 (Workman)** – allow owners to violate deed restrictions to remove trees or vegetation they believe are fire hazards

Status: Heard by Business and Industry. Died there.

**HB 2489 (Leach)** – limit HOA regulation of rentals

TNT Position: OPPOSE as filed

Status: Favorably amended bill signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**HB 2594 (Parker)** – allow owners to modify covenants to redevelop disused golf course property

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Reported favorably by the House Business & Industry and Calendars committees. Died awaiting full House consideration.

**HB 2999 (Landgraf)** – prohibit HOA regulation of the possession or discharge of firearms

Status: Reported favorably by the Homeland Security & Public Safety and Calendars committees. Died awaiting full House consideration.

**HB 3460 (Murr)** – adds more types of flags allowed on flag poles regulated by HOAs

Status: Reported favorably by the House Business & Industry and Calendars committees. Died awaiting full House consideration.

**HB 3539 (Dukes)** – narrow the developer solar devices exception to neighborhoods with 50 or less units

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Companion bill SB 1626 signed by the governor. Effective September 1, 2015.

**HJR 55 (Villalba)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion

Status: Referred to State Affairs. No hearing at the request of the author.

**HJR 125 (Krause)** – prohibit cities, counties and HOAs from burdening free exercise of religion

Status: Referred to State Affairs, who did not give it a hearing

### **Foreclosure (3 bills, all failed)**

**HB 1335 (Gutierrez)** – sets low caps for attorneys' fees associated with foreclosures

Status: Referred to Business and Industry, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 283 (West)** – expands use of expedited judicial proceedings for foreclosures

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 284 (West)** – expands citation requirements associated with foreclosures

Status: Heard by State Affairs. Died there.

Other – (1 bill supported by TNT, 1 bill (and its companion) opposed by TNT, all became law)

**HB 745 (Bohac)** – allow HOA deployment of solar-powered stop signs

TNT Position: SUPPORT

Status: Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**HB 1455 (King)** – add requirements prior to condominium building defect litigation

TNT Position: OPPOSE

Status: Amended to be less onerous. Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**SB 834 (Creighton)** - add requirements prior to condominium building defect litigation

TNT Position: OPPOSE

Status: Companion bill HB 1455 amended to be less onerous. Signed by the Governor. Effective immediately.

**Homeowners Insurance** – (1 bad bill (and its companion) opposed by TNT and 2 good bills, all failed)

**HB 3646 (Smithee)** – make successful filing of claims by homeowners and others far more difficult

TNT Position: OPPOSE

Status: Heard by the House Insurance Committee, who instead moved companion bill SB 1628

**HB 3964 (Fletcher)** – prohibit the use of credit scoring in underwriting for recently returned veterans

Status: Heard by Defense and Veterans Affairs. Died there.

**SB 79 (Ellis)** – prohibit the use of credit scoring in underwriting

Status: Referred to Business and Commerce, who did not give it a hearing

**SB 1628 (Taylor, Larry)** – make successful filing of claims by homeowners and others far more difficult

TNT Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed the Senate and the House Insurance Committee. Died in the House Calendars Committee.

**Group Homes** – (1 good bill and 1 bad bill, both failed)

**HB 907 (Phillips)** – enable city and county regulation of halfway houses

Status: Status: Heard in County Affairs. Died there.

**HB 2283** (Guillen) – Exempt alcohol and drug recovery homes from certain boarding home regulations

Status: Heard by Human Services. Died there.