



Matt worked on positive legislation for Texas:

- Allowing electronic voting for military members in combat zones which will make it significantly easier for them to vote in Texas elections. Joint author, Signed into law. (HB 1129)
[House Journal, May 7, 2013, Page 2609](#)
- Preserving the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) by restoring it to financial solvency. Co-sponsored, Signed into law. (SB 1458) [House Journal, May 20, 2013, Page 3749](#)
- Banning late-term abortions after 20 weeks and requiring stronger health and safety standards for abortion clinics. Co-authored, Signed into law. (HB 2, 2nd special session)
[House Journal, July 10, 2013, Page 63](#)
- Eliminating unnecessary regulation on rent-to-own companies as part of the "Smaller, Smarter, Government" initiative. Lead sponsor, Signed into law. (SB 289)
[House Journal, May 21, 2013, Page 3939](#)
- Clarifying penalties for assaults against Emergency Room personnel. Helped the primary author rewrite the bill in committee in order to get it passed. Joint Author, Signed into law. (HB 705)
[House Journal, May 9, 2013, Page 2872](#)
- Reducing the impact of the franchise tax on small businesses. Co-Author, Signed into law. (HB 500) [House Journal, May 8, 2013, Page 2774](#)
- Requiring the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in charter schools. Co-Author, Signed into law. (HB 773) [House Journal, April 26, 2013, Page 1923](#)
- Allowing concealed handguns to be carried on college campuses by license holders. Successfully amended the bill on the floor to allow private security guards at colleges to carry firearms in their official capacity for the school. Co-Author, Amendment sponsor, Passed the House. (HB 972) [House Journal, May 4, 2013, Page 2444](#)
- Reforming public schools by reducing burdensome STAAR testing requirements and allowing for more career and technology education. Signed into law. (HB 5)
[House Journal, March 27, 2013, Page 1131](#)
- Amended a bill which required the state to reimburse utility companies for moving their facilities due to toll road construction or expansion. Amendment specified that the relocation had to be done in a reasonable time period to qualify for reimbursements. Passed the House. (HB 2585)
[House Journal, May 1, 2013, Page 2140](#)
- Amended a bill relating to juvenile justice to allow for a sentence of life in prison without parole for 17 year old offenders who commit the most heinous murders. Passed the House. (SB 23, 1st special session) [House Journal, June 21, 2013, Pages 1048-1049](#)



Matt worked on matters of local importance to Smith County:

- Advancing a bill to create a pharmacy school for the University of Texas at Tyler. Co-sponsor, led the committee hearing in the House, Signed into law. (SB 566)
[House Journal, May 14, 2013, Page 3215](#)
- Requiring board members of emergency service districts in Smith County to be elected, rather than appointed by County Commissioners. Prior to passage of this bill, the ESDs were the only entities in Smith County with the power to tax, but whose members were not elected by the citizens. Signed into law. (SB 1265) [House Journal, May 17, 2013, Page 3600](#)
- Led a committee hearing to lay out legislation to protect water rights in East Texas from bureaucratic mandates. Legislation required due process before water rights were suspended or diverted by TCEQ. (HB 1776, HB 1780)
[House Journal, March 4, 2013, Page 578](#); [House Journal, March 12, 2013, Page 707](#)

Matt worked to defeat bad legislation for Texas:

- Worked to eliminate non-essential spending items in the Texas budget. Supported budget amendments, (SB 1) [House Journal, April 4, 2013, Pages 1232-1414](#)
- Opposed budgetary gimmicks that increased state spending and used dedicated funds to balance the budget. (HB 6) [House Journal, May 26, 2013, Page 5173](#)
- Led efforts on the House floor to defeat legislation that would have imposed new regulations on small businesses and licensing requirements on workers.
 - Worked to stop a law which would prevent anyone other than dentists from engaging in teeth whitening business. Bill was removed from Local & Consent Calendar; subsequently passed the House on the General Calendar, but was stopped in Senate committee. (HB 502)
[House Journal, April 24, 2013, Page 1801](#)
 - Worked to defeat unnecessary and burdensome licensing requirements for foundation repair contractors, individuals who install security cameras, and radiology assistants. All three bills failed to pass. (HB 613, HB 75, SB 1079) [House Journal, May 9, 2013, Page 2916](#);
[House Journal, May 8, 2013, Page 2818](#); [House Journal, May 21, 2013, Page 4053](#)
 - Worked to amend a bill to repeal state licensing requirements for registered interior designers, as recommended by the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission. The effort was unsuccessful. (HB 1717) [House Journal, April 22, 2013, Pages 1714-1718](#)
- Led a successful effort on the House floor to defeat an amendment which would have required magistrates to give a special warning to illegal aliens that a plea of “guilty” or “no contest” could lead to deportation, without giving warnings about serious collateral consequences to those in the military or holders of occupational licenses like teachers. Such warnings are already given by the Judge before he or she accepts a guilty plea. Amendment was ultimately withdrawn. (HB 570) [House Journal, April 18, 2013, Pages 1674-1676](#)