

State of Texas
Texas Senate



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For Immediate Release

January 21, 2015
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It Really Is A New Day In Texas

Bettencourt lauds 3/5 Bi-Partisan Rule Vote In The Texas Senate

AUSTIN - Today the Texas Senate adopted new rules allowing for a 3/5 super majority vote to allow Senators to bring individual pieces of legislation to the floor for debate. After years of public discussion, the so-called 2/3rds rule (or blocker bill) has clearly fallen out of public favor in Texas.

"The changing tide of public opinion was reflected in today's bi-partisan vote of 20-10, with one abstention. Present in the Senate Gallery today were several constituents of Senate District 7 who witnessed a similar debate six years ago when then-Senator Patrick proposed a change in the 2/3 rule, and it was voted upon by the Texas Senate with a far different outcome," Bettencourt said.

"I have observed from outside the Capitol for over a decade as both a private citizen and as an elected official, that from time to time it was used to block forms of property tax relief and other important public policy issues from being fully debated in the Texas Senate."

"I think today's bi-partisan vote signals that in the future such legislation has a much better chance of passing the Texas Senate, and hopefully the entire Legislature on the way to being enacted into law in the State of Texas."

Senator Bettencourt's office is located in the Capitol Extension, E1.712, and can be reached at (512) 463-0107. Senator Bettencourt's office is open from 8:30am-5:30pm Monday-Friday.