

INTERNET ARCHIVE
Wayback Machine BETA

http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/dist55/bio/delisi.htm

29 captures
4 Jan 03 - 23 Apr 09

NOV JUN DEC
2
2007 2008 2009

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Membership

Representative Dianne Delisi



Biographical Information

Dianne White Delisi is a Texas legislator representing the people of the 55th District in Bell County. She was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1990.

Now in her ninth term, Representative Delisi serves as the Chairman of the Committee on Public Health and as a member of the Committee on Public Education and the Medicaid Reform Legislative Oversight Committee.

In the 80th Regular Session, Delisi was one of the 10 most productive members of the House in terms of the number of pieces of legislation passed into law. Delisi served as either the author or sponsor of more than two-dozen pieces of successful legislation covering topics ranging from Medicaid reform to border security. Delisi's health care legislation included the 80th Session's omnibus Medicaid reform bill, hospital-acquired infection reporting legislation, strengthening protections against Medicaid fraud, and a broad package of measures designed to enhance the use of modern information technology within the health care system.

Delisi legislation from the 80th Session also helped military veterans and their families through extending college educational benefits to the children of disabled veterans whose injuries prevented them from returning to civilian employment. The topics of border security and protection against identity theft was addressed in Delisi legislation targeting large-scale counterfeit government "document mills" operated by organized crime. Keeping quality public school teachers in the classroom was tackled in Delisi legislation involving the creation of model teacher retention programs.

Delisi served as either the author or sponsor of 35 bills that became law in the 79th Legislative Session in 2005, covering a wide range of topic areas. This included legislation to require the Texas Attorney General to review large state health care purchasing contracts, comprehensive reforms to reduce Medicaid fraud, and strategies to curtail unnecessary emergency room use. Delisi also passed legislation to modernize Texas government by making all major purchasing documents available on the Internet. State purchasing employees will now have to disclose family relationships they have with vendors under one of Delisi's ethics bills.

Other Delisi bills from the 79th Regular Session included model legislation to assist the school-aged children of military families through faster school records transfers and the option of an alternate exit exam. Improved school safety and emergency planning was addressed in a piece of legislation Delisi sponsored. She also carried legislation to assist military communities through the Base Realignment and Closure process, and saw it become the first bill signed into law by the governor that session.

Delisi was also active in the three special sessions on public school finance that followed the 79th Regular Session. Delisi supported the significant local school property tax reductions, new teacher mentoring, and substantial teacher pay increase contained in the omnibus school finance legislation passed in the final special session.

During the 78th Legislative Session, Delisi served as the Chairman of the House Select Committee on State Health Care Expenditures. During this period she authored legislation that was incorporated into the omnibus transportation bill to create a Texas Driver Responsibility Program to fund both trauma care and road repairs. Delisi also authored legislation to establish disease management initiatives for Medicaid and other state-funded health care programs.

During the same session Rep. Delisi also served on the House Select Committee on Public School Finance and participated in the Education Excellence Working Group of the Joint Committee on Public School Finance. Both select committees were involved in

INTERNET ARCHIVE
Wayback Machine BETA

29 captures
4 Jan 03 - 23 Apr 09

Go

NOV JUN DEC
2007 2 2008 2009

Workgroup on the Teacher Shortage. Delisi also passed Medicaid budgeting reform requiring comprehensive financial reports while serving on the Public Health Committee during the same session. In a related area, she introduced the idea of defined contribution health benefits to the teacher health insurance policy discussion. Other legislative and budgetary initiatives covered children's health insurance programs, preparation for bioterrorism, access to health care for rural Texans, mental health and mental retardation services, nursing home quality, and graduate medical education emphasis and funding.

Delisi served as Chairman of the House Appropriations' Subcommittee on Tobacco Settlement Disbursement during the 76th Legislative Session.

Delisi served as the Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations from 1995 to 1998 and worked as a member of the budget writing conference committee for both the 74th and 75th sessions.

During the 73rd Legislative Session, Delisi served as the Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Public Health.

In 1999, Representative Delisi founded and served as chairman of the IH-35 Legislative Task Force. Legislators with districts along IH-35 came together to ensure priority funding for this major highway. Representative Delisi worked closely with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Department of Public Safety to coordinate efforts for the task force.

Representative Delisi has authored or sponsored several noteworthy pieces of legislation over her legislative career. This includes parental notification requirements for a minor daughter seeking an abortion, initiatives to prevent youth violence, expulsion of students who assault teachers or school employees, incentives for retired teachers to return to teach in shortage areas, alternative certification through Troops to Teachers and Careers to Classrooms, in-state tuition for military students and the creation of the Strategic Military Planning Commission.

Representative Delisi is a past Chairman of the Board of Women In Government, is a member of the Texas Conservative Coalition, and served on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Advisory Committee for the State Health Leadership Initiative. She was Co-Founder of the Task Force on Smoking and Health and a founding member of the Texas Reach Out and Read Steering Committee. Delisi also participated in a congressionally mandated study performed by the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Immunization Finance Policies and Practices.

Representative Delisi currently is a member of the Executive Committee of the Council for The Forum for State Health Policy Leadership for the National Conference of State Legislatures and on the Advisory Board of the University of Houston Health Law and Policy Institute. She has served as a member of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), originally appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush and later reappointed by Governor Rick Perry. Delisi now serves as a governor-appointed member of the SREB Legislative Advisory Council.

A fifth generation Central Texan, Representative Delisi graduated from Temple High School, received her B.A. at Southern Methodist University, M.A. at the University of Colorado, and a Certificate of Special Studies at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. She has two children and five grandchildren.

Awards and Recognitions

- *Friends of Medicine Award*, Texas Medical Association, 2007
- Texas Hospital Advocacy Tribute Award, Texas Hospital Association, 2007
- Paul J. Harris Fellow, Rotary Club of Temple, 2007
- Legislative Star, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, 2007
- Certificate of Environmental Stewardship, Texas Impact, 2007
- Texas Guardian Award, National Federation of Independent Business/Texas, 2006
- Health Care Heroes Award, Civic/Government category, 2006
Austin Business Journal
- Top Texas Legislators 79th Legislature, 2005
Capitol Inside
- Texas Hospital Advocacy Tribute Award, 2005
Texas Hospital Association
- Champion for Free Enterprise, 79th Legislative Session, 2005
Texas Association of Business
- Texas Medicine's Best Legislator Award, 2005
Texas Medical Association

INTERNET ARCHIVE
WayBack Machine BETA

29 captures
 4 Jan 03 - 23 Apr 09

Go

NOV JUN DEC CI
 2007 2008 2009

- Texas Rehabilitation Association
Legislative Award, 2005
- Ten Best Legislators, 2005
Texas Monthly
- Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service as a State Representative, American Medical Association, 2005
- Citation for Exceptional Service in National Defense for 2004
Association of the United States Army (AUSA)
- Ten Best Legislators, 2003
Texas Monthly
- Texas Public Policy Foundation
Lone Star Leadership Award, 2003
- Texas Hospital Advocacy Tribute Award, 2003
Texas Hospital Association
- Texas Trauma Coordinators Forum
"Champion" of Trauma System Legislation, 2003
- Fighter for Free Enterprise Award, 77th Legislative Session (2001)
Texas Association of Business
- Chairman of the Board
Women In Government, 2001
- Legislator of the Year
American Heart Association, 1999
- Outstanding Legislator Award
Texas Public Health Association, 1996 & 1999
- Families First Award
Free Market Foundation, 1995 & 1997
- Distinguished Service Award
Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, 1997
- Presidential Award of Merit
Texas Academy of Family Physicians, 1995
- Friend of Business Outstanding Legislator Award
Texas Chamber of Commerce, 1993
- Commanders Award
Department of the Army, 1993

last updated on 09/24/2007