



STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DANIEL H. BRANCH

MEMBER

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Branch Tapped to Chair Higher Education Committee

Dallas Member Also Gains Appointment to Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee

(Austin, TX) – Texas House Speaker Joe Straus (R-San Antonio) has named Rep. Dan Branch (R-Dallas) Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee.

Branch's priorities for Higher Education include developing more first tier universities in Texas, addressing college affordability challenges by improving the state's financial aid and tuition policies and reforming the state's top 10% admissions rule. In addition, Branch is the author of legislation to establish The University of North Texas School of Law in downtown Dallas.

Branch will also serve on the House Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence Committee, which has jurisdiction over civil laws, judicial matters and the Office of the Attorney General.

Branch said, "I am honored by Speaker Straus' decision to entrust me with assignments so critical to the future prosperity of our state. Chairing Higher Education allows me to focus on policies to best prepare future generations to compete in a knowledge-based economy. In addition, our judicial climate has long term effects on our ability to attract and retain quality businesses and health care professionals. I'm up to the challenge and look forward to beginning our work."

The Higher Education Committee has jurisdiction over our state's 143 public and independent higher education institutions including: 32 public 4-year universities, 39 independent colleges and universities, 10 health-related institutions and 62 community college systems and technical schools. Total postsecondary enrollment in Texas is currently approaching 1.3 million students.

Branch has considerable policy experience in the education arena. Last session, he served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance. Recently, The Committee delivered its recommendations to the Legislature entitled "Education: Priority One." Additionally, he served three terms as the Chair of Budget & Oversight on House Public Education Committee, and last session, served as Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

Chairman Branch is in his fourth-term representing House District 108, which includes downtown, uptown, near east and north Dallas, including the Town of Highland Park and the City of University Park.

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