Are Insurance Discounts For Texas Homeowners Who Make Their Properties More Resilient Being Held Hostage To Millions Of Dollars In Campaign Spending?

Texas homeowners are paying some of the highest insurance premiums in the country—seeing an effective rate increase of 55% since 2019, and nearly double the national average. Yet unlike other Gulf Coast states such as Alabama, Texas offers no guaranteed insurance discounts for homeowners who strengthen their homes against wind and storm damage, despite overwhelming evidence that such upgrades save insurers money and reduce property losses.

The Alabama Model Has Shown Success

Numerous Gulf Coast states have embraced insurance discounts for resiliency upgrades, but Alabama's embrace of benchmark insurance discounts for homeowners who upgrade to the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) FORTIFIED standard has made the state a national model for disaster resilience. Homes built or retrofitted to the FORTIFIED standard saw 56%–72% lower frequency of storm claims, and insurers were legally required to provide discounts—typically 20–55% on the wind portion of premiums—to homeowners who made those upgrades. The result: more than 60,000 certified FORTIFIED homes (2:24:27) and a more stable insurance market.

Texas regulators and insurers know these programs work. A 2024 Texas Department of Insurance–commissioned study confirmed that resilient construction plays a role in "mitigating structural damage" and "reducing insurance costs." The report also found that "the incentive programs in several states have been instrumental in encouraging homeowners to adopt FORTIFIED standards." Industry groups like the Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions (TCAIS) have publicly endorsed the FORTIFIED standard, acknowledging that stronger building codes "drive down the cost of insurance."

So What's The Matter With Texas?

Despite that consensus, major insurers and their trade associations have repeatedly **opposed or weakened legislative efforts** to require premium discounts for resilient homes in Texas.

- In 2024 testimony to the Texas legislature, a National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies representative told legislators not to "mandate" discounts (2:08:05) related to FORTIFIED upgrades, claiming they "don't move the needle." (2:09:29)
- During the 2025 Legislative Session, the House considered a bill that would've linked insurance discounts to appropriations for a state grant program[1], as if requiring that

[1]HB 1576 (2025): "The Texas Department of Insurance shall implement Chapter 1813, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, and an insurer is required to comply with Section 1813.011, Insurance Code, as added by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for issuing grants under that chapter."

the state subsidize upgrades was the only way to encourage homeowners to implement them. Meanwhile in Alabama, the state grant program has only funded 7,100 out of the nearly 60,000 FORTIFIED standard upgrades (2:24:27) built across the state, suggesting grant money is not an essential piece of the resiliency puzzle.

- During the 2025 session, the Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) lobbied to water down a House proposal that would have required specific resilience discount benchmarks, replacing it with a vague "actuarially justified" discount requirement that left discount amounts entirely up to insurers.

Money Talks

One reason the policy may have failed is that since 2016, the insurance industry[2] has contributed **over $8.9 million** to Texas officeholders' campaign accounts, **87% of it to Republicans** who control the governorship and both legislative chambers.

- Gov. **Greg Abbott** received over **$700,000** from the insurance industry during his 2022 reelection campaign.

- Lt. Gov. **Dan Patrick**, who presides over the Senate, received **$460,000** from the insurance industry during his 2022 reelection campaign.

- **Four of the top five Senate recipients** of insurance industry money over the course of their careers – including the Committee Chairman – sit on the Business & Commerce Committee**,** which has quietly killed three resilience-related bills in the past two sessions.

The same industry that admits resilience upgrades lower insurance losses seems to have spent heavily on politicians who've yet to require that homeowners receive the corresponding savings in Texas.

While states like Alabama have moved forward with resilience incentives, Texas remains stalled. Until lawmakers stand up to industry influence, Texans will keep footing the bill for an insurance system that protects profits instead of people.

Gulf Coast States Like Alabama Have Encouraged Homeowners To Build More Resilient Homes By Requiring Insurance Discounts For Homes That Use Enhanced Construction Methods.

The Insurance Industry Has Broadly Supported The Development Of A Set Of Enhanced Requirements For Building Construction That Is Resilient To Severe Weather.

[2] For campaign finance purposes in this report the "Insurance Industry" covers donations categorized by the National Institute on Money in State Politics as coming from "Property & Casualty Insurers" and "Insurance agencies, brokers and agents."

The Insurance Institute For Business And Home Safety Is A Nonprofit Research Agency Supported By The Insurance Industry. "IBHS delivers top-tier science and translates it into action so we can prevent avoidable suffering, strengthen our homes and businesses, inform the insurance industry, and support thriving communities. The Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) is an independent, 501(c)(3) nonprofit scientific research and communications organization supported by property insurers, reinsurers, and affiliated companies. IBHS's building safety research leads to real-world solutions for home and business owners, helping to create more resilient communities." [Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, accessed 10/27/25]

IBHS Developed The FORTIFIED Standard, An Enhanced Set Of Requirements For Building Construction That Improves Resilience To Severe Weather. "FORTIFIED Standards go beyond typical building codes to deliver superior performance during severe weather (such as hurricanes, strong thunderstorms, and lower-level tornadoes). FORTIFIED is a nationally recognized building method based on more than 20 years of scientific research and real-world testing by IBHS." [Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, accessed 10/27/25]

Several Gulf And Coastal States Have Statutorily Required Discounts Or Incentives For Homeowners Who Upgrade Their Homes To The FORTIFIED Standard, And Alabama Has A Benchmark Discount That Insurers Cannot Go Beneath Without Providing Actuarial Justification.

Louisiana Has A Statewide Mandate That Admitted Carriers Shall Provide An Actuarially-Justified Discount For Homes Built/Retrofitted To The IBHS FORTIFIED Standard. "Any insurer required to submit rates and rating plans to the commissioner shall provide an actuarially justified discount, credit, rate differential, adjustment in deductible, or any other adjustment to reduce the insurance premium to insureds who build or retrofit a structure to comply with the requirements of the State Uniform Construction Code or the fortified home or fortified commercial standards created by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety." [2024 Louisiana Laws Revised Statutes Title 22 - Insurance §22:1483, accessed 11/05/25]

Mississippi Requires Insurance Carriers To File Actuarially-Justified Discounts For Tiered Mitigation Levels Defined By IBHS. [MS Code § 83-75-3 (2024), accessed 11/05/25]

Since March 1, 2025, Georgia Has Also Required Insurers To Provide An Actuarially-Justified Discount To Homeowners Who Comply With FORTIFIED Standards. [GA Code § 33-32-11 (2024), accessed 11/05/25]

Alabama Has A Statewide Mandate To Provide Premium Discounts For Homes Retrofitted To IBHS FORTIFIED Which Includes Benchmark Discounts That Insurers Cannot Go Beneath. [AL Code § 27-31D-2 (2024), accessed 11/05/25]

- **In October 2025, Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell Explained At A Federal Hearing That Alabama Had "Benchmark Discounts For Fortified Homes." "**Based on that success, other states have followed suit. The subcommittee's top Democrat, Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota, said her state 'has drawn inspiration from the work that you all have done in Alabama.' Smith asked Powell how Alabama was able to get insurance companies to offer lower premiums for homes with Fortified roofs. 'We have benchmark discounts for Fortified homes,' Powell told Smith. 'They're different based on where the house is located and which level of the Fortified standard it's built to and they're all actuarially justified.'" [Alabama Daily News, 10/22/25]

Alabama's Adoption Of The Enhanced Standards Has Significantly Reduced Property Damage And Insurance Costs From A Hurricane, And Appears To Be The Most Successful Program In The Region.

Alabama's "Strengthen Alabama Homes" Program Has Brought Insurers Back To High-Risk Coastal Areas By Increasing The Adoption Of FORTIFIED Roofs. "'A lot of these insurance companies were not going into coastal areas, simply from a risk standpoint,' said Travis Taylor, acting director of the Strengthen Alabama Homes program, which is overseen by the state Department of Insurance. 'But now as people have gotten Fortified roofs, the insurance companies are hounding them.'" [Stateline, 06/25/24]

The Vast Majority Of IBHS Certified FORTIFIED Homes Are In Alabama. "Out of the 70,000 homes that IBHS have certified through the FORTIFIED program, over 60,000 of those were in Alabama." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:24:27]

A Study By The University Of Alabama Found That Homes Built To FORTIFIED Standards Experienced Significantly Less Damage During A Hurricane. "We find that Fortified-designated construction performed better than conventional construction in Hurricane Sally. Depending on the selected designation, sample, and measure, Fortified construction reduced loss frequency by 55% to 74%, loss severity by 14% to 40%, and loss ratio by 51% to 72%." [Center for Risk and Insurance Research, 05/05/25]

The Study Also Found That Upgrading All Homes To The FORTIFIED Standard Would Have Saved Insurers The Majority Of Their Losses. "Insurance companies paid $149.3 million for claims in our sample of policies from Hurricane Sally. We estimate that if all conventional houses were built or retrofitted to the Fortified Roof standard, insurers would have saved $99.9 million (67%) in losses. If all the houses had been built to the Fortified Gold standard, they would have saved $111.8 million (75%) of the total they paid as claims for policies in our sample." [Center for Risk and Insurance Research, 05/05/25]

The Architect Of The Strengthen Alabama Homes Program Cited A State Benchmark Insurance Discount For Resilient Construction As A Key Element Of The Program's Success.

Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell Designed, Implemented, And Administered The Strengthen Alabama Homes Program. "I've been with the NAIC for about four months now, in my prior role I just retired from the state of Alabama as Deputy Insurance Commissioner. I was the founding director of the Strengthen Alabama Homes program. That program has been a model program for mitigation around the country. That program is my design, implementation, and administration for over a decade." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:22:45]

Powell Attributed The Widespread Adoption Of The FORTIFIED Standard Among Homes That Did Not Receive Grants To Incentive Programs That Empowered Homeowners. "More importantly, what these programs do is they create a movement towards resiliency, a culture of resiliency. And that was prominent in Alabama, because the Strengthen Alabama Homes program has only issued about 7,100 grants. But out of the 70,000 homes that IBHS have certified through the FORTIFIED program, over 60,000 of those were in Alabama. So think about the difference between 7,100 and over 60,000. How did that happen? We empowered people to do it.

One thing that we did was, just like in Texas, you've adopted or you've given the the authority to your local jurisdictions to adopt the 2012 residential building codes, and we did primarily the same thing in Alabama, but we encouraged local jurisdictions to adopt a higher local standard, a Code Plus, which would include the FORTIFIED Certification would be attached to a home that was either being built or being re-roofed in those jurisdictions. [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:24:27]

The Main Incentive Discussed By Powell Was A State Benchmark Requirement For Insurance Discounts, Which Insurers Can Only Avoid By Meeting A High Standard Of Evidence. "We also did a few things in Alabama like we offered insurance discounts. Now, the discount was not mandated, we set a benchmark that was totally voluntary by insurance companies to meet. We did have a requirement that if they did not meet the benchmark discount, to submit with their filings an actuarially justified reason why they could not meet that benchmark. And what we found was that, out of all the filings that were submitted, none of them were below the benchmark that was set by the Department of Insurance, in fact they were all above." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:25:35]

- **Since May 2009, Alabama Has Required Insurers To "Provide A Premium Discount Or Insurance Rate Reduction" To "Any Owner Who Retrofits His Or Her Insurable Property Located In The State Of Alabama To Resist Loss Due To Hurricane Or Other Catastrophic Windstorm Events."** "(a) Commencing on May 14, 2009, insurance companies shall provide a premium discount or insurance rate reduction in an amount and manner as established in subsection (g) and pursuant to Section 27-31D-3. In addition, insurance companies may also offer additional adjustments in deductible, other credit rate differentials, or a combination thereof, collectively referred to as adjustments. These adjustments shall be available under the terms specified in this section to any owner who retrofits his or her insurable property located in the State of Alabama to resist loss due to hurricane or other catastrophic windstorm events." [Code of Alabama, Chapter 31D Section 27-31D-2, accessed 10/31/25]

- **Per Alabama Department Of Insurance Bulletin 2013-07, Homeowners Who Retrofit An Existing Home Or Build A New Home To IBHS FORTIFIED Standards "Must Receive The Entire Filed Mitigation Discount."**

(b) These discounts **are not to be subject to any "total maximum credits" rule** filed by an insurer. If an insured retrofits an existing home or builds a new home to the IBHS FORTIFIED® standards, or builds a new home to standards in the 2006 (or later) International Residential Code®, the insured must receive the entire filed mitigation discount on the wind premium.

[Alabama Insurance Bulletin 2013-07, 09/20/13]

- **Alabama Department Of Insurance Bulletin 2013-07 Also Lists The Benchmark Discounts That Insurance Companies Must Meet Or Provide Actuarial Justification If They Choose To Alter.**

3. ***Filing requirements.*** Each insurer is required to have filed and approved discounts, **specifically for each of the categories listed on the following benchmark table**. If an insurer elects to file discounts different from the benchmark discounts, the filing shall include actuarial justification for the proposed discounts. Insurers are permitted to file additional construction component discounts (*e.g.*, for opening protections, roof shape, etc.) that apply **in addition to**, **but not in place of**, the discounts for the above mentioned mitigation categories. An insurer must submit a SERFF™ filing indicating its new discounts, and provide a revised manual including the new discounts.

No other provisions of Bulletins 2009-07 and 2010-03 are affected by this Bulletin.

ALABAMA WIND MITIGATION BENCHMARK DISCOUNTS

(Applicable to Wind Premium)

These discounts are not to be subject to any "total maximum credits" rule.

Mitigation Category	EXISTING HOME ROOF > 5 Yrs.	EXISTING HOME ROOF ≤ 5 Yrs.	NEW HOME ≤ 5 Yrs.
FORTIFIED for Safer Living®	50%	60%	60%
FORTIFIED Home™: GOLD	40%	50%	50%
FORTIFIED Home™: SILVER	35%	45%	45%
FORTIFIED Home™: BRONZE	20%	35%	35%
2006 IRC or later	10%	20%	20%

[Alabama Insurance Bulletin 2013-07, 09/20/13]

- **In October 2025, Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell Explained At A Federal Hearing That Alabama Had "Benchmark Discounts For Fortified Homes." "**Based on that success, other states have followed suit. The subcommittee's top Democrat, Sen. Tina Smith of Minnesota, said her state 'has drawn inspiration from the work that you all have done in Alabama.' Smith asked Powell how Alabama was able to get insurance companies to offer lower premiums for homes with Fortified roofs. 'We have benchmark discounts for Fortified homes,' Powell told Smith. 'They're different based on where the house is located and which level of the Fortified standard it's built to and they're all actuarially justified.'" [Alabama Daily News, 10/22/25]

Texas Insurers And Insurance Regulators Know That State Incentives For Resilient Construction Reduce Insurance Costs.

Major Texas Insurers Have Acknowledged That State Policies That Incentivize The Adoption Of Resilient Construction Methods Reduce Insurers' Costs.

The Texas Coalition For Affordable Insurance Solutions Is A Group Of Property Insurance Companies That Claim To Work Together To Advocate For Policies That Will Reduce Insurance Costs. [Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions, accessed 10/27/25]

- **TCAIS Membership Consists Of:**
  - Allstate Insurance
  - Farmers Insurance
  - Nationwide Insurance
  - State Farm Insurance
  - Texas Farm Bureau Insurance
  - USAA

  [Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions, accessed 10/27/25]

TCAIS Supports Texas Adopting The FORTIFIED Standard, And Cited Alabama's Grant Program As A Policy That Encouraged Widespread Adoption Of Resilient Construction. "Institute resiliency grant programs to build to recognized 'fortified' standards: Other states, notably Alabama, are enacting grant programs to help individuals and communities achieve better building standards. Initial review of such programs indicates that in addition better building for the direct recipients, others in the market who do not receive grants may be adopting the standards as well." [Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions, November 2024]

TCAIS Acknowledges That Adopting More Resilient Construction Standards Reduces Insurers' Costs. "In a state prone to so many weather-related disasters – including hail, wildfires, hurricanes and tornadoes – implementing and enforcing sound building codes can save lives and reduce property damage. They also help drive down the cost of insurance – damage to homes built to a strong code is less likely or less severe, leading to fewer losses and lower cost insurance claims." [Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions, accessed 10/27/25]

Texas Insurance Regulators Contracted A Study That Reported That Resilient Construction Methods Reduce Insurance Costs, And That State-Level Incentive Programs Are "Instrumental" In Encouraging Their Adoption.

The Texas Department Of Insurance Asked A Coastal University To Study The Effects Of Resilient Construction On The Property Insurance Market In Coastal Texas. "Texas A&M University of Galveston (TAMUG) was contracted by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to conduct a study of the effects of resilient structures on market incentives for writing windstorm and hail insurance in the 14 Tier 1 coastal counties of Texas and parts of Harris County." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

The Study Described A Consensus Among Researchers That The FORTIFIED Standard Mitigates Property Damage And Reduces Insurance Costs. "Scholarly research consistently underscores the benefits of enforcement of building codes and IBHS FORTIFIED programs, highlighting their role in mitigating structural damage and also enhancing community resilience by preventing income and job losses, increasing property values, and reducing insurance costs." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

The Study Found That State-Level Incentive Programs For Resilient Construction Were Particularly Important In Encouraging Their Adoption. "Notably, the literature indicates that the extent and adoption of mitigation strategies can be substantially increased through improved communication, targeted incentives, and heightened awareness of available programs. Specifically, the incentive programs in several states have been instrumental in encouraging homeowners to adopt FORTIFIED standards. The success of these programs highlights the role of state level incentives in fostering widespread adoption of resilient construction practices, ultimately contributing to reduced damages and enhanced economic stability in the face of natural disasters." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

Surveys Indicate At Least 30% Of Texas Insurers Outright Oppose Lowering Costs For Policyholders Who Increase Their Property's Resilience.

A Significant Minority Of Texas Insurers Are Unwilling To Offer Any Discount For Resilient Construction.

30% Of Insurers Surveyed In The Study Contracted By Texas Insurance Regulators Said They Were Unlikely To Offer Discounts To Texans Who Adopted The FORTIFIED Standard, And 40% Are Unlikely To Do So In High-Risk Areas. "We found that 70% of insurers are likely to offer premium discounts statewide, while 60% are likely to do the same in Tier 1 (Figure 3)." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

The Insurers Who Reported Being Unlikely To Offer Discounts Said That No Other Mitigation Program Would Get Them To Lower Costs For Policyholders. "Critically, in all three types of questions related to increasing the number of policies, premium discounts, and premium credits for certain resilient features, insurers who indicated they were 'unlikely' to participate also noted that no other mitigation programs would prompt them to increase coverage or reduce premiums." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

Most Insurers Do Not Intend To Lower Deductibles On Homes Built To High-Resilience Standards.

Most Insurers Did Not Report Supporting Lower Deductibles For FORTIFIED Homes. "The survey also explored insurers' willingness to lower deductibles on policies with windstorm and hail coverage for homes meeting IBHS FORTIFIED standards, specifically for Gold, Silver, and Roof standards, both statewide and in Tier 1 counties. As reported in Figure 7, the largest grouping of insurers was neither supportive nor unsupportive of offering lower deductibles. Notably, more insurers were also unsupportive or strongly unsupportive of lowering deductibles than supportive of lowering deductibles." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

Only A Handful Of Insurers Supported Lower Deductibles On FORTIFIED Homes In High-Risk Areas. "Only three insurers indicated they were 'somewhat supportive' of lower deductibles on Tier 1 homes meeting the Gold standard, and only one insurer was for Tier 1 homes meeting Silver and Roof standards." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

An Insurance Industry Representative Told The Texas Legislature That The Companies He Represents Oppose Mandatory Discounts For Risk Mitigation.

In June 2024, A Representative Of The National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies Testified To Texas Legislators That His Association's Members Oppose Mandatory Discounts For Policyholders Who Mitigate Their Risk. "We're all for mitigation, we think it's a good thing, we have no opinion at this point about exactly how you'd want to go about it. [...] I would caution you against one policy idea that we have seen in some states. It's very tempting because it's very easy to do, and it's a popular bill, which is: 'Well let's just mandate that companies give a discount if someone does X mitigation.' [...] There's a lot of reasons for that, one reason is mitigation discounts are already available out in the market even though they're not mandated. So if someone is willing to put the money into mitigation, like Paul did, they can already be rewarded out in the market, they just have to look." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:08:05]

The Insurance Representative Claimed That Mandatory Discounts Do Not "Move The Needle" On Encouraging Adoption Of The FORTIFIED Standard, Saying It Only Worked Because Alabama Combined The Standard With "Funding Mitigation." "The bigger issue though, if you compare that to Alabama, Alabama did that combined with funding mitigation. That's what moved the needle, they've got, the guy who ran the program will testify a little later, they've got 40 or 50,000 FORTIFIED roof designations in Alabama. Again, we want to be part of that conversation, I would just caution you against that one particular idea. We have a lot of other arguments about why you shouldn't do it, but the main one is that it won't move the needle." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:09:29]

- **However, Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell Noted That Of The More Than 60,000 Alabama Homes That Had Been Certified Through The FORTIFIED Program, Just 7,100 Of Them Had Actually Received Grants.** "More importantly, what these programs do is they create a movement towards resiliency, a culture of resiliency. And that was prominent in Alabama, because the Strengthen Alabama Homes program has only issued about 7,100 grants. But out of the 70,000 homes that IBHS have certified through the FORTIFIED program, over 60,000 were in Alabama. So think about the difference between 7,100 and over 60,000. How did that happen? We empowered people to do it." [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:24:27]

Insurers Fear That Mandatory Discounts For Resilient Construction Would Hurt Their Income.

Insurers Reported Concerns That Discounts For FORTIFIED Homes Would Hurt Their Income. "Insuring FORTIFIED homes or IBHS-certified roofs at a required discount could lead to a loss in premium income, requiring adjustments to rates for all policies." [Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

Texas Insurers Who Support Resilient Construction Discounts Want Full Authority To Determine The Size Of The Discount, Even Lobbying The State Legislature To Weaken A Proposal To Mandate Specific Discounts, And Could Use Their Leeway To Offer Discounts That Fall Short Of Alabama's Successful Example.

The Insurance Industry Successfully Lobbied To Water Down A Legislative Proposal To Mandate Resilient Construction Discounts, Leaving The Discount Amount Up To Insurers' Discretion.

In The 2025 Legislative Session, The Texas House Considered A Bill To Establish A Grant Program For Homeowners To Upgrade To FORTIFIED Construction. [Texas Legislature, 89R, HB1576]

After The Bill Had Already Passed Out Of Committee, Rep. Tom Oliverson (R-Cypress) And Rep. Matt Morgan (R-Richmond) Proposed An Amendment That Would Require Insurers To Offer "Actuarially Justified" Discounts For Properties That Met The Grant Program's Resilience Standards. "An insurer offering a policy of insurance described by Subsection (a) shall provide an actuarially justified premium discount or rate reduction for property that has been certified as complying with the eligibility standards for the grant program established under Section 1813.004 and any related inspection or certification requirements. An insurer may require reasonable evidence of eligibility, inspection, and certification." [Texas House of Representatives, 04/29/25]

- **The Amendment Passed, And The House Subsequently Passed The Bill As Amended.** [Texas Legislature, 89R, HB1576]

- **The Bill Died In Committee In The Texas Senate.** [Texas Legislature, 89R, HB1576]

According To A Legislative Update From The Insurance Council Of Texas, The Amendment Originally Would Have Required The Texas Department Of Insurance To Mandate A Specific Discount. "On April 30, the House passed HB 1576, which establishes a grant program to help homeowners retrofit properties to meet the IBHS FORTIFIED standard. A proposed floor amendment—requiring TDI to mandate a specific discount for qualifying homes—posed a concern." [Insurance Council of Texas, May 2025]

The Insurance Council Of Texas Claimed Credit For Lobbying Oliverson To Weaken The Discount Mandate. "ICT worked with Representative Oliverson to offer an alternative amendment that preserves rating flexibility by requiring a discount or rate credit filing without a mandated amount." [Insurance Council of Texas, May 2025]

- **The Insurance Council Of Texas Is The Primary State Lobbying Group For Property Insurers.** "ICT serves as a trusted and active voice at the Texas Legislature, lobbying on behalf of its members to promote fair, balanced, and effective insurance policies. Our team works closely with lawmakers and their staff to ensure legislation reflects the needs of the insurance industry while protecting consumers. Additionally, we represent our members at regulatory hearings affecting residential property, private passenger and commercial auto, and workers' compensation insurance. [...] Membership in ICT is open to all property and casualty insurance companies operating in Texas. At present, our ranks include 400 companies that are diverse in size, product line, and method of distribution.” [Insurance Council of Texas, accessed 10/28/25]

Texas Insurers Who Support Resilient Construction Discounts Said They’d Offer Much Lower Discounts Than Alabama Insurers, Where High Discounts Were A Key Factor In Resilient Construction Adoption.

Alabama’s Program Of Insurance Incentives Was A Key Factor In The Widespread Adoption Of The FORTIFIED Standard In The State, According To The Program’s Architect. Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell: “And that was prominent in Alabama, because the Strengthen Alabama Homes program has only issued about 7,100 grants. But out of the 70,000 homes that IBHS have certified through the FORTIFIED program, over 60,000 were in Alabama. So think about the difference between 7,100 and over 60,000. How did that happen? We empowered people to do it.” [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:24:27]

Alabama Set A State Benchmark Of 20% To 50% Discounts On The Wind Portion Of Home Insurance Premiums. Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell: “When you’re talking about insurance in Alabama along the coast, and I’m pretty sure it’s probably about the same here, in that wind portion of your homeowner’s insurance, because wind is obviously the driving factor behind a lot of this loss, is a large portion of your premium. It can be up to, we have seen up to, 80% of the total cost of your premium being of wind. What we were able to do was offer between a 20% and 50% discount on that portion of your premium.” [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:26:17]

- **Every Alabama Insurer’s Discount Exceeded The State Benchmark.** Former Alabama Deputy Insurance Commissioner Brian Powell: “And what we found was that, out of all the filings that were submitted, none of them were below the benchmark that was set by the Department of Insurance, in fact they were all above.” [Texas House Committee on Insurance, 6/11/24, 2:25:35]

- **The Alabama Department Of Insurance Notes That The Benchmark Discounts Have Been In Effect Since 2014.** [Alabama Department of Insurance - Alabama Homeowner Fact Sheet, accessed 11/05/25]

Texas Insurers That Said They Were Likely To Offer Resilience Discounts Reported A Proposed Maximum Average Discount Of 18% On The Wind/Hail Portion Of The Premium, Which Is Below Alabama’s 20% Minimum Benchmark.

Table 4: Average percent discount in premiums among "somewhat" & "highly" likely insurers

	Gold	Silver	Roof
Overall HO policy premium discount	8.7	6.2	6.4
Discount on Wind and Hail portion of the premium	18.6	13.6	12

Notes: The response rate is based on the total number of 17 responses received for the Gold and Siver standards, and 14 for the Roof standard.

[Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, 11/25/24]

Since 2016, The Insurance Industry[3] Has Poured More Than $8.98 Million Into Texas Campaigns – During That Time The Texas Legislature Gave Insurance Companies Protection From Lawsuits, But Has Repeatedly Killed Bills Designed To Give Homeowners Resiliency Discounts.

The Insurance Industry Has Contributed More Than $8.98 Million To State Level Candidates In Texas Since 2016, The Vast Majority Of Which Went To Republicans, Who Dominate State Politics.

Republicans Have Controlled The Governorship And Both Houses Of The Texas Legislature Since 2003. [Ballotpedia, accessed 10/28/25]

Since 2016, The Insurance Industry Has Contributed Over $8.98 Million To State Level Candidates In Texas. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

- **$7.81 Million – Approximately 87% – Went To Republican State Officeholders.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

- **$1.17 Million – Approximately 13% – Went To Democratic State Officeholders And Committees.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

The Insurance Industry Contributed $700,895 To Governor Greg Abbott's 2022 Reelection Campaign. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

- **The Insurance Industry Contributed $55,798 To Challenger Beto O'Rourke.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

[3] For campaign finance purposes in this report the "Insurance Industry" covers donations categorized by the National Institute on Money in State Politics as coming from "Property & Casualty Insurers" and "Insurance agencies, brokers and agents."

- **The Insurance Industry Contributed A Maximum Of $633 To Any Of Abbott's Other Opponents.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

The Insurance Industry Contributed $460,617 To Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's 2022 Reelection Campaign. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

The Insurance Industry Contributed $59,038 To Republican Candidates For Texas Senate In 2024. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

- **The Insurance Industry Contributed $53,350 To Democratic Candidates For Texas Senate In 2024.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

The Insurance Industry Contributed $347,020 To Republican Candidates For The Texas House In 2024. [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

- **The Insurance Industry Contributed $88,070 To Democratic Candidates For The Texas House In 2024.** [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

Over The Course Of Their Political Careers, The Insurance Industry Has Contributed Over $950,000 To Legislators Currently On The Legislative Committees That Regulate Insurance.

Over The Course Of Their Careers, The Insurance Industry Has Contributed $813,690 To The Senators Who Sit On The Senate Business & Commerce Committee.

Name	Party	Amount	Name	Party	Amount
Chair Charles Schwertner	R	$145,849	Jose Menendez	D	$53,772
Robert Nichols	R	$115,821	Vice Chair Phil King	R	$25,750
Judith Zaffirini	D	$115,000	Nathan Johnson	D	$21,575
Lois Kolkhorst	R	$109,498	César Blanco	D	$20,600
Brandon Creighton*	R	$103,245	Mayes Middleton	R	$9,000
Donna Campbell	R	$93,580	-	-	-

*Resigned October 2, 2025

[National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

Over The Course Of Their Careers, The Insurance Industry Has Contributed At Least $139,599 To The Representatives Who Sit On The House Insurance Committee.

Name	Party	Amount	Name	Party	Amount
Dennis Paul	R	$62,000	Vikki Goodwin	D	$500

Vice Chair Hubert Vo	D	$58,699	Matt Morgan	R	Data Unavailable
Chair Jay Dean	R	$12,150	Andy Hopper	R	Data Unavailable
Jessica González	D	$3,500	Trey Wharton	R	Data Unavailable
David Spiller	R	$2,750	-	-	-

[National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

In 2017, The Insurance Industry Funded A Group That Leaned On Texas To Pass Major Legislation That Limits Lawsuits Against Insurance Companies

A 2017 Texas Law Made It Harder To Sue Insurers For Wrongfully Denied Claims, Which Consumer Advocacy Groups Say Has Allowed Insurers To Delay Or Deny Legitimate Claims. "In 2017, Texas enacted a law that made it harder for homeowners to challenge insurers who denied claims and lowered penalties for companies that wrongfully did so. At the time, lawyers and consumer advocates warned the bill would 'embolden' insurance companies to delay or deny weather-related claims. That's exactly what appears to be happening, said Ware Wendell, the executive director of Texas Watch, a consumer advocacy nonprofit, as homeowners' claims closed without payments in Texas have risen sharply since then." [Houston Chronicle, 06/11/25]

The 2017 Bill Was Pushed For By A GOP-Backed Group Called Texans For Lawsuit Reform. "The vote marks a victory for the powerful GOP-backed tort reform group pushing the legislation, Texans for Lawsuit Reform, which says the bill will crack down on lawsuit abuse by money-hungry trial lawyers who chase storms and take advantage of homeowners and insurers for big payouts that the group says leads to higher premiums for all Texas property owners." [Texas Tribune, 05/04/17]

Insurance Industry Groups Have Been Consistent Donors To Texans For Lawsuit Reform Over The Years.

Year	Organization	Contribution
2012	American Insurance Association	$15,000
2013	American Insurance Association	$15,000
2014	American Insurance Association	$10,000
2015	American Insurance Association	$10,000

2016	American Insurance Association	$10,000
2017	American Insurance Association	$10,000
2017	American Property Casualty Insurance Association	$29,400
2020	American Property Casualty Insurance Association	$20,000
2021	American Property Casualty Insurance Association	$20,000
2023	American Property Casualty Insurance Association	$75,000

Texans For Lawsuit Reform Has Continued To Advocate For Legislation Limiting Businesses' Legal Liability Up To The Current Legislative Session. "Decades after convincing the Texas Legislature to make it much harder for people to sue doctors and corporations, the influential group Texans for Lawsuit Reform is facing more resistance than ever in its latest push to further restrict legal liability for business." [Texas Tribune, 05/23/25]

- **The Insurance Industry Continues To Support TLR's Efforts.** "By supporters' accounts, the policies helped spark an era of economic prosperity often referred to as the 'Texas Miracle.' But now a coalition of businesses led by TLR, including insurance companies, transportation providers and homebuilders, believe that era is under threat because some judges are tilting the scales toward plaintiffs." [Texas Tribune, 05/23/25]

Four Of The Top Five Texas Senate Recipients Of Insurance Industry Money Sit Or Sat On The Committee That Has Killed Three Recent Resilient Construction Bills.

The Top 5 Texas Senate Recipients Of Campaign Contributions From The Insurance Industry Are:

- Sen. Kelly Hancock (R-Fort Worth)
- Sen. Charles Schwertner (R-Georgetown)
- Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville)
- Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo)
- Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham)
  [National Institute on Money in State Politics, accessed 11/13/25]

Senators Kolkhorst, Nichols and Zaffirini Are Members Of The Senate Committee On Business & Commerce, And Sen. Charles Schwertner Is The Committee's Chairman. [Texas Legislature, accessed 11/04/25]

In The 2025 Legislative Session, Two Resilient Construction Bills That Passed The Texas House Died In The Senate Business & Commerce Committee:

- **HB 1576, A Proposal To Establish A Grant Program And Require Insurance Discounts For FORTIFIED Construction, Was Referred To But Never Considered By The Senate Business & Commerce Committee.** [Texas Legislature, 89R, HB1576]
    - **SB 2924, An Identical Senate Version Of HB 1576, Was Also Referred To But Never Considered By The Senate Business & Commerce Committee.** [Texas Legislature, 89R, SB2924]
- **HB 2841, A Proposal To Require Texas' Coastal Insurer Of Last Resort To Accept FORTIFIED Certifications, Was Referred To But Never Considered By The Senate Business & Commerce Committee.** [Texas Legislature, 89R, HB2841]

In The 2023 Session, A Bill To Allocate Funds For FORTIFIED Construction Passed The Texas House But Died In The Senate. "Last session, a bill that would have allowed TWIA to spend $500,000 annually on a Fortified homes program passed the House but died in the Senate." [Houston Chronicle, 12/18/24]