



QofM

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2023



How do the Power Five Conference's legislators in the Southern region stack up in terms of their effectiveness?

As legislative sessions across the South gavel in, college football season also drew to a close. Some states opened their sessions before the NCAA Football National Championship game; others were a little creative with their schedules since their state's schools competed in the game. The final two teams competing in the National Championship Game hailed from the Southern region, the University of Georgia and Texas Christian University. In the spirit of this hallowed competition, **how do the Power Five Conference's legislators in the Southern region stack up in terms of their effectiveness?** To determine this, we used a simple metric of effectiveness, how many of the bills introduced by any member were enacted.

Without further ado, it turns out that in CSG South, the SEC has the most effective legislators with an average passage rate of 36 percent, and the Big-12 with the lowest passage rate of 15 percent. Region-wide, the Power Five conferences have a combined average of 31 percent.

ACC	24%
Big 10	23%
Big 12	15%
Pac 12	27%
SEC	36%
Power Five Average	31%

How about the five most effective legislators in the region? Well, four legislators had a 100 percent pass rate in 2022. Number five is also nothing to sneeze at, with a passage rate of 92 percent for the year.

Noted SEC fanboy and college football commentator Paul Finebaum, I'm sure, would be proud of the SEC's strong numbers in the legislature, even if it is only a few points above the average for the region. Just as sure as he was picking the Dawgs to win the Championship over the Horned Frogs.

GA Senator Russ Goodman	University of Georgia	100%
LA Senator Mark Abraham	Louisiana State University	100%
GA Representative Susan Holmes	University of Georgia	100%
AL Senator Greg Reed	University of Alabama	100%
GA Representative Larry "Butch" Parrish	University of Georgia	92%

A note on methodology and the limitations of this analysis:

The data used for this analysis came from Quorum, a public affairs platform. The selection of legislators was limited to members actively serving in 2022 in the CSG South region. Additionally, the legislation only came from the 2022 sessions, including any special sessions. The education data used also came from Quorum. Data pertaining to educational attainment were incomplete, **so this analysis is purely for fun and not statistically significant.**

The colleges and universities were categorized according to the Power Five conferences. In the case of graduate-level education, if the member went to graduate school (JD, MD, MPA, etc.) at a Power Five school, they were categorized as a Power Five legislator. For example, if a member went to Furman University for their undergraduate and then went to the University of Tennessee for their law degree, they were classified as SEC. If the member went to Baylor University for undergrad and then Texas A&M University for graduate school, they were coded as BIG-12 since it is more typical that one's sporting allegiance aligns with their undergraduate institution.

The Power Five conferences are commonly understood as the Atlantic Coast Conference, The Big Ten Conference, The Big-12 Conference, The Pac-12 Conference, and The Southeastern Conference. In sorting schools by conference, their 2022 affiliation was used. For example, The University of Texas doesn't enter the SEC until 2025, so it was coded as Big-12. While Notre Dame University is part of the ACC for every other sport, it occupies a unique space in NCAA Football. As it only plays five ACC games each season and still maintains an air of independence, it is not coded as ACC for this analysis.