

Texas Legislative Process 101

All material taken from the Texas Legislature Online Website: www.capitol.state.tx.us

Basic Steps involved in passing a Bill into Law:

Idea

The process for creating a new law starts when a legislator first begins to formulate an idea. An idea for a new law may be suggested by anyone: concerned citizens, special interest groups, state agencies, or the governor, for example. If you have an idea you would like to suggest to your legislator, use the [Who Represents Me](#) website to determine your senator or representative and to find his or her contact information.

Introduction

During a legislative session, members may introduce new legislation until filing deadlines identified on the [legislative dates](#) calendar. When the legislature is in session, the Texas Legislature Online (TLO) home page will include the time that the house and senate are scheduled to convene each day. Methods to view introduced legislation include:

- ★ [Legislative Reports](#) - View a list of bills that have been filed in the house or senate.
- ★ [Bill Status](#) - View the current status and legislative history for a bill.
- ★ [Text Search](#) - Find bills with specific content.
- ★ Subject Search - Find bills on a specific subject using the [bill search](#) or the [subject index](#).
- ★ You can create a personal [bill list](#) and receive e-mail notification as the status changes on bills you chose to watch.

Referral to House/Senate Committee

Bills that have been referred to committee may be viewed using:

- ★ [Legislative Reports](#)
- ★ [Bill Search](#)

Considered in House/Senate Committee

When a bill is scheduled to be heard by a house or senate committee, public notice is made to allow public participation in the committee process. View [house meeting notices](#) and [senate meeting notices](#) to see which bills are scheduled to be considered at a particular committee meeting. Minutes are created by committee clerks after each public hearing. Use this website to view [house meeting minutes](#) and [senate meeting minutes](#). Most committee meetings are available for viewing over the Internet on the [house](#) and [senate](#) websites. You can receive notice of upcoming [house](#) and [senate](#) committee meetings through e-mail.

Placed on House/Senate Calendar

After a bill has been reported favorably by a committee and the committee report has been printed, the bill is available for placement on a calendar. A calendar is a list of bills and resolutions that are scheduled to be considered by the full house or senate. Use this website to view [house calendars](#) and [senate calendars](#).

Considered on House/Senate Floor

Journals are records of activity that occurs on the house or senate floor and include actions that are taken on a bill and any amendments added to the bill. Use this website to view [house journals](#) and [senate journals](#). View the [amendments](#) website to search for amendments based on chamber, author, bill, reading, and date. Proceedings on the house and senate chamber floor may be viewed over the Internet at [house](#) and [senate](#) websites.

Signed/Vetoed by Governor

If a bill passes both the house and senate, it may be signed or vetoed by the governor or pass without signature. View the [legislative reports](#) to see a list of all bills passed or vetoed.

Laws of Texas

Once legislation becomes law, it becomes codified as a statute. Statutes may be viewed and searched at the [Texas Statutes](#) website.

82nd Session Timeline:

Tuesday, November 2, 2010

General election for legislative and other offices is held

Monday, November 8, 2010

Prefiling of legislation for the 81st Legislature begins

Tuesday, January 11, 2011 (1st day)

82nd Legislature convenes at noon

Friday, March 11, 2011 (60th day)

Deadline for filing bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and bills that have been declared an emergency by the governor

Monday, May 30, 2011 (140th day)

Last day of 82nd Regular Session; corrections only in house and senate

Sunday, June 19, 2011 (20th day following final adjournment)

Last day governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular legislative session

Monday, August 29, 2011 (91st day following final adjournment)

Date that bills without specific effective dates (that could not be effective immediately) become law