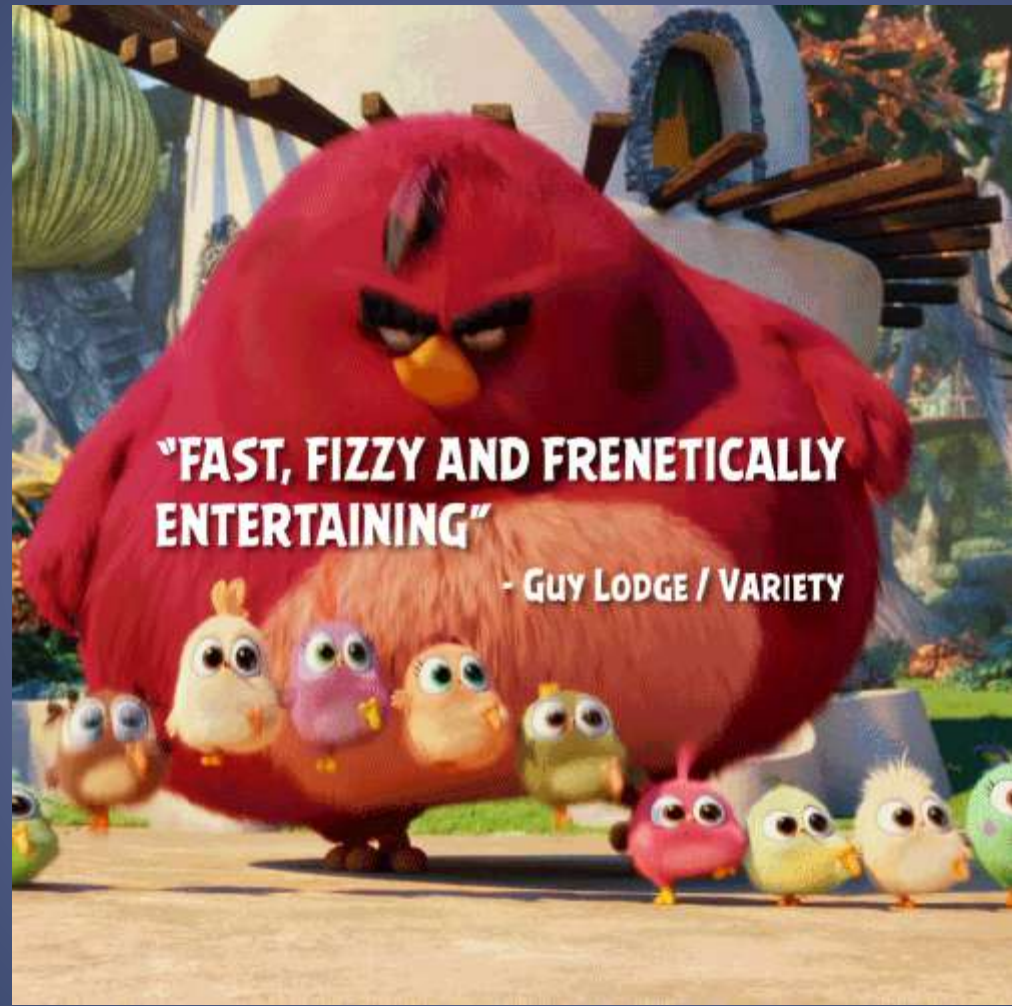




# **86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:**

## **An Insider's Guide to Effectively Representing Your Agency**

Karina Davis, Senate Parliamentarian



**"FAST, FIZZY AND FRENETICALLY ENTERTAINING"**

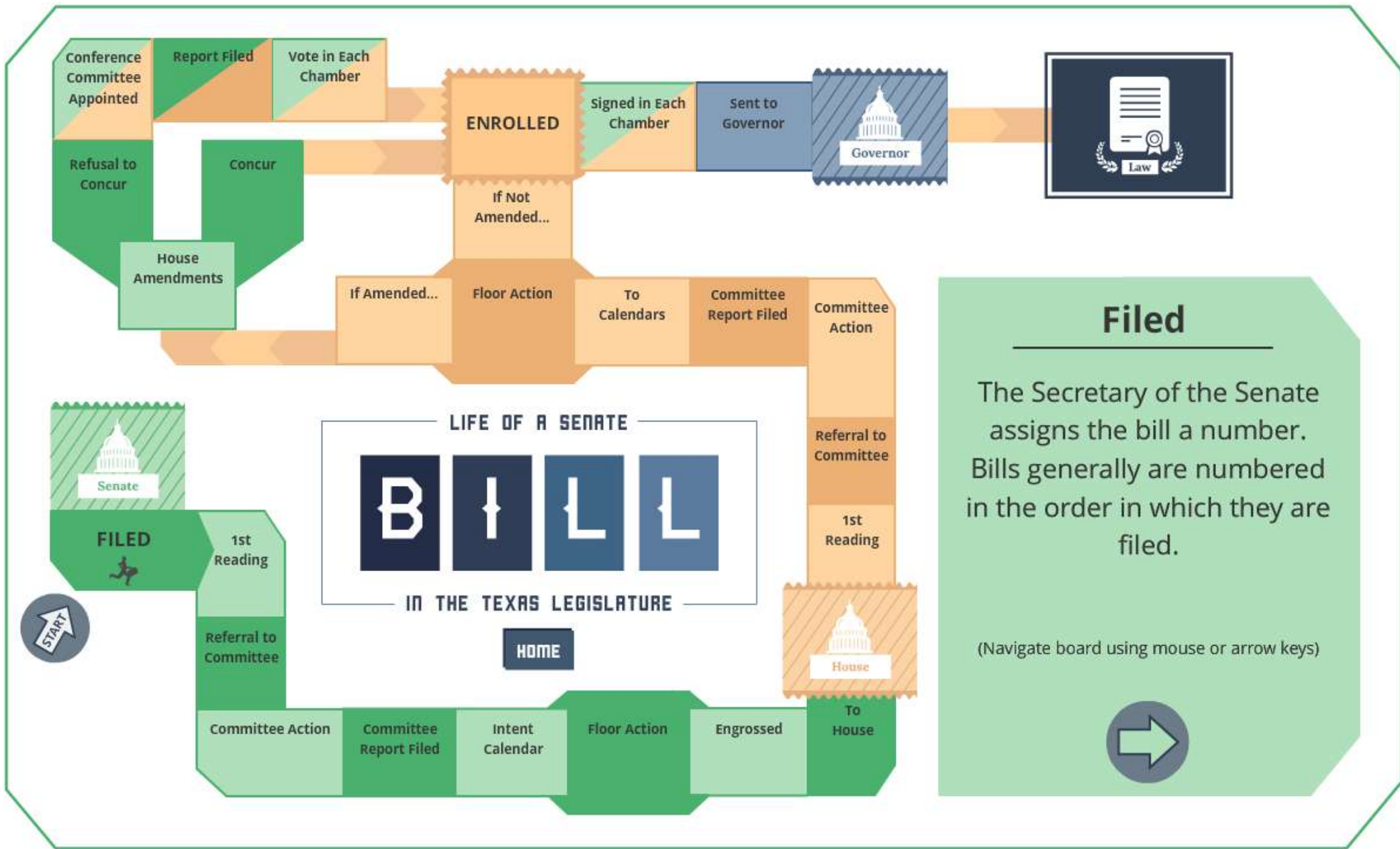
**- GUY LODGE / VARIETY**

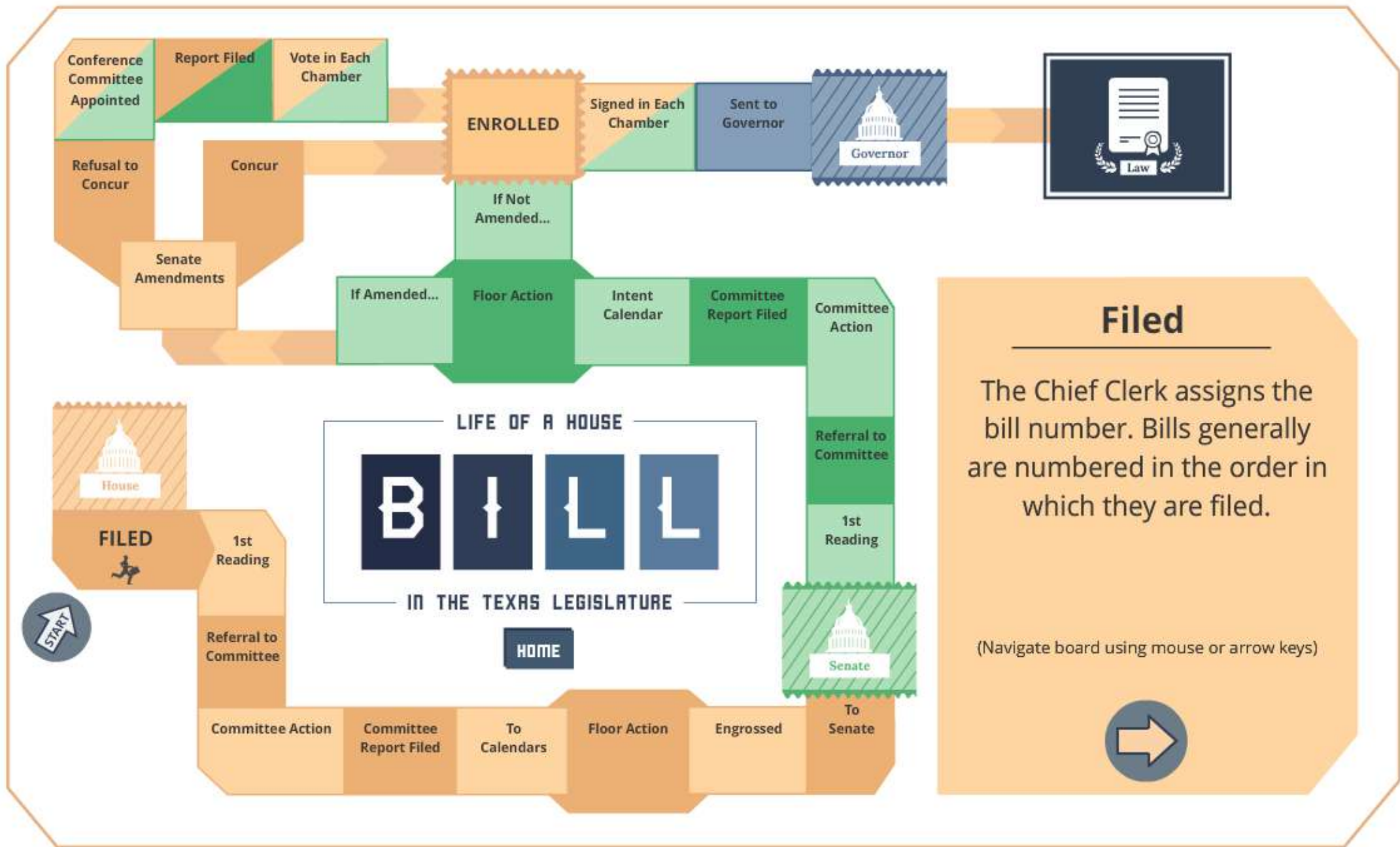
# Interacting Effectively with Legislators & Staff

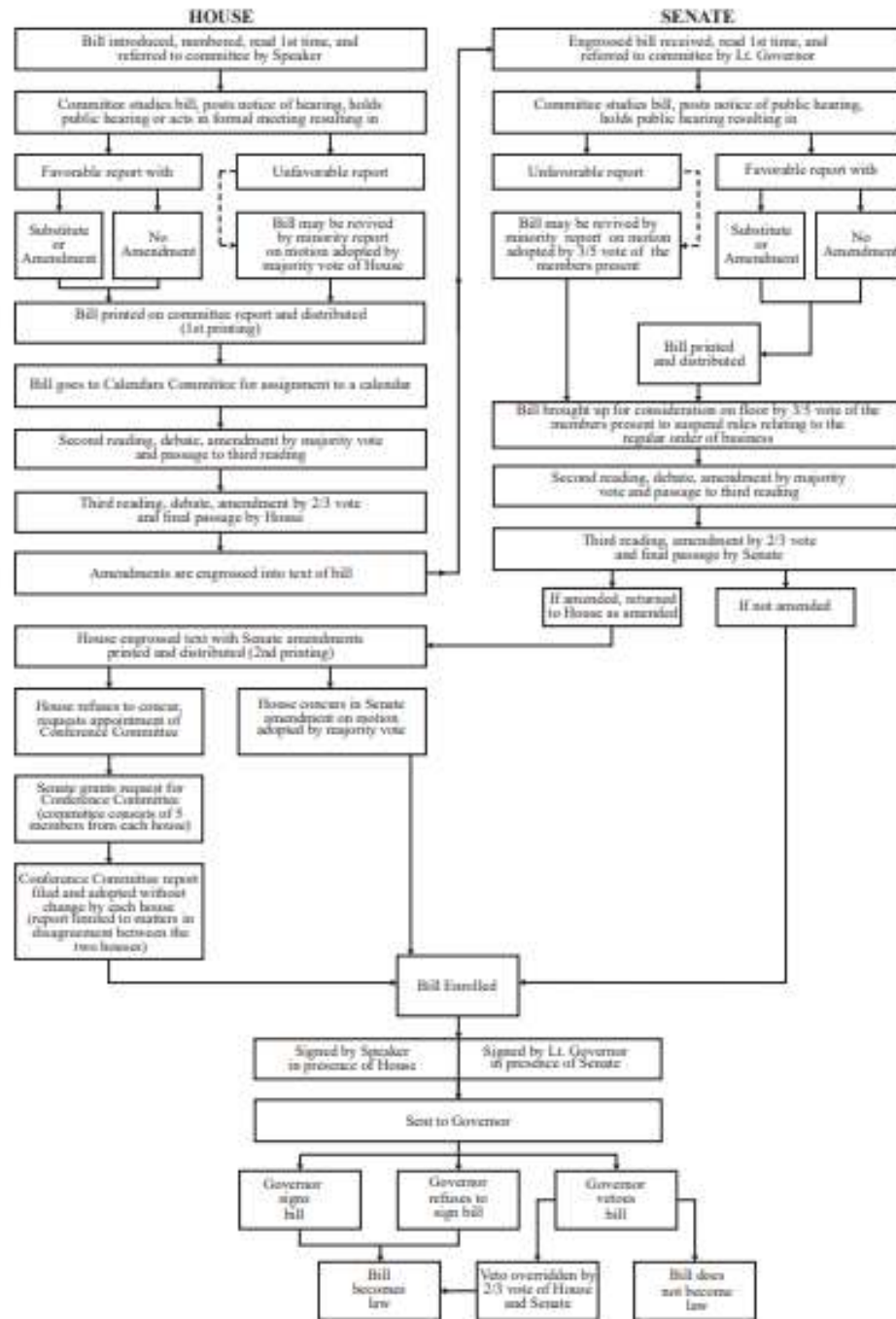
- › Build a relationship
  - Ask for a meeting before session if possible
  - Arrive on time
  - Know your audience
  - Respect their time
  - Be a good listener
  - Be realistic
  - Follow-up with thank you email and provide further information promptly
- › Know your issues
  - Minimize number of issues per meeting, if possible
  - Bring written information: handouts, statistics, studies, legal citations
  - Provide regulatory examples if pertinent
  - Never guess. “I’m not sure, I’ll get back to you with that information.”
  - Know and understand supporting and opposing arguments
  - Flag possible obstacles
  - Offer solutions, but tread lightly

# Interacting Effectively with Legislators & Staff

- › Testimony
  - Presentations as invited witness
    - › Provide written materials
    - › Determine audience and expectations from committee staff
    - › Be present for entire meeting
    - › Adapt to circumstances
  - Resource testimony
    - › Testify only if asked
    - › Avoid correcting members unless absolutely necessary
  - Keep it brief, professional, and factual
  - Avoid engaging in speculation
- › Understand the legislative process







Source:  
Texas Legislative Council Drafting Manual

# Regular Session Timeline

- › Tuesday, January 8, 2019 (1st day)
  - 86th Legislature convenes
    - › (Sec. 5(a), Article III, Texas Constitution; Sec. 301.001, Government Code)
- › Upon the convening of the 86th Legislature
  - The comptroller of public accounts delivers the Biennial Revenue Estimate to the governor and the 86th Legislature
    - › (Sec. 49a, Article III, Texas Constitution; Sec. 403.121, Government Code)
- › Monday, January 14, 2019
  - LBB budget estimates delivered to the governor and the 86th Legislature
    - › (Sec. 322.008(c), Government Code)



# Regular Session Timeline

- › Tuesday, January 15, 2019
  - Inauguration of the governor and lieutenant governor
    - › (Sec. Sec. 4, Article IV, Texas Constitution)
- › Tuesday, January 15, 2019
  - LBB general appropriations bill delivered to the governor and the 86th Legislature
    - › (Sec. 322.008(d), Government Code)
- › Before the Governor's State of the State address to the 86th Legislature
  - The governor delivers the governor's budget to the 86th Legislature
    - › (Sec. 401.046, Government Code)



# Regular Session Timeline

- › Friday, March 8, 2019 (60th day)
  - Deadline for the unrestricted filing of bills and joint resolutions other than local bills, emergency appropriations, and emergency matters submitted by the governor
    - › House Rule 8, Sec. 8
    - › Senate Rule 7.07(b)
    - › Senate Rule 10.01 subjects joint resolutions to the rules governing proceedings on bills)
  - Last day bills need a 4/5ths vote of membership in each house to be considered, unless an emergency matter
    - › (Sec. 5(c), Article III, Texas Constitution)
- › Monday, May 27, 2019 (140th day)
  - Last day of 86th Legislature (sine die)
    - › (Sec. 24(b), Art. III, Texas Constitution)

# 85th Legislature, Regular Session

## Deadlines for Action Under House and Senate Rules

**MAY 2017**

*This deadlines calendar is intended to be a practical summary guide to the end-of-session deadlines. It is not intended as an interpretation of the rules of the House or Senate.*

A red box indicates the last day for a chamber to take certain actions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
118 <sup>th</sup> day 7	119 <sup>th</sup> day 8 <small>Last day for House committees to report HBs/HJRs</small>  (See Note 1)	120 <sup>th</sup> day 9 <small>By 10 p.m.—last House Daily Calendar with HBs/HJRs must be distributed (36-hour layout)</small>  (See Note 2)	121 <sup>st</sup> day 10 <small>By 9 a.m.—last House Local &amp; Consent Calendar with consent HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)</small>  (See Note 2)	122 <sup>nd</sup> day 11 <small>Last day for House to consider 2nd reading HBs/HJRs on Daily or Supplemental Calendar</small>	123 <sup>rd</sup> day 12 <small>Last day for House to consider consent HBs on 2nd &amp; 3rd reading and <b>ALL</b> 3rd reading HBs/HJRs on Supplemental Calendar</small>	124 <sup>th</sup> day 13
125 <sup>th</sup> day 14	126 <sup>th</sup> day 15	127 <sup>th</sup> day 16	128 <sup>th</sup> day 17 <small>By 9 a.m.—last House Local &amp; Consent Calendar with local HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)</small>  (See Note 2)	129 <sup>th</sup> day 18	130 <sup>th</sup> day 19 <small>Last day for House to consider local HBs on 2nd &amp; 3rd reading  <i>First day Senate can consider bills and resolutions the first day they are passed on the Notice of Intent</i></small>	131 <sup>st</sup> day 20 <small>Last day for House committees to report SBs/SJRs</small>  (See Note 1)
132 <sup>nd</sup> day 21 <small>By 10 p.m.—last House Daily Calendar with SBs/SJRs must be distributed (36-hour layout)</small>  (See Note 2)	133 <sup>rd</sup> day 22 <small>By 9 a.m.—last House Local &amp; Consent Calendar with SBs must be distributed (48-hour layout)</small>  (See Note 2)	134 <sup>th</sup> day 23 <small>Last day for House to consider 2nd reading SBs/SJRs on Daily or Supplemental Calendar</small>	135 <sup>th</sup> day 24 <small>Last day for House to consider local and consent SBs on 2nd &amp; 3rd reading and <b>ALL</b> 3rd reading SBs/SJRs on Supplemental Calendar  <small>Last day for Senate to consider <b>ALL</b> bills &amp; JRs on 2nd or 3rd reading</small> (See Note 3)</small>	136 <sup>th</sup> day 25 <small>Before midnight—Senate amendments must be distributed in the House (24-hour layout)</small>	137 <sup>th</sup> day 26 <small>Last day for House to act on Senate amendments  <i>Before midnight—Senate copies of conference committee reports (CCRs) on tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (48-hour layout)</i> (See Note 4)</small>	138 <sup>th</sup> day 27 <small>Before midnight—House copies of <b>ALL</b> CCRs must be distributed (24-hour layout)  <i>Before midnight—Senate copies of CCRs on bills other than tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (24-hour layout)</i></small>
139 <sup>th</sup> day 28 <small>Last day for House to adopt CCRs or discharge House conferees and concur in Senate amendments  <i>Last day for Senate to concur in House amendments or adopt CCRs</i></small>	140 <sup>th</sup> day 29 <small>Corrections only in House and Senate  Last day of session (Sine die)</small>	<p>In reviewing this calendar, all members should consider, in addition to the stated deadline, the time needed for the preparation of any ancillary documents related to the bill, any printing time, and any applicable layout rule.</p> <p>Note 1: The House rules do not contain an express deadline for committees to report measures, but, technically, this is the last day for a House committee to report a measure in order for the measure to have any chance of being placed on a House calendar. <b>However</b>, this deadline <b>does not</b> take into consideration the time required to: (1) prepare the bill analysis; (2) obtain an updated fiscal note or impact statement; (3) prepare any other paperwork required for a committee report; or (4) prepare the committee report for distribution to the members of the House as required by the rules. <b>Realistically</b>, it normally takes a full day <b>or more</b> for a bill to reach the Calendars Committee after the bill has been reported from committee.</p> <p>Note 2: The House rules do not have an express deadline for distributing calendars on the 120th, 121st, 128th, 132nd, and 133rd days.</p> <p>Note 3: The Senate deadline for passing all bills and joint resolutions <b>does not</b> take into consideration the House deadline for passing Senate bills and joint resolutions. <b>Realistically</b>, to be eligible for consideration by the House under its end-of-session deadlines, Senate bills and joint resolutions must be passed by the Senate and received by the House <b>before</b> the 130th day.</p> <p>Note 4: Both Senate and House rules require a 48-hour layout for a resolution suspending limitations on a conference committee considering the general appropriations bill, if such a resolution is necessary. Neither rule has an express deadline for considering that resolution, which should occur before consideration of the general appropriations bill.</p>				

# Interim Timeline

- › Sunday, June 16, 2019 (20th day following final adjournment of 86th Legislature, Regular Session)
  - Last day the governor may sign or veto bills passed during the regular session
    - › (Sec. 14, Art. IV, Texas Constitution)
- › Monday, August 26, 2019 (91st day following final adjournment of 86th Legislature, Regular Session)
  - Date that bills without specific effective dates, other than bills with immediate effect, become law
    - › (Sec. 39, Art. III, Texas Constitution)



Senate  
Research  
Center

*Sam Houston Building  
Suite 375  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711  
312-463-0807  
Fax: 512-463-1271  
Dial 711 for Relay Calls*

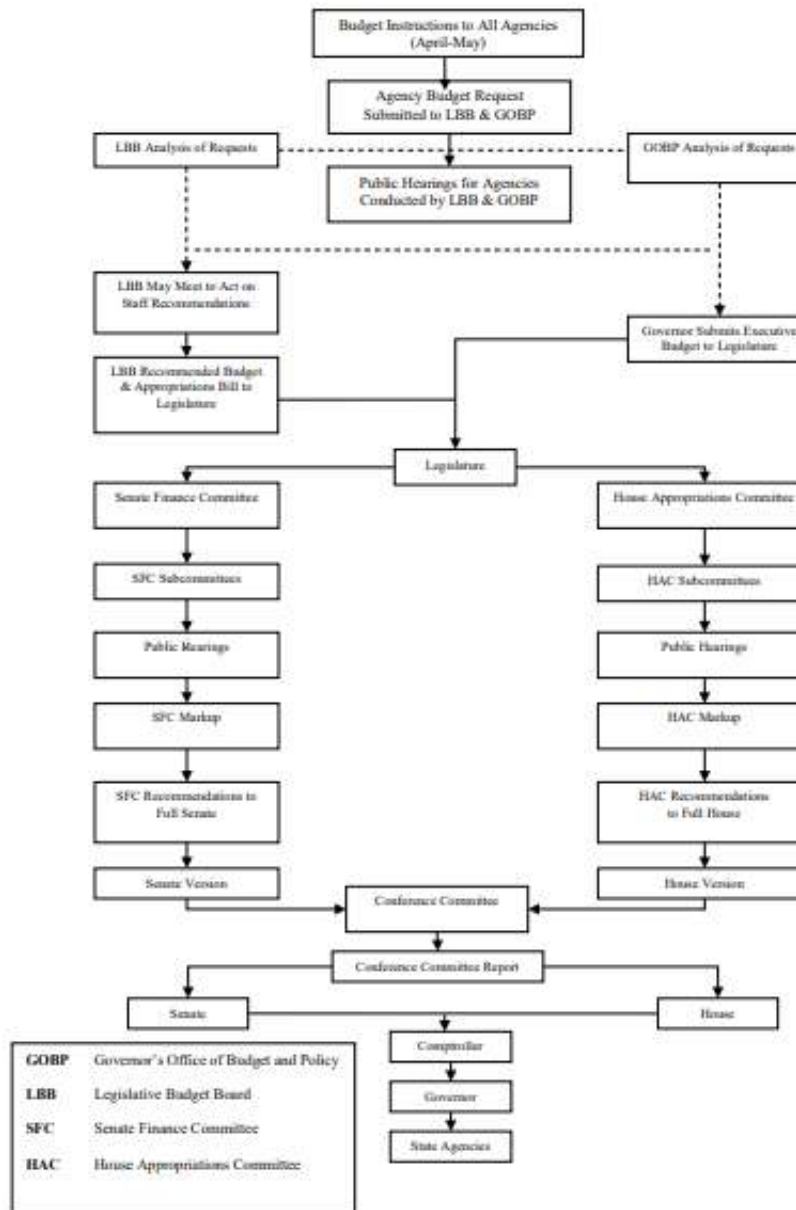
# BUDGET 101

A Guide  
to the  
Budget Process  
in Texas

<https://senate.texas.gov>

January 2017

## Texas Biennial Budget Cycle



# The Legislative Process in Texas



<https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/legislativeprocess.pdf>

Texas Legislative Council





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Publications ▾

Data ▾

Redistricting ▾



## PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

*The Legislative Process  
in Texas*

Bill to Law Flowcharts:  
*Process for **Senate** Bills*  
*Process for **House** Bills*  
*Interactive for Desktop*

*Reading Statutes and Bills:  
85th Legislature (2017)*

*Texas Legislative Information  
and Resources:  
85th Legislature (2017)*

*Texas Legislative Glossary:  
85th Legislature (2017)*

*Dates of Interest:  
2017 - 2018*

<https://tlc.texas.gov/publications>

The logo features a circular emblem with a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by the words "TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL" and "FOR THE 85TH LEGISLATURE".

# Texas Legislative Information and Resources

Texas Legislative Council  
For the 85th Legislature

<https://tic.texas.gov/docs/legis/digital.pdf>

## Senate, House, and Legislative Agency Websites

- [Texas Senate](#)—Provides information on senate members, committees, and legislation, as well as video/audio archives and live video/audio streams of senate floor debates, committee hearings, and press conferences. The website also includes the senate rules of procedure, daily agenda and journals, and bill analyses and reports produced by the Senate Research Center. The “Senate Kids” area of the website provides information and activities relating to Texas government for children and their teachers and parents. A Spanish-language version of the senate website can be accessed from the home page.
- [Texas House of Representatives](#)—Provides information on house members, committees, and legislation, as well as video/audio archives and live video/audio streams of house floor debates, committee hearings, and press conferences. The website also includes the house rules of procedure, calendars, daily journals, and bill analyses and reports produced by the House Research Organization. The “Kids’ House” link on the house home page provides children and their teachers and parents with information and activities relating to Texas government.
- [Legislative Budget Board](#)—Provides information on the Texas state budget through online publications and reports and through Texas Budget Source, an online application that generates budget reports by state agency or by a specific article or function of the General Appropriations Act. The website also contains a searchable database of major state contracts.
- [Legislative Reference Library](#)—Provides current and historical information on Texas legislative members, state leaders, committees, legislation, and legislative sessions. It also includes such resources as the [Legislative Archive System](#) containing legislation from the 33rd to 42nd Legislatures (1913 to 1931) and the 46th to 79th Legislatures (1939 to 2006), the Index to Sections Affected, legislative reports, and links to committee meetings, vetoed bills, conference committee reports, constitutional amendments, and the library’s catalog. For users with Capitol Complex access, the website includes searchable databases for newspaper clippings and periodical abstracts.
- [State Auditor’s Office](#)—Contains a variety of reports, including audit, special investigative, and state classification reports. It also provides information about training classes for auditors and accounting professionals and other resources to support state agencies.
- [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)—Provides information on the sunset process and the agencies subject to sunset review; current and previous sunset reports; agendas and webcast archives of commission meetings; and a list of agencies subject to review under the Texas Sunset Act.
- [Texas Legislative Council](#)—Provides online access to a number of reference, sessional, and historical publications and reports on topics relating to legislative activities and policy issues as well as information on the council’s nonsubstantive statutory revision project, including proposed chapters and revisor’s reports.

## Public Resources

### Internet Applications and Websites

- [Texas Legislature Online \(TLO\)](#)—Provides links to a number of sources of legislative and related information, including a calendar of important dates for the legislative session, a legislative glossary, and websites for the senate, house of representatives, and legislative agencies. TLO provides much of the same functionality as the intranet TLIS application, enabling users to track legislation and to search for, view, and print bill text, bill history, bill analyses, fiscal notes, amendments, and summaries of enrolled bills. Users can also obtain information about senate and house members, committee membership, minutes, witness lists, schedules, and calendars. A mobile version of TLO is available at <http://www.txlegis.com>.
- [Texas Budget Source](#)—Generates budget reports by state agency or by a specific article or function of the General Appropriations Act.
- [Bill-Chapter Cross-Reference Tables](#)—Allows users to convert a chapter number found in a session law citation to its corresponding bill number, and vice versa, from the 16th Legislature (1879) to the present. This resource is built into the direct search function of the Legislative Archive System.
- [Index to Sections Affected](#)—Allows users to determine whether a code section has been or will be affected by a bill or if a bill has affected or will affect sections of the Texas statutes. This resource includes lists from the 74th and 75th Legislatures (1995 and 1997) and a searchable database for the 76th Legislature (1999) through the present.
- [Texas Constitution and Statutes](#)—Provides download options and keyword search of the Texas Constitution and Texas Statutes.
- [Who Represents Me?](#)—Enables users to identify, for Texas Senate, Texas House of Representatives, U.S. House of Representatives, and State Board of Education districts, the elected officials who represent a given address, ZIP code, county, or city. It also provides contact information on incumbents, demographic and economic profiles of the districts, and the geographic composition (counties, cities, school districts, precincts, and ZIP codes) of the districts.
- [DistrictViewer](#)—Displays maps and population, election, and incumbent reports for current legislative, congressional, and State Board of Education districts. When the legislature is redistricting, maps and reports for proposed plans are available.
- [Texas Redistricting](#)—Provides information about Texas redistricting, including an overview of the legal requirements and process to redistrict, news and legislative activity for the current redistricting cycle, historical information, and links to the data used to redistrict.



**Texas House**

- [Home](#)
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- [Members](#)
- [Committees](#)
- [Committee Meetings](#)
- [Committee Witnesses](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [Current Amendment](#)
- [Journals](#)
- [News](#)
- [House Research Organization](#)
- [Kids' House](#)

**Texas Senate**

- [Home](#)
- [Lieutenant Governor](#)
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- [Committee Meetings](#)
- [Calendars](#)
- [Journals](#)
- [News](#)
- [Senate Research Center](#)
- [Senate Kids](#)

**Related Links**

[Legislative Reference Library](#)  
[County](#) | [State](#) | [Federal](#) | [Awards](#)

**Search Legislation**

Legislature:  ▾  
 Word/Phrase  Bill Number

**Additional Searches**

- [Text Search](#)
- [Statutes](#)
- [Bill Lookup](#)
- [Constitution](#)
- [Bill Search](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Amendments](#)
- [View Votes](#)
- [Sections Affected](#)
- [Administrative Code](#)
- [Legislative Archive System](#)

**How Do I ...**

- [Find list of filed bills?](#)
  - [Follow the status of a bill?](#)
  - [Contact my legislator?](#)
  - [Find how a legislator voted?](#)
  - [Find when hearings are scheduled?](#)
  - [View the text of a bill?](#)
  - [Testify at a House committee hearing?](#)
- [more>>](#)

**My TLO**

- [Track Legislation With Bill Lists](#)
- [Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts](#)
- [Subscribe to RSS Feeds](#)
- [View Content on Mobile Device](#)
- [Saved Bill, Text, Amendment Searches](#)

**Access Mobile Version of TLO**

Access a [mobile version](#) of TLO, Who Represents Me, and DistrictViewer on an iPhone, iPad, or other mobile device. From the mobile device browser, enter [www.txlegis.com](http://www.txlegis.com). NOTE: Some applications or features within an application may not be accessible on all mobile devices.

**Legislative Activity**

Video Broadcasts: [House](#) | [Senate](#)  
 Today's Calendars: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Meetings: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Filed Bills: [House](#) | [Senate](#) | [All](#)  
 Today's Votes: [House](#) | [Senate](#)

**Legislative Process**

[How a Bill Becomes Law](#)  
[How to Follow A Bill](#)  
[Dates of Interest](#) | [Glossary](#)  
[End of Session Deadlines](#)

**Who Represents Me?**

Enter your address to find [who represents you](#) in the legislature.

Address:

City:

ZIP Code:   [Redistricting](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

**Capitol Complex Information**

[Events and Visitor Information](#)  
[Wireless Access](#) | [Images](#) | [State Symbols](#)



### **Bill Lists**

Create a list of bills that you would like to watch. Each time you run the list, the bill information is updated.

### **Alerts**

Enter bills on the alert list, be notified of committee and calendar postings, be notified when bills are assigned subjects of interest, be notified when the house or senate adjourn.

### **Saved Searches**

Access your saved bill, text, and amendment searches.

### **Mobile Device Support**

Learn how to access meeting notices, member information, committee information, and bill status on mobile devices.

### **RSS Feeds**

Learn how to view legislative-related feeds through your favorite news aggregator.



### Today's Activity

- [Today's Bill Text](#)
- [Today's Bill Analyses](#)
- [Today's Fiscal Notes](#)
- [Today's Filed Bills](#)
- [Today's Passed Bills](#)

### Legislature-Based

Legislature:

- [Filed House Bills](#)
- [Filed Senate Bills](#)
- [Enabling Legislation](#)
- [Bills Effective on January 1st](#)
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- [Bills Effective on September 1st](#)
- [Bills Passed by the House and Senate](#)
- [Bills Signed by the Governor](#)
- [Bills Vetoed by the Governor](#)
- [Bills Filed Without the Governor's Signature](#)

### Non-Legislature

- [Legislative Statistics](#)
- [Votes By Date - House](#)
- [Votes By Date - Senate](#)



The statutes available on this website are current through the 1st Called Session of the 85th Legislature, August 2017. The Texas Constitution is current through the amendments approved by voters in November 2017. In 2018 the section headings to the constitution, which are not officially part of the text of the constitution, have been revised to reflect amendments and to modernize the language.

[Hide Quick Search](#)

Code:	<input type="text" value="The Texas Constitution"/>
Article/Chapter:	<input type="text" value="ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT"/>
Art./Sec.:	<input type="text" value="Sec. 5. MEETINGS; ORDER OF BUSINESS"/>
	<input type="button" value="Go"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>

### Quick Links

- [Linking to Texas Constitution and Statutes](#)
- [Texas Legislature Online](#)
- [Index to Sections Affected](#)
- [Texas Administrative Code](#)
- [Texas Law Timeline](#)
- [Amendments to the Texas Constitution Since 1876](#)
- [Constitutional Amendments Search](#)

- ⊕ TEXAS CONSTITUTION
- ⊖ TEXAS STATUTES
  - ⊕ AGRICULTURE CODE
  - ⊕ ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CODE
  - ⊕ AUXILIARY WATER LAWS
  - ⊕ BUSINESS AND COMMERCE CODE
  - ⊕ BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS CODE
  - ⊕ CIVIL PRACTICE AND REMEDIES CODE
  - ⊕ CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
  - ⊕ EDUCATION CODE
  - ⊕ ELECTION CODE
  - ⊕ ESTATES CODE
  - ⊕ FAMILY CODE
  - ⊕ FINANCE CODE
  - ⊕ GOVERNMENT CODE





Legislature: 86(R) - 2019

Bill Chamber:  House  Senate

Bill Type:  B  JR  CR  R  All

[Load Search](#) | [Save Search](#)

**Author/Sponsor**

Author:

Type:  Primary  Joint/Additional Primary  Coauthor

Or  And

Sponsor:

Type:  Primary  Joint  Cosponsor

**Subjects**

Select subject criteria...

City Government--Finance (I0062)  
 BONDS (S6060)

And  
 Or

**Committee**

Committee:

Status:  In  Out  Both

**Actions**

Select action criteria...

And  
 Or

Last Action Only:  Yes  No

Action Date: On:    Today  Tomorrow

From:   To:

# Legislative Reference Library of Texas

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## Legislation

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Texas law timeline

Water law timeline

[LRL Home](#) - [Legislation](#) - [Index to Sections Affected](#) 

## Index to Sections Affected

### Search by Code

**Sessions:** 86 R.S. (2019) ▲  
85 1st C.S. (2017) ▲  
85 R.S. (2017) ▼

*Hold down the ctrl button to select multiple sessions.*

**Code:** Government Code ▼

**Section/Legislature:** 316

*For Session Laws, enter a numeric session number.*

**Status:** Any ▼

Search

- View records 100 at a time
- View up to 1,000 records at once

[ISAf - 67th through 75th sessions](#)

### Search by Bill

**Sessions:** 86 R.S. (2019) ▲  
85 1st C.S. (2017) ▲  
85 R.S. (2017) ▼

*Hold down the ctrl button to select multiple sessions.*

**Bill Type:** House Bill ▼

**Bill Number:**

**Status:** Introduced (I) ▼

Search

Information in the Index to Sections Affected is unofficial and is provided as a public service by the Legislative Reference Library. The Legislative Reference Library makes no representation as to its completeness or accuracy and makes no warranty in regards to its use. Users assume all risk of reliance on the index.

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legis/isaf/lrlhome.cfm>

## Index to Sections Affected code search results

Search [ code = **Government Code** articles beginning with = **316** status = **All** Sessions: **86-0** Sort order = **code** ]

Records 1 - 13 of 13

<u>Code</u>	<u>Article/Section</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Bill/Section</u>	<u>Status</u>
Government Code	<a href="#">316.001</a>	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 2	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.002</a> (a)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 3	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.002</a> (b)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 3	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.002</a> (e)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 3	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.008</a> (a)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 4	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.045</a>	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 5	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.092</a>	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">SB 69</a> 2	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.092</a> (b)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 6	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.092</a> (c)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 6	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.092</a> (d)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 6	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.093</a>	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">SB 69</a> 2	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.093</a> (c)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 7	Introduced
Government Code	<a href="#">316.093</a> (e)	Amends	86-0	<a href="#">HB 68</a> 7	Introduced

Records 1 - 13 of 13

# Texas Legislative Council Drafting Manual



Texas Legislative Council  
September 2018

<https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/draftingmanual-86.pdf>

## CHAPTER 3

### BILLS

**SEC. 3.01. INTRODUCTION.** Section 30, Article III, Texas Constitution, provides that “[n]o law shall be passed, except by bill,” making the bill the workhorse of legislative documents. This chapter discusses the principal parts of a bill and the function of each. These parts, and the section of this chapter where each is discussed, are:

- introductory formalities (each of these items *must* be included in every bill):
  - heading (Sec. 3.02)
  - title (also called “caption”) (Sec. 3.03)
  - enacting clause (Sec. 3.04)
- general and permanent substantive provisions:
  - short title (Sec. 3.05)
  - statement of policy or purpose (Sec. 3.06)
  - definitions (Sec. 3.07)
  - principal operative provisions (Sec. 3.08)
  - enforcement provisions: criminal, civil, or administrative (Sec. 3.09)
  - amendment of existing law (Sec. 3.10)
  - repealers (Sec. 3.11)
- procedural or other technical provisions (some are of temporary significance):
  - saving clause or other transitional provisions (Sec. 3.12)
  - severability or nonseverability clause (Sec. 3.13)
  - effective date section (Sec. 3.14)

Because of the senate's distinct committee report form, which is single-spaced, the officers of the senate prefer that committee and floor amendments drafted for use in the senate begin the instructions with a reference to the appropriate section of the bill or section of amended law, as applicable. A reference to a page and line number should follow in parentheses, and the version of the document referred to should be identified. For example:

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Amend C.S.S.B. 897, in SECTION 3 of the bill (senate committee report page 12, lines 65-69), by striking Subsection (e).

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Amend S.B. 14 (introduced version) as follows:

(1) In SECTION 1 of the bill, in added Section 25.002(b) (2) (A), Finance Code (page 1, line 16), strike "commission" and substitute "department".

(2) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in the introductory language (page 1, line 25), strike "adding Subsection (m)" and substitute "adding Subsections (m) and (n)".

(3) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in amended Section 25.2292, Government Code (page 1, between lines 9 and 10), insert the following:

(n) The court does not have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds the limit prescribed by Section 25.003(c) (1).

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Amend C.S.S.B. 457 (senate committee report) in SECTION 1 of the bill, in amended Section 615.0225(a), Government Code, as follows:

(1) On page 1, line 10, strike "or" and substitute "[~~or~~"]".

(2) On page 1, line 12, strike "615.001" and substitute "615.001;  
SE

(4) a state agency".

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Amend C.S.S.B. 1788 (senate committee report) in SECTION 1 of the bill, in added Section 30.103, Education Code (page 4, between lines 60 and 61), by inserting the following appropriately lettered subsection and relettering subsequent subsections and cross-references to the subsections accordingly:

( ) The criteria must satisfy applicable requirements under Subchapter M, Chapter 1034, Government Code.



**SEC. 8.02. ONE-SUBJECT RULE.** Section 35(a), Article III, Texas Constitution, prescribes the one-subject rule:<sup>1</sup>

No bill, (except general appropriation bills, which may embrace the various subjects and accounts, for and on account of which moneys are appropriated) shall contain more than one subject.

The policy behind the one-subject rule is that a legislative proposal should stand on its own merits and not be combined with unrelated proposals to generate broader support.

A bill containing more than one subject is subject to a point of order. A law enacted in violation of the rule is also subject to attack in court; because the existence of more than one subject can be discerned from the face of an act, the enrolled bill rule<sup>2</sup> does not apply.

The critical factor in determining compliance with the one-subject rule is understanding how the courts view the concept of "subject." In other words, how broad may the "subject" of a bill be without violating the rule? The courts have construed the rule liberally, permitting the inclusion of many provisions in a bill so long as there is a single, unifying theme to which every provision is germane<sup>3</sup> or if every provision has a logical relationship or is subsidiary to the same general subject matter.<sup>4</sup> Except for rather well-defined rules to be discussed in connection with general appropriations acts, it is difficult to lay down guidelines for compliance with the unity-of-subject requirement more specific than the general principles the courts have announced. A drafter does not need to be overly concerned with unity of subject so long as everything in a bill is held together by a common logical thread. Nothing prohibits "omnibus" legislation if every provision relates to a single subject.



**SEC. 6.02. GERMANENESS.** The essence of the germaneness rule is that a bill or resolution may not be amended by an amendment on a different subject. House Rule 11, Section 2,<sup>2</sup> provides:

No motion or proposition on a subject different from the subject under consideration shall be admitted as an amendment or as a substitute for the motion or proposition under debate. "Proposition" as used in this section shall include a bill, resolution, joint resolution, or any other motion which is amendable.

Amendments pertaining to the organization, powers, regulation, and management of the agency, commission, or advisory committee under consideration are germane to bills extending state agencies, commissions, or advisory committees under the provisions of the Texas Sunset Act . . . .

Senate Rule 7.15 is substantially identical to the first sentence of the house rule.

In addition, Section 30, Article III, Texas Constitution, provides that "no bill shall be so amended in its passage through either House, as to change its original purpose."<sup>1</sup>

The subject or original purpose of a bill is determined by the body of the bill, notwithstanding the common notion that the caption controls in these matters. Although the caption, to the extent it fulfills its constitutional function, indicates what a bill is about, a "broad" caption does not broaden the range of possible amendments, nor does a "narrow" caption restrict the range.

Another common misconception is that the amendment of an existing law by a bill necessarily opens the existing law to any amendment by way of that bill that would be germane to the subject of the law. Germaneness to existing law of a proposed amendment or substitute is beside the point; the proposed amendment or substitute must be germane to the subject or purpose of the pending *bill*.<sup>2</sup>

What matters is whether the text of the bill shows an intent to deal comprehensively with a broad subject or an intent to deal with only a specific, narrow subject. An omnibus tax bill, for example, may be a proper host for a broad variety of amendments dealing with almost any aspect of state taxation, but an amendment to change the rate of the sales tax would probably not be germane to a bill dealing only with the allocation of cigarette tax revenue.

It is the responsibility of the presiding officer of the senate or house of representatives, or of the chair of a committee as to legislation in committee, to rule on a point of order raised under the germaneness rule or Section 30, Article III, Texas Constitution.



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