



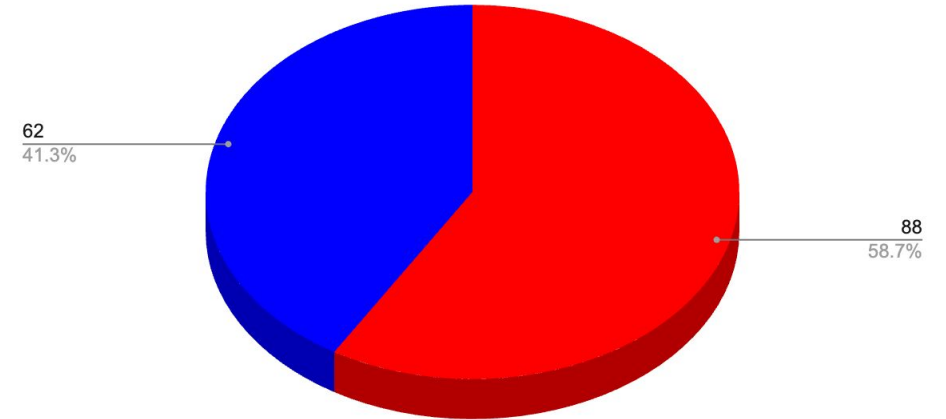
TEXAS²⁰₃₆

Legislative Session 101

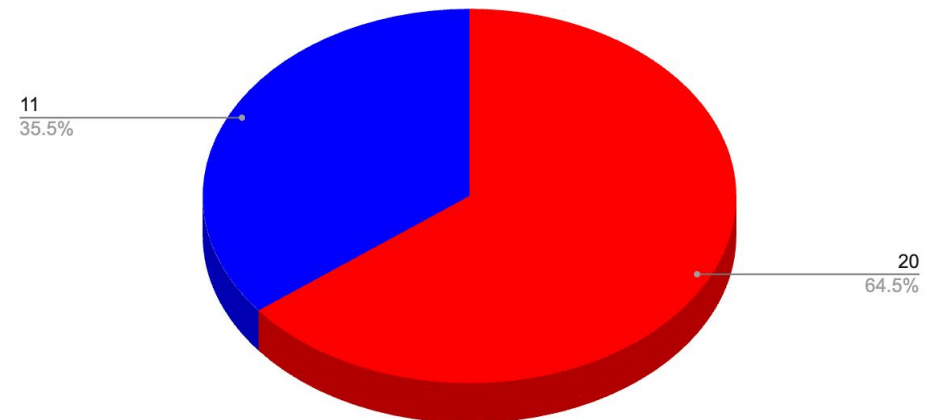
January 14, 2025

Legislative Composition

- 181 Members between two legislative chambers
 - House:
 - 150 Representatives
 - Speaker of the House is a Representative elected by their peers
 - Members serve 2-year terms



- Senate:
 - 31 Senators
 - Lieutenant Governor is a statewide elected official and is not a Senator
 - Senators serve 4-year terms





The Big 3

Colloquially called “The Big Three,” this group includes the leaders of the Executive and Legislative branches.

- Governor Greg Abbott
 - Former Texas Attorney General
 - Former Texas Supreme Court Justice
- Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
 - Former State Senator
 - Former Radio Talk Show Host
- House Speaker - Dustin Burrows
 - 7 term state representative
 - Attorney



Dates of Note

- November 11, 2024: First day to start filing bills
- January 14, 2025: First day of Session
- March 14, 2025: Last day to file bills (60 days into Session)
- June 2, 2025: Last day of Session (*Sine Die*)
- June 22, 2025: Veto Period Ends

Bills, Bills, Bills

- **Statutes vs. Bills**
 - Statutes are the laws of the state. Bills are the legislative documents creating or amending laws.
- Types of bills: Starts with an “S” - Senate Bill; Starts with an “H” - House Bill
 - **Bill**—A type of legislative measure that is the primary means used to create and change the laws of the state. A bill becomes law on its effective date if it is passed by both chambers of the legislature and is not vetoed by the governor.
 - **Bracket Bill**—A bill intended to apply only to a particular class of political subdivisions or geographic areas described by characteristics that relate to the purpose of the bill.
 - **Companion Bill**—A bill filed in one chamber that is identical or very similar to a bill filed in the opposite chamber. Companion bills are used to expedite passage, as they provide a means for committee consideration of a measure to occur in both chambers simultaneously. A companion bill that has passed one chamber can then be substituted for the companion bill in the opposite chamber.
 - **Duplicate Bill**—A bill that is identical to another bill filed in the same chamber.
 - **Local Bill**—A bill to enact a law that applies only to a discrete community or area rather than to the entire state.
 - **Omnibus Bill**—A bill relating to a broad subject that combines many different aspects of that subject.

Resolutions

- **Resolution** - A type of legislative measure.
 - **Concurrent Resolution**—Requires adoption by both chambers and generally requires action by the governor. A concurrent resolution may be used to convey the sentiment of the legislature or offer a commendation, a memorial, a statement of congratulations, a welcome, or a request for action by another governmental entity.
 - **Joint Resolution**—Requires adoption by both chambers of the legislature but does not require action by the governor. A joint resolution is used to propose amendments to the Texas Constitution, ratify amendments to the U.S. Constitution, or request a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Before becoming effective, the provisions of joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Texas Constitution must be approved by the voters of Texas.
 - **Simple Resolution**—Considered only within the chamber in which it is filed. A simple resolution may be used to offer a commendation, a memorial, a statement of congratulations, or the views of that chamber, as well as adopt or change the chamber's rules of procedure.

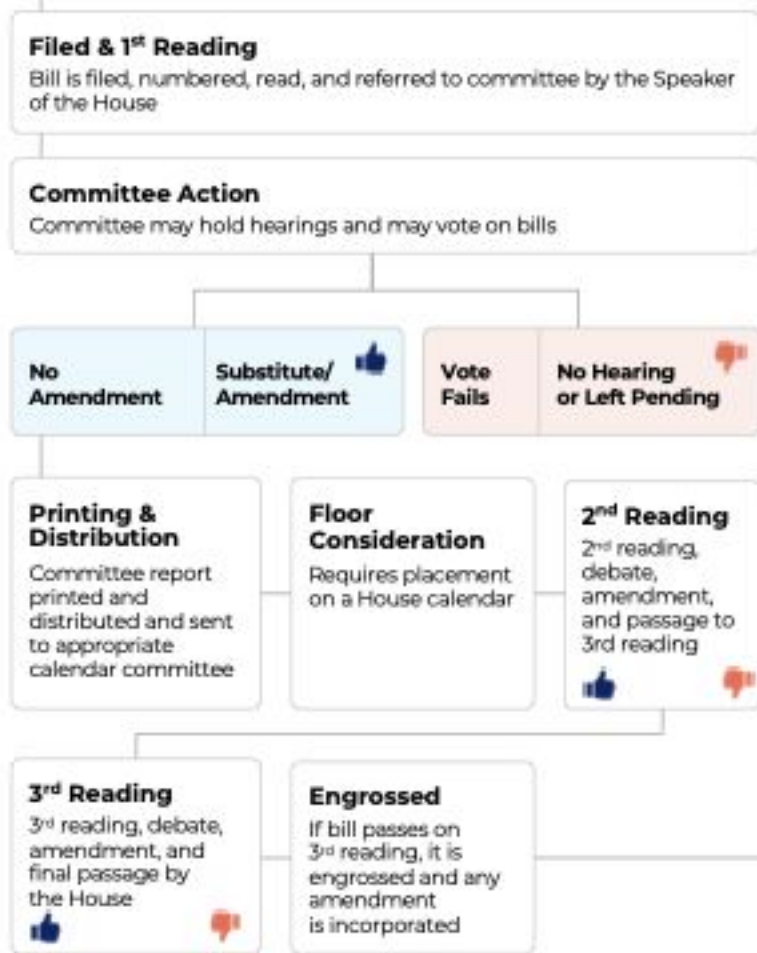
Filing of Bills & Resolutions

- Pre-filing of bills began on November 11
- Bills can be filed up until midnight on March 14
- Reserved Bill Numbers:
 - Senate - First 40 bills reserved for priority legislation
 - House - First 150 bills reserved for priority legislation (*subject to change*)

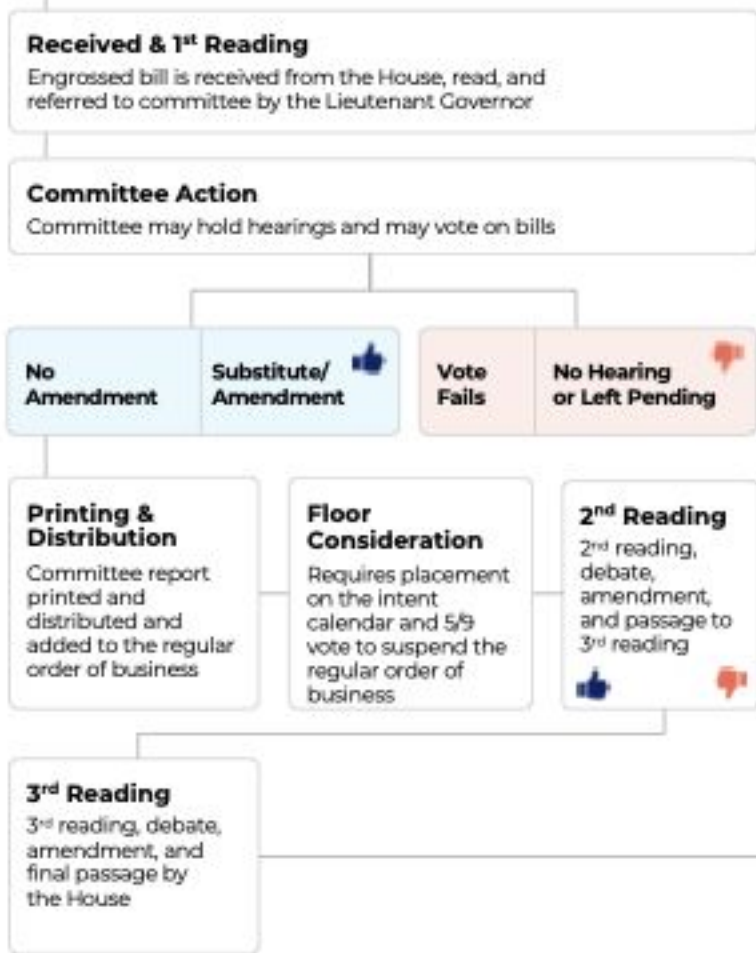


Process for House Bills

House



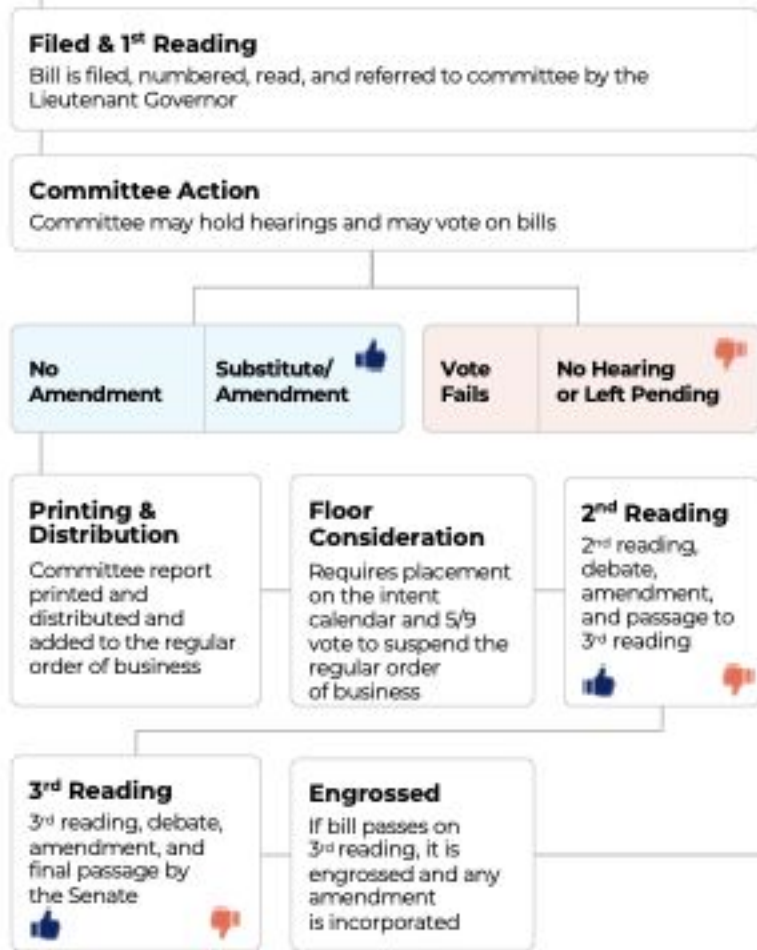
Senate



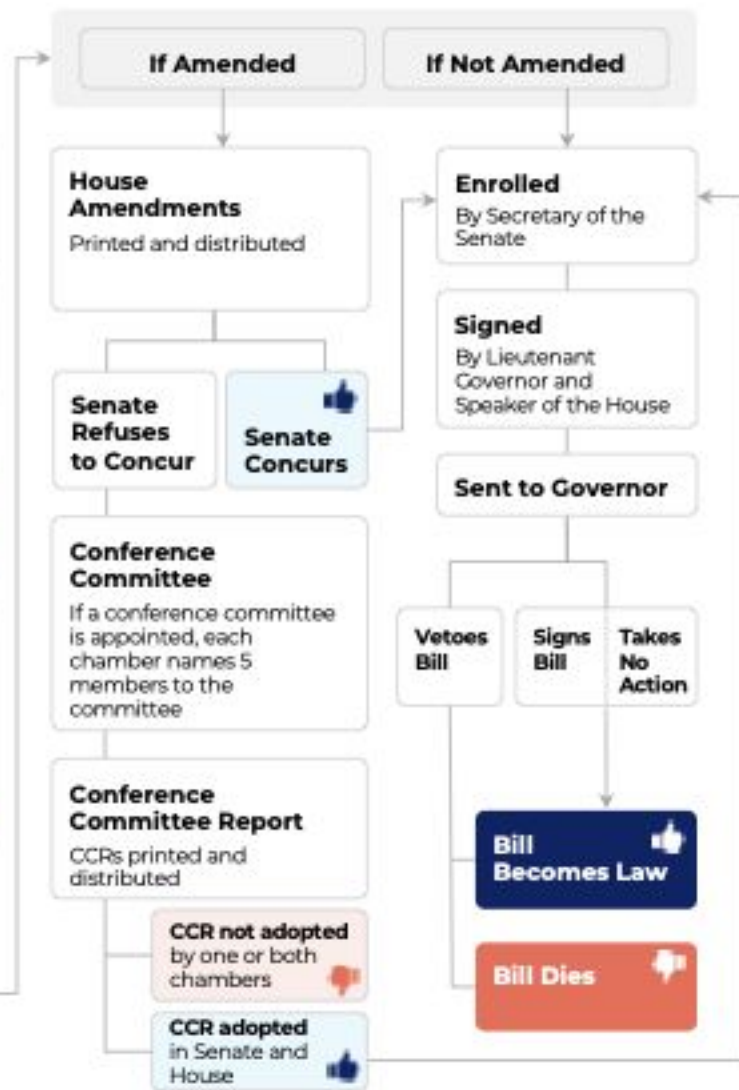
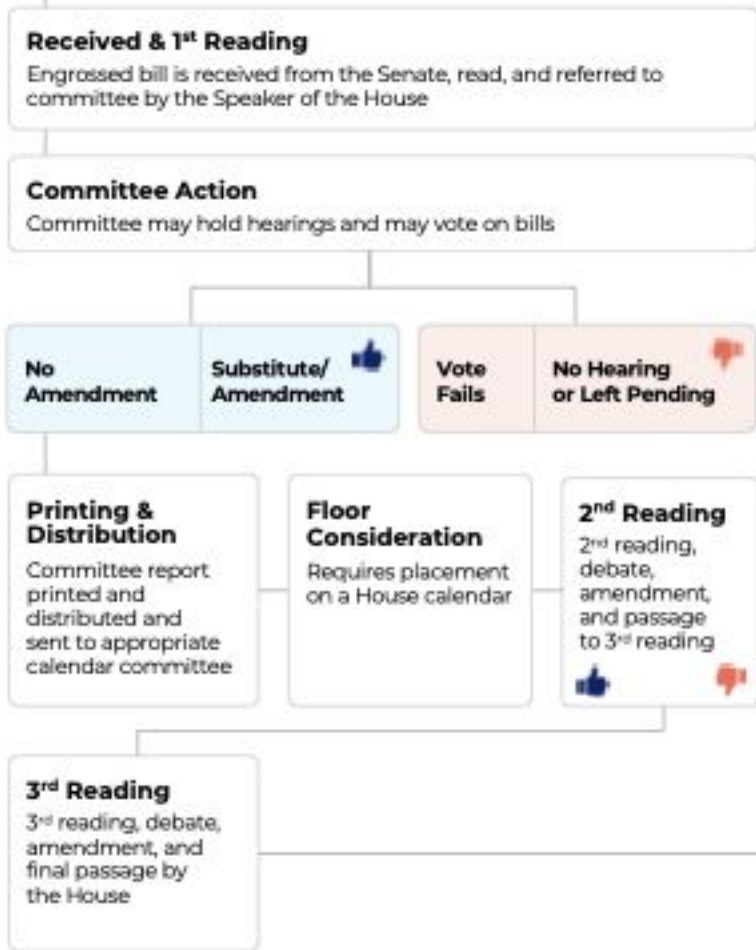


Process for Senate Bills

Senate



House

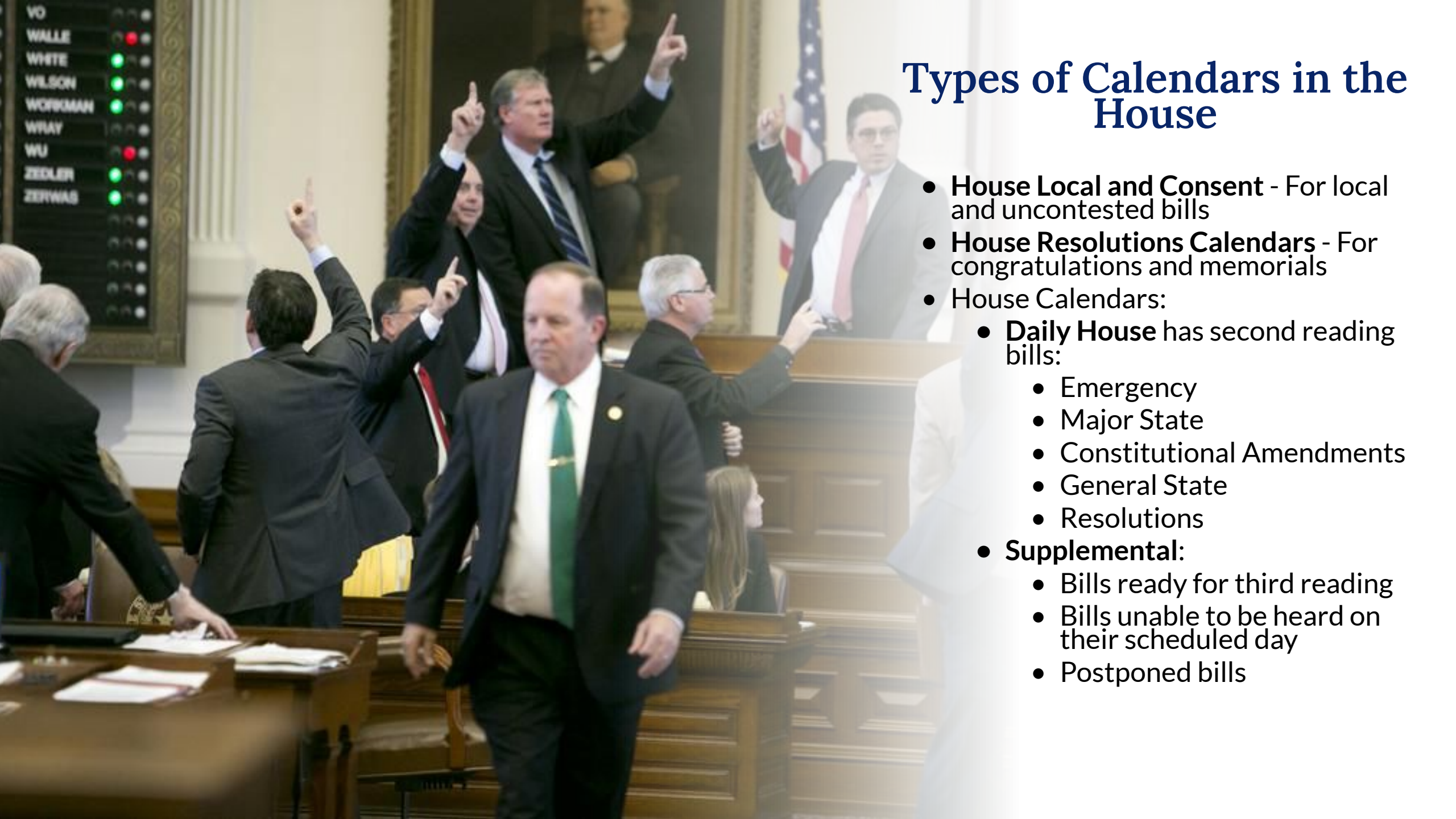


Committees

- **Purpose of a committee: To review proposed legislation referred or to complete a specific task assigned to it.**
- Committee appointments are made by Lieutenant Governor or Speaker
 - Senate: 15 standing committees, 1 subcommittee
 - House: 34 standing committees (*TBD*)
- Composition:
 - Chair
 - Vice-Chair
 - Odd-number of members
- Types of Committees:
 - Standing vs. Joint vs. Select vs. Investigative
 - Procedural vs. Substantive

Committees (cont.)

- **Committee Reports include:**
 - The committee's recommendations and vote on the bill,
 - The text of the bill as reported out by the committee,
 - Any proposed amendments,
 - A bill analysis, and
 - A fiscal note or other impact statement.
- **Supporting Documents:**
 - **Bill Analysis (BA):** A document prepared by the Texas Legislative Council and distributed by the committee for bills and joint resolutions reported out of committee that includes a description of the content of the measure and other required information.
 - **Fiscal Notes (FN):** A written estimate prepared by the Legislative Budget Board of the costs, savings, revenue gain, or revenue loss that may result from implementation of requirements in a bill or joint resolution.
 - **Witness List:** A compilation of the witnesses who testified on, for, or against a bill. Includes both spoken and registered testimony.
 - **Committee Substitutes:** A complete replacement for a bill or resolution that is recommended by a committee in lieu of the bill or resolution that was originally referred to the committee for consideration. The original measure and the committee substitute must share the same subject matter.



Types of Calendars in the House

- **House Local and Consent** - For local and uncontested bills
- **House Resolutions Calendars** - For congratulations and memorials
- **House Calendars:**
 - **Daily House** has second reading bills:
 - Emergency
 - Major State
 - Constitutional Amendments
 - General State
 - Resolutions
 - **Supplemental:**
 - Bills ready for third reading
 - Bills unable to be heard on their scheduled day
 - Postponed bills

The Senate's Version of Calendars

- **Blocker bill:** This bill typically passes out of committee at the beginning of Session and is never intended to move. 5/9 of the Senate must agree for a bill to be heard (18 members). Allows for bills to be heard “out of the regular order of business.”
- **Intent Calendar:**
 - Senator must inform Secretary of the Senate if wanting a bill to be placed on the Intent Calendar.
 - Intent Calendar has no rules on the order, completely up to Lt. Governor.
 - Must be on the Calendar for two consecutive days to be considered.
 - Simple majority needed to pass.
- **Local and Uncontested Calendar** goes through Senate Administration.



After A Bill Passes Both Chambers

- Conference Committees happen if the Senate and House passed different versions of a bill and the original author doesn't accept those changes.
- The Governor can:
 - Sign
 - Veto
 - Allow a bill to pass without signage
- The Governor has 10 days to act from receiving the bill or 20 days after Sine Die, if it was within the last 10 days of Session.
 - Line item vetoes of the budget allowed
- 2/3 Majority in each chamber can overrule a veto.
- Bill becomes a law the 91st day after final adjournment unless otherwise specified.
- Constitutional amendments all must be voted on in the following November election.

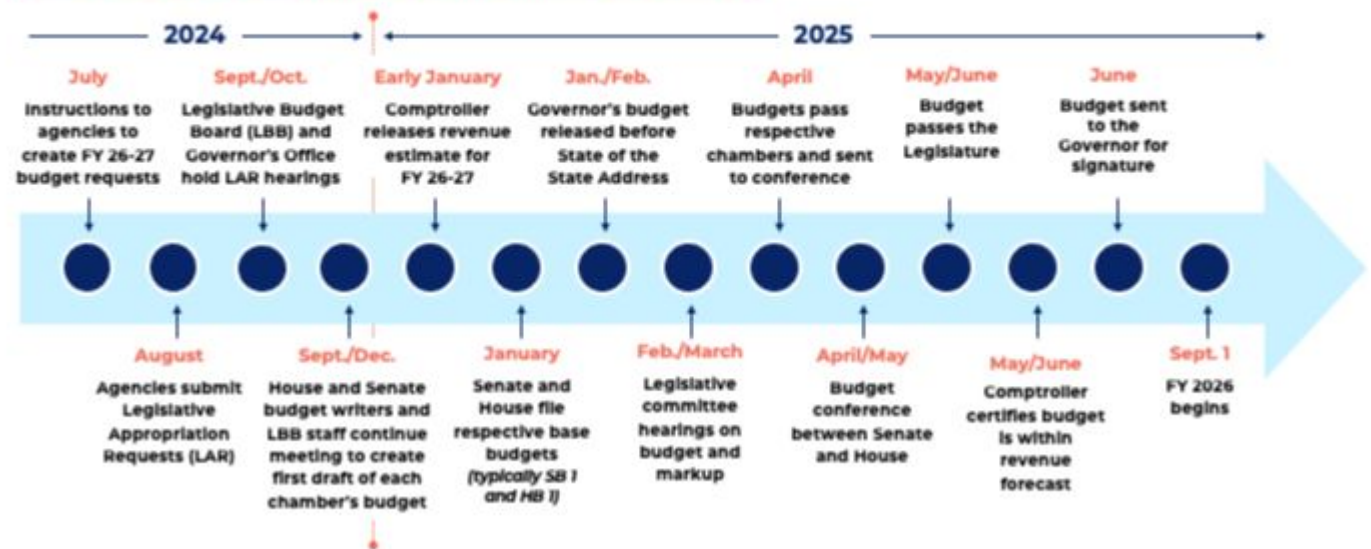


Budget Process

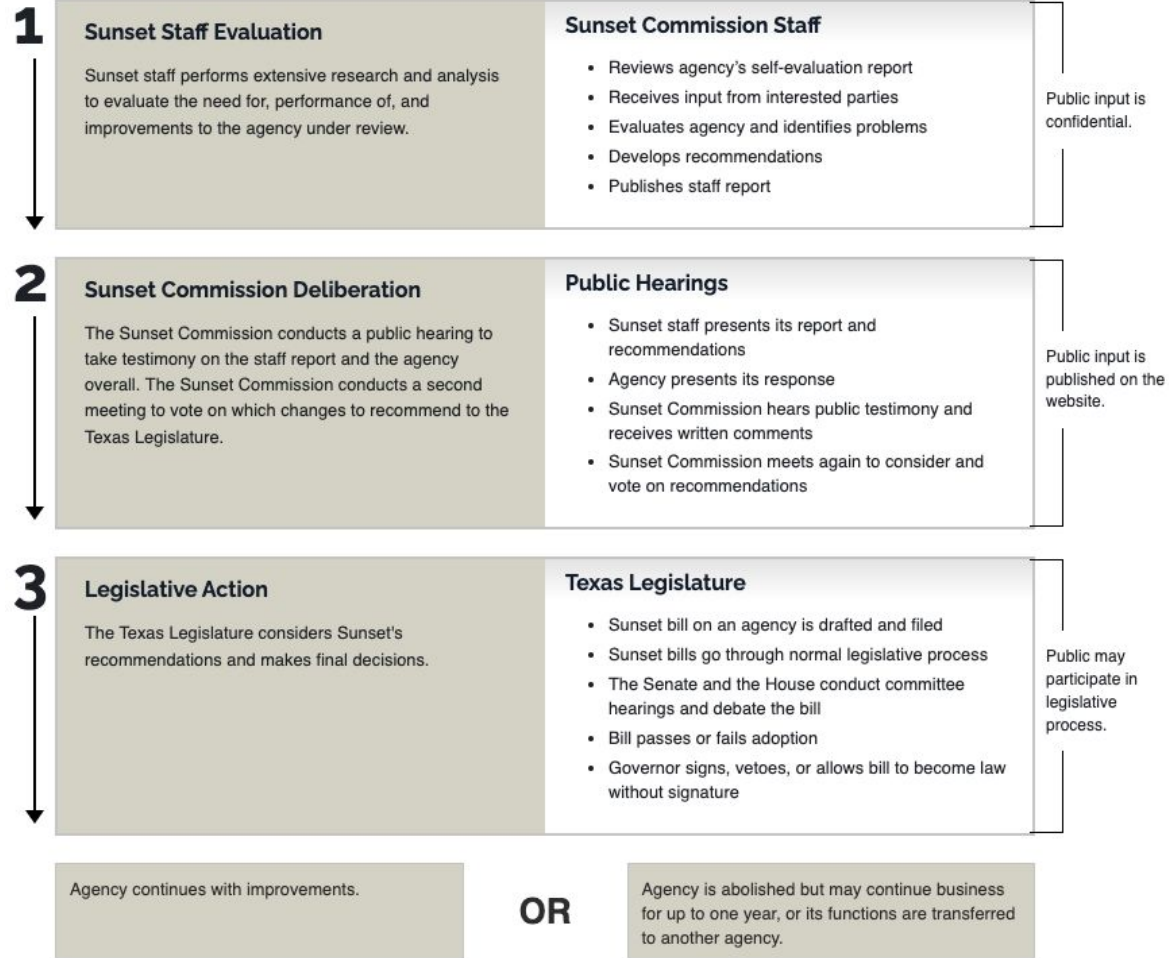
- Legislative Appropriations Requests (LARs)
- Comptroller Estimates - Biennial Revenue Estimate is announced the day before session begins.
 - The Legislature is **constitutionally prohibited** from appropriating more than the Comptroller estimates
- The budget is the only thing Texas is constitutionally required to pass.
- 10 Articles of the Budget
- House Appropriations vs. Senate Finance

2025 Texas Budget Process

The 2025 Legislature will draft the budget for fiscal years 2026-27



Sunset Process



- A commission made up of legislative and public members appointed by the Speaker and Lieutenant Governor
- Agencies Under Review for the 2024-25 Review Cycle
 - Angelina and Neches River Authority
 - Correctional Managed Health Care Committee
 - Texas Department of Criminal Justice
 - Texas Ethics Commission
 - Department of Information Resources
 - Texas Lottery Commission
 - Lower Neches Valley Authority
 - Board of Pardons and Paroles
 - Texas Real Estate Commission (Special-Purpose)
 - River Authority Uniformity Study
 - Sabine River Authority of Texas
 - Trinity River Authority of Texas
 - Windham School District in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice