

HOW TEXAS GOVERNMENT WORKS

Lawmaking

Idea for bill from:

A person

A state legislator

An interim committee

An organized interest

Legislation Introduced

Legislation may be introduced as early as 60 days prior to session.

First Reading
Referral to committee

Committee Work

Bills can originate in either the House or the Senate

First Reading
Referral to committee

An approved House bill with amendments is printed and sent to the Senate for consideration

House Bill on Senate Floor

House Bill Sent to the Senate

Tagging

Public Hearings

Debate and Amend

Committee Report

A majority vote of committee membership is required

A senator may filibuster and hold the floor for an unlimited debate

Placed on Senate Calendar

Senate amendments to House bills go to the House for approval

House concurs with amendments

Reconciled in conference committee

Second Reading

Debate and Amend

Vote

Third Reading

Vote

Enrollment

Tie vote or failure to gain a simple majority