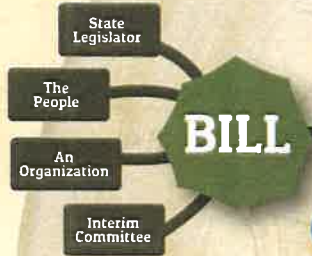


Water Districts and the Texas Legislature

Association of Water Board Directors

October 30, 2018

HOW TEXAS LAWS ARE MADE



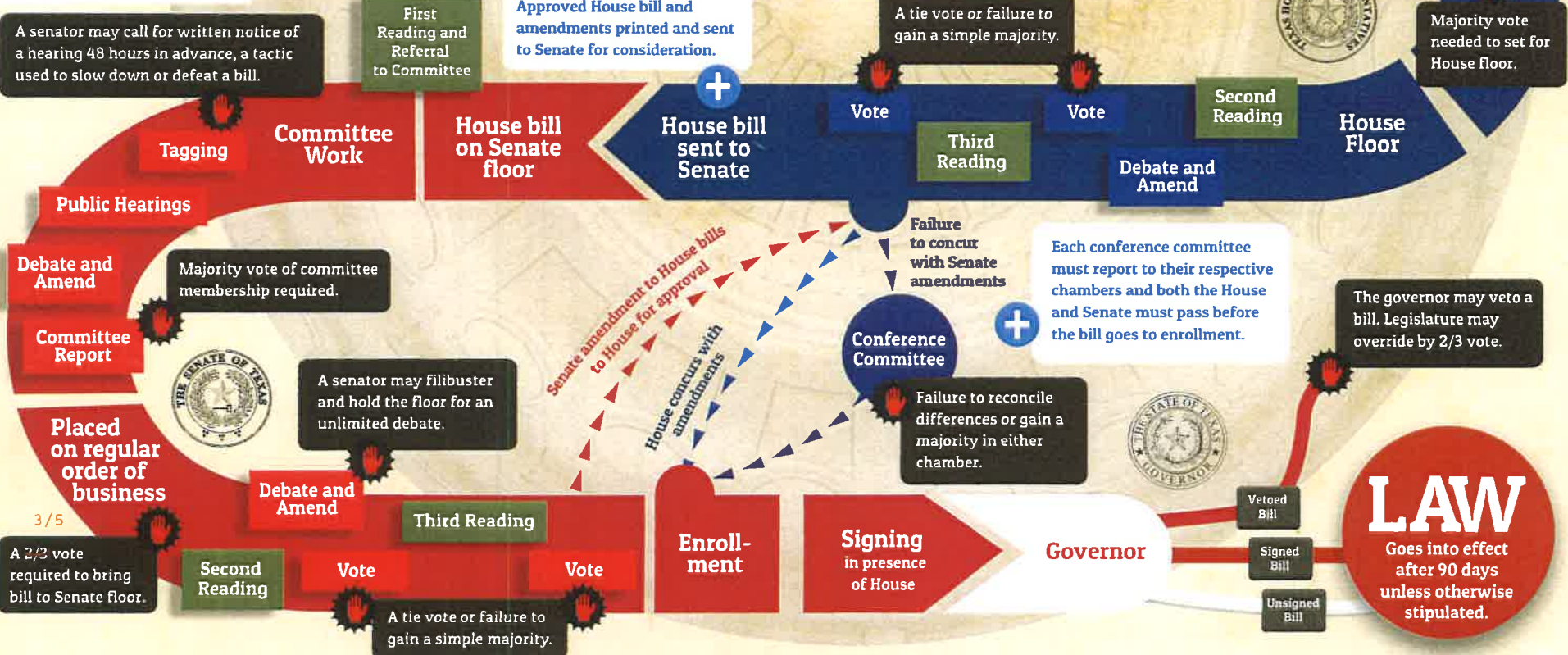
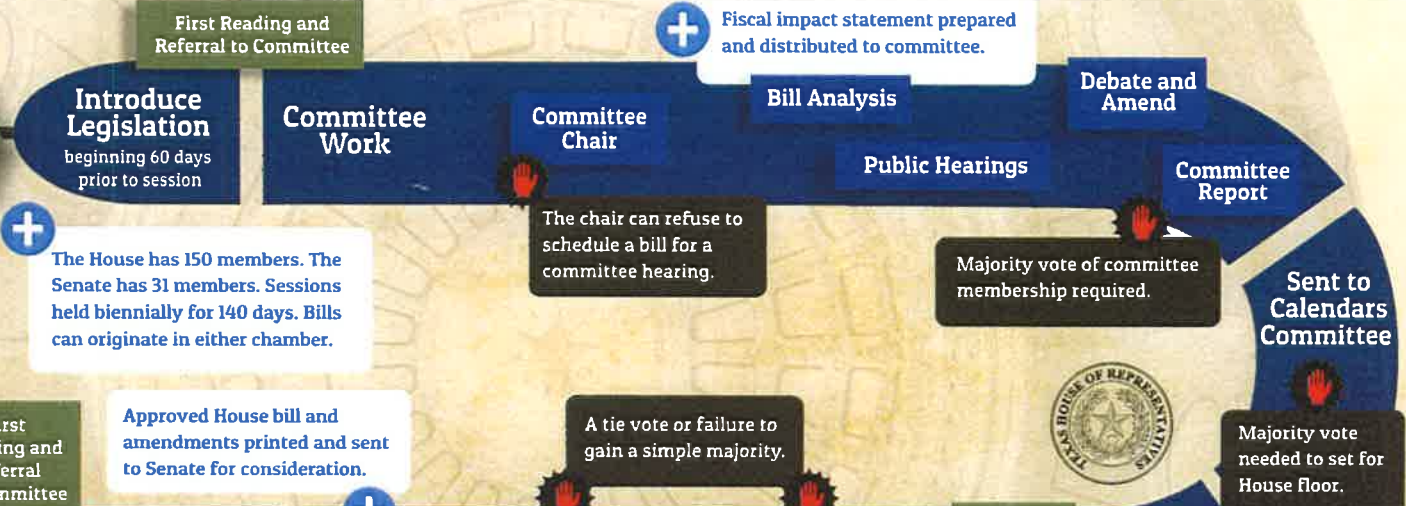
LEGEND

House ■ Senate ■ Governor ■

Chance for bill failure

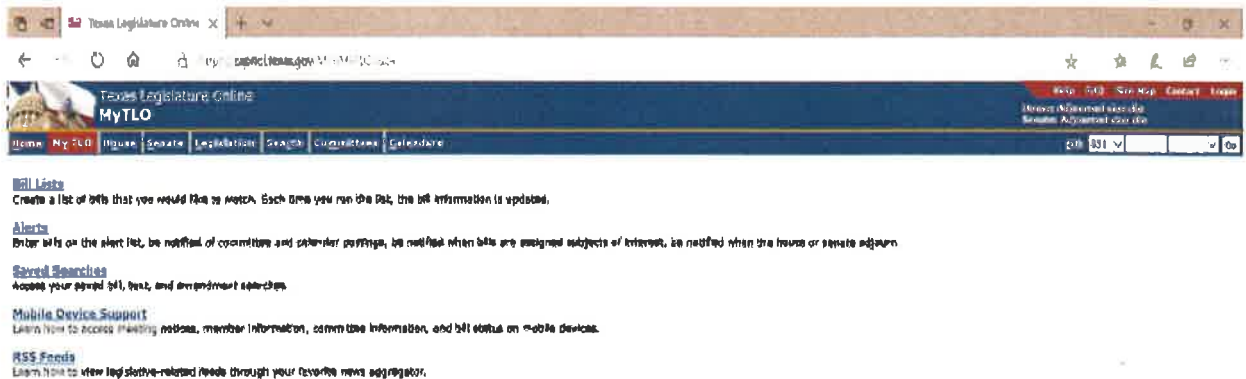
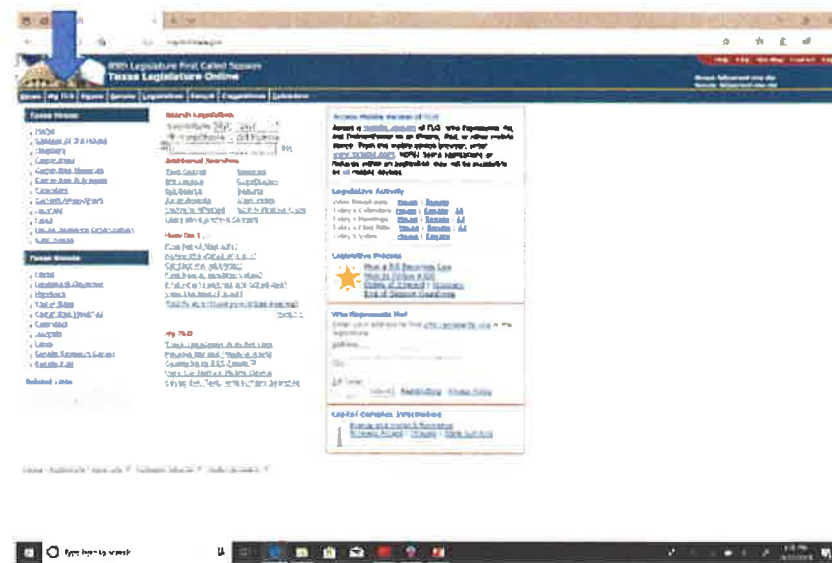
Extra info

Design by: MikeWirthArt.com



How to track the Issues this Session

1. Go to <https://capitol.texas.gov/> and create an account by clicking "MyTLO"



From here, you can create bill lists of legislation you would like to follow and create alerts that will notify you when a bill moves through the process. You can also save your search terms for future use.

Texas Legislature Online
 Bill Search

Home My TLO House Senate Legislation Search Committees Calendar

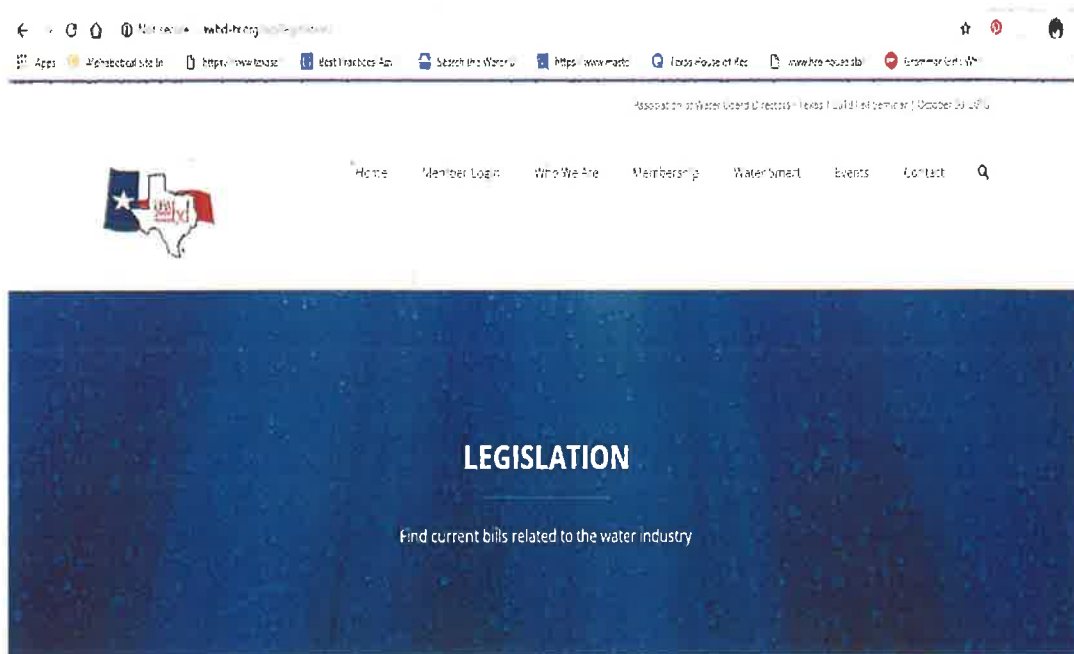
Legislature: 86th 2017
 Bill Chamber: House Senate
 Bill Type: S JR CA R AI
 Committee: _____
 Status: In Out Both
 Actions: _____
 Last Action Only: Yes No
 Acting Date: On: _____ Today Tomorrow
 From: _____ To: _____

Author/Sponsor: _____
 Type: Primary Joint/Additional Primary Coauthor
 Or And
 Sponsor: _____
 Type: Primary Joint Cosponsor Sponsors

Subjects: _____
 Select subject criteria...
 And Or Reset

- Be sure the correct legislature (86th) is selected
- Search by author or subject
- You can also limit search to legislation in certain committees
 - Note: committee assignments are not always intuitive
- Quick search function in upper right corner, select session and enter bill number (i.e. SB 2014)

AWBD also provides legislative tracking materials on its website that are updated throughout the session. Go to awbd-tx.org/wp/legislation/ for more information.



Tips for Communicating with Legislators

1. Be courteous.
2. Introduce yourself and request to speak with the staff member handling your issue.
3. Explain why you are interested in the issue and how it affects you.
4. Speak clearly, slowly, and respectfully.
5. Treat all staff with respect (regardless of age or experience level). Legislators will assign policy matters to certain staff who are charged with assembling constituent input.

Contact Methods:



E-MAIL

SOCIAL MEDIA

Consult the member's official House or Senate webpage for contact information.

AWSD
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JIM GARDNER TAMD ON MUDS

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BILL TRACKING -
882 BILLS - 2017

**ASSOCIATION OF WATER BOARD DIRECTORS - TEXAS
LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES
85th REGULAR SESSION
(2017)**

1. AWBD supports the efficient and effective daily operation of water districts. Water districts provide essential water, wastewater and drainage utility service and other services to millions of Texans.
2. AWBD supports the conservation of the state's water resources. AWBD supports local control in implementing water conservation measures; AWBD opposes state mandates regarding water conservation. AWBD supports broader authority for water districts to implement mandatory water conservation measures for their customers.
3. AWBD supports the development of water resources and innovative systems to treat, reuse and recycle water; including but not limited to desalination, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), and off channel storage.
4. AWBD supports the existing rules and regulations for water reuse and recycling. AWBD opposes any new regulatory scheme that alters or limits the existing authority to reuse and recycle water.
5. AWBD supports statutes and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Rules that allow water districts the option to use the principles of "low impact development."
6. AWBD supports the responsible oversight of water districts by the TCEQ. AWBD supports efforts to ensure that all types of water districts are subject to TCEQ rules relating to the issuance and feasibility of bonds. AWBD supports the continued oversight of all water district related functions by the TCEQ.
7. AWBD supports TCEQ user fees that are directly proportional to the costs of services to the water districts utilizing the services.
8. AWBD supports the current legal relationship between municipalities and water districts. AWBD opposes any diminution of a water district's right to be created or to operate within the jurisdiction of a municipality.
9. AWBD supports the current legal relationship between counties and water districts. AWBD opposes any new authority of counties to regulate water districts or the development of property in a water district, except that AWBD supports the authority of counties to require within the boundaries of a water district: i) connection to a centralized water and sewer system; ii) that water, sewer, drainage and road facilities be designed and constructed to reasonable county standards; and iii) the provision of adequate fire suppression facilities.
10. AWBD opposes any effort to shift responsibility of maintenance for road or related facilities from counties to water districts.
11. AWBD opposes legislation that would allow nontaxable users, including independent school districts, to avoid paying water district charges and fees, including charges and fees for construction, installation, or inspection of a tap or connection to district facilities.
12. AWBD supports the financial independence of water districts. AWBD opposes any limitation on a water district's authority to (i) incur debt and levy taxes, subject to voter authorization as may be required by existing law; (ii) adopt all

necessary fees or charges for water and sanitary sewer services; and (iii) provide other statutorily authorized services.

13. AWBD supports the development of parks and recreational facilities by water districts. The establishment of parks and greenbelts is an important tool to conserve the state's natural resources.

14. AWBD opposes any legislation that would reduce or limit the governmental immunity of water districts; provided, however that AWBD supports the ability of water districts and third parties, including other local governments, to contract with each other and enforce such contracts.

15. AWBD opposes any further restrictions on the number of uniform elections dates.

16. AWBD supports legislation to allow water districts the option to conduct their own elections to provide in-district polling places to voters.

17. AWBD supports a water district's right to contract for tax collections and opposes any mandate to centralize the tax collection process. AWBD opposes mandated revenue caps. AWBD supports the existing truth in taxation laws for water districts.

18. AWBD supports the development of an internet presence by water districts for the purpose of providing information to water district customers and taxpayers.
