



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

88th Texas Legislature: **Regular & Special Sessions Update**

Immunization Section
February 21, 2024



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Texas Legislative Process

- The Legislative Body:
 - Senate - 31 members
 - House of Representatives - 150 members
- The Regular Legislative Session:
 - 140 days, every odd year
 - Begins the 2nd Tuesday in January
- Special Sessions:
 - The Governor may call for a Special Session at any time to address specific legislation
 - 30 days
 - No limit on the number of Special Sessions

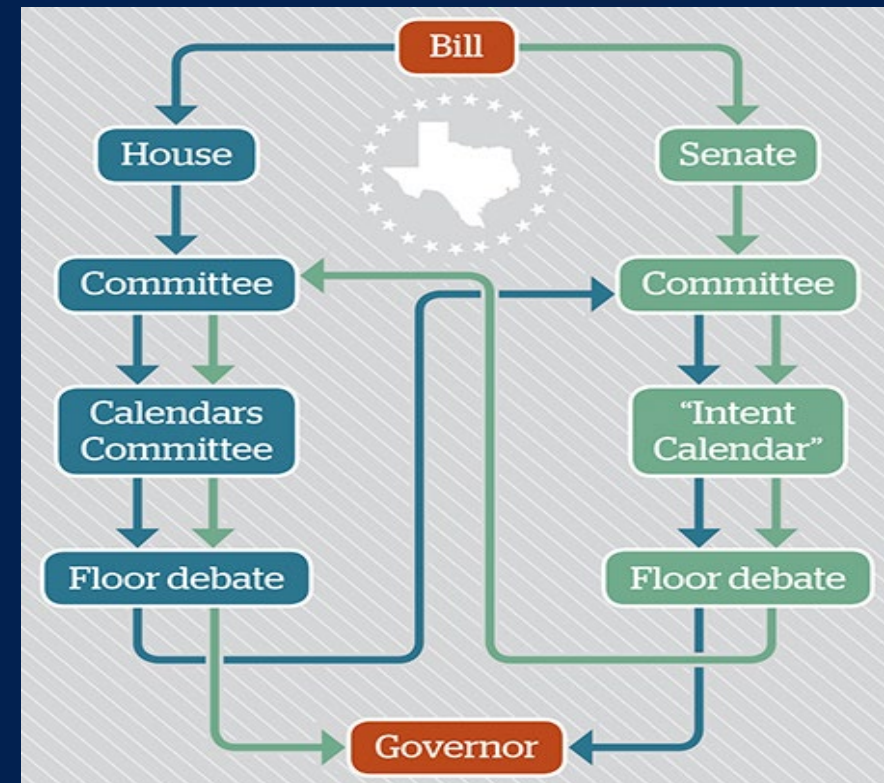




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Texas Legislative Process

- Bills are the most common type of legislation and the only means by which a law is enacted, amended, or repealed.
 - Introduced Bill
 - Committee Substitute
 - Enrolled Bill
 - Engrossed Bill
 -
- If Governor neither vetoes nor signs the bill within 10 days, the bill becomes a law.
- Bills sent to Governor within 10 days of final adjournment, Governor has until 20 days after final adjournment to sign a bill into law, veto the bill, or allow the bill to become law without a signature.
- Other Legislation Methods
 - Riders
 - Joint Resolutions (Amendments to TX Constitution)
 - Concurrent Resolutions (Both Chambers)
 - Simple Resolutions (One Chamber)





Texas Legislative Process

- Committees
 - Senate committees
 - House committees
 - Committees with direct oversight of DSHS include:
 - Senate Health and Human Services
 - House Public Health
 - HHS Transition Legislative Oversight Committee (TLOC)
- A Committee Substitute is the version of the bill as it's voted out of committee which can significantly affect a bill's overall impact and/or cost.
- Conference Committees are comprised of members of both chambers and reconcile any differences between the bills passed by each chamber's version.



Legislative Update: 88th Session

Total Number of Bills and Resolutions Filed During the 88th Texas Legislature

- Regular Session: 11,807
 - Passed: 4,550
 - Vetoed: 77
- Four Special Sessions: 1,283
 - Passed: 583
 - Vetoed: 0

Total Number of Bills and Resolutions Monitored or Analyzed by Immunizations

- Monitored: 157
- Analyzed: 87
- Passed: 4



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Legislative Update: 88th Session

- Common Themes:
 - COVID-19 vaccines and mandates
 - Vaccination mandates or discrimination based on vaccine status
 - Reporting or studying adverse reactions following vaccination or immunization
 - Required vaccines for child-care facilities, primary or secondary public or private schools, and institutions of higher learning
 - Allowing pharmacists or technicians to administer vaccines
 - The liability of the manufacturers and providers of vaccines
 - Addressing a person's right to refuse vaccines



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88th Regular Session

Bill

- HB 1 "Rider 40"

Law

COVID-19 Vaccinations: None of the General Revenue funds appropriated to the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) may be used for the purpose of promoting or advertising COVID-19 vaccinations in the 2024-2025 biennium. It is also the intent of the legislature that to the extent allowed by federal law, any federal fund allocated to DSHS shall be expended for activities other than promoting or advertising COVID-19 vaccinations.



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2nd Special Session

Bill

Law

SB 29 "COVID Bill"

Senate Bill (SB) 29 "Prohibiting COVID-19 Mandates: Relating to prohibited governmental entity implementation or enforcement of a vaccine mandate, mask requirement, or private business or school closure to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This bill led to the expiration of Governor Abbott's Disaster Declaration extension on June 15, 2023.



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3rd Special Session

Bill

Law

SB 7

Senate Bill (SB) 7: Relating to prohibiting private employers from adopting or enforcing COVID-19 vaccine mandates as a condition of employment or a contract position.

The bill authorizes an administrative penalty of up to \$50,000 for noncompliance.



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Legislative Questions?

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