Texas Legislative Process

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Gun Owners of America
87th Legislative Session
Today’s agenda:

1. Bill Survival 101
2. Q&A
3. Gun bills in the coming session
4. What you can do
Bill Survival 101
Bill Survival 101

**HOUSE**
- Filing
  - Committees
    - Floor

**SENATE**
- Filing
  - Committees
    - Floor

**GOVERNOR**
Filing + Authoring

- **WHO:** legislators
- **WHEN:** filing — Nov. 9 thru March 12; co-authoring — after session starts

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Track bill filings
- Talk to bill authors
- Tell your legislators your opinions on bills + issues
Organization: Setting the Stage

- **Day One:** House Speaker Election (*Jan. 12, 2021*)
- **Day Two:** Rules (*Jan 13, 2021*)
- **Later:** Lt. Gov. and Speaker appoint committees

**ACTION ITEM:** Contact key people with concerns/issues:

- **Rep. Smithee:** authors House Rules resolution
- **Chairman Geren:** chairs House Administration Committee
- **Sen. Hancock:** has authored Senate Rules
- **Speaker + Lt. Gov.:*** lots of influence***
Committee Process

- **WHO**: Speaker, committee chair & members, YOU

- **STEPS**:
  - Speaker sends bill to committee - Jan/Feb
  - Committee chair schedules it for a hearing - Feb-April
  - The public can testify at a hearing - Feb-April
  - The committee votes - usually at least 1 week after hearing

***If committee chair doesn’t act, the bill dies.***
Committee Process

ACTION ITEMS:

● Call the Committee Chair: ask for a hearing
● Show Up to the committee hearing + testify
● Call the Committee Chair AGAIN: ask for a vote
● Call Committee Members: ask to vote YES

This is the most important time to be involved!
BUT WAIT ... there’s more!

- House CALENDARS COMMITTEE: decides whether it goes to the floor
- Senate Lt. Governor: decides whether it goes to the floor

ACTION ITEMS:

- Call Calendars Committee or Lt. Governor: “give the bill a vote on the floor”
Floor Process

- **Second Reading**: most of the debate and amendments
- **Third Reading**: can be more debate or amendments

**ACTION ITEM**: call your legislator, tell to vote “yes” or “no;” ask for amendments if needed

*Most bills that make it to the floor will pass.*

*(But not always! See HB 545, 86th Lege Session)*
Dates of Interest

- November 3, 2020: General election
- November 9, 2020: Bill prefiling began
- January 12, 2021: 87th Legislature convenes at noon
- March 12, 2021: 60-day bill filing deadline
- May 31, 2021: Adjournment sine die
- June 20, 2021: Post-session 20-day deadline for Governor to sign or veto
- August 30, 2021: Effective date

https://lrl.texas.gov/whatsNew/client/index.cfm/2020/10/2/Dates-of-Interest-for-the-87th-Regular-Session
Rules of Activism

Rule #1: Show up

Rule #2: Be ready for anything

***especially after 2020***
Bill Survival 101
Gun Bills to Watch

Rule #1: Show up

Rule #2: Be ready for anything

***especially after 2020***
Pre-Filed Bills: Pro-gun

- Emergency Powers Protection (HB 26 & HB 340)
- Federal Firearms Protection (HB 112, HB 335)
- Anti-Red Flag Law Bill (HB 336)
- Permitless Carry (HB 299 - placeholder wording)
- End “Gun-Free” Zones (HB 304 - placeholder wording)
PreFiled Bills: Gun Control

- “Red Flag” gun confiscation
- End Preemption, let cities regulate firearms
- Repeal Stand-Your-Ground Law
- Ban commonly-used firearms & mags
- Ban private gun sales
- Ban rifle & shotgun carry

***Beware of “Shock & Awe” tactics***
A note about gun control bills

- Beware of “Shock & Awe” tactics
- This session’s biggest danger: mind control

  Re-naming

  Shaming

  Incentivizing

  “Gun safety” proposals
How to fight for your gun rights

1. Join our email list - gunowners.org/texas
   Weekly lege update, action alerts, invitations

2. Join GOA - gunowners.org/texas
   $25/year basic membership

3. Plan now to show up during session
   Gun Owners Lobby Day; Committee Hearings
Next Up:

- Dec. 10: Your Lifeline — the TLO website
- Dec. 17: Talking to Legislators — from phone calls and meetings to committee hearings

Sign-up link on our Events page at gunowners.org/texas
How can I help you make change happen?

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