

# 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)



# Pre-Filed 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](https://gunowners.org/texas)

*Weekly lege update, action alerts, invitations*

2. Join GOA - [gunowners.org/texas](https://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](https://gunowners.org/texas)*



**How can I help you make change happen?**

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