



IMPERIUM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Intelligent Client Solutions.*

Michael Grimes – Founding Partner



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MODERN PUBLIC AFFAIRS REALITY

- ❑ The “Information Age” has led to greater transparency of and access to the public policy process
- ❑ Strategic communication today is a proactive and comprehensive approach to bridging an organization’s goals with the stakeholders who are able to affect successful outcomes

ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES ↔ ISSUE GAP ↔ STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS

- ❑ This has turned policy debates into grassroots campaigns, involving participation from ever-widening groups of primary and secondary stakeholders
- ❑ If you do not have a seat at the table, you are probably on the menu



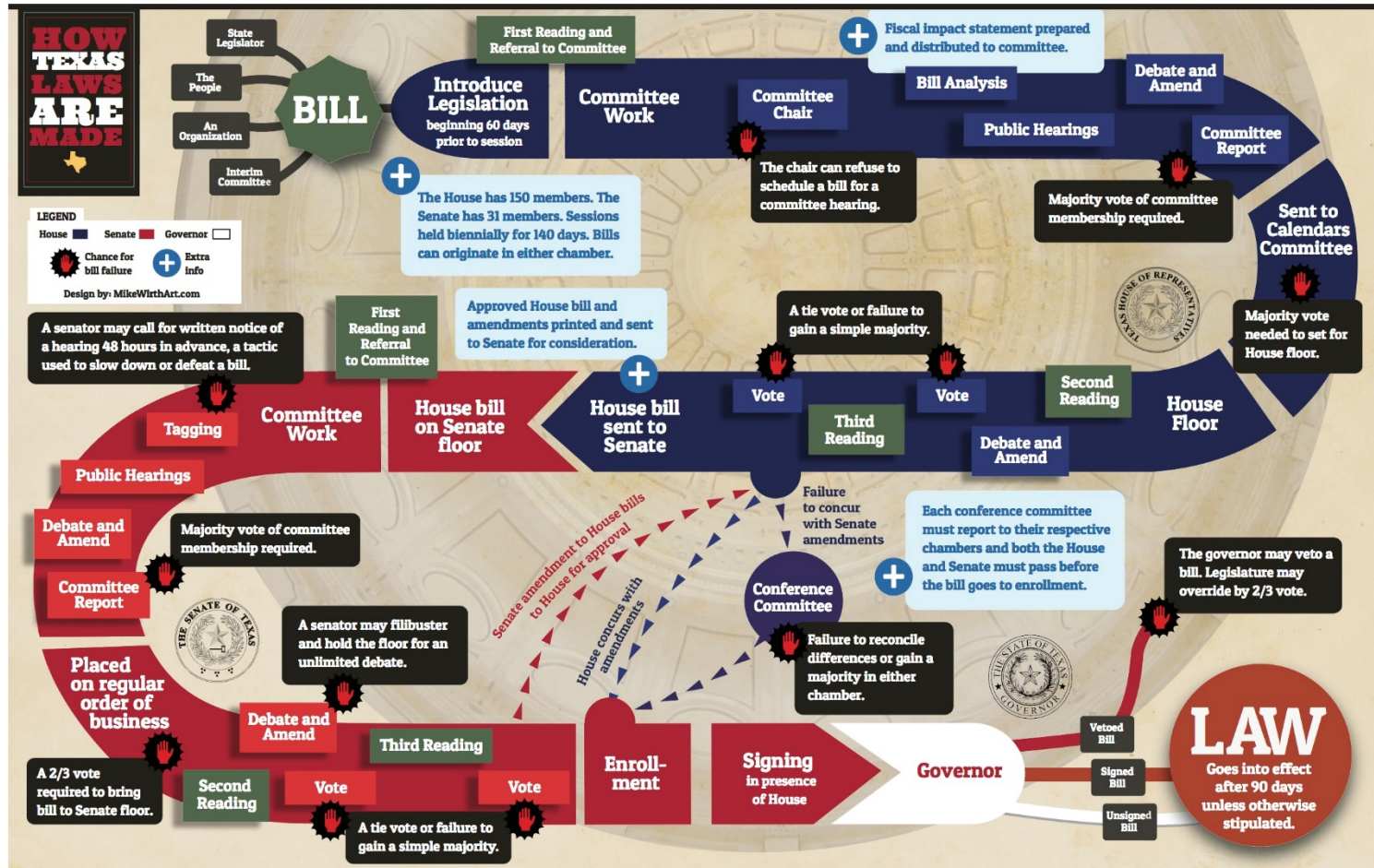
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WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR RAILROADS?

ANTICIPATED 2019 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- ❑ **CREATION OF A TAX CREDIT FOR RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES**
 - ❑ Similar to efforts in the 2017 Legislature (HB 3566 by Ashby) to introduce an 45G-type program to allow for the assignment of franchise tax credits to taxpayers in return for revenue available to invest in infrastructure upgrades in Texas rail operations
 - ❑ The Texas program would hopefully generate \$10 million/year for these critical upgrades
 - ❑ Additionally, there will be other efforts to create “Critical Infrastructure Investment” programs that we will work with others to make certain rail infrastructure is included as an eligible expenditure if any of these programs are authorized
- ❑ **OPPOSING EFFORTS TO ALLOW HEAVY-HAUL TRUCKS IN THE PERMIAN BASIN OIL REGION**
 - ❑ In 2017, the legislature (SB 1524 by Nichols) allowed for the creation of a “heavy haul” corridor in the gulf coast and port regions of Texas
 - ❑ The Texas oil and gas and manufacturing industry will seek a similar corridor in the west Texas Permian Basin region
- ❑ **EMINENT DOMAIN FIGHT WILL CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY IN 2019**
 - ❑ There will be continued efforts to limit the use of eminent domain by railroads and other infrastructure providers (HB 991 by Burns)

How a Bill Becomes a Law



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Bills of Interest as of January 21st, 2019

- ❑ **HB 709 by Wray – Prohibiting the use of private activity bonds to finance high-speed rail**
- ❑ **HB 742 by Y Davis – Railroad Crew Size Requirements**
- ❑ **HB 71 by Martinez – Creating Regional Transit Authorities**
- ❑ **SB 66 by Nelson – Phases out the franchise tax over a period of time**

Deadline Calendar

85th Legislature, Regular Session Deadlines for Action Under House and Senate Rules

MAY 2017

This deadlines calendar is intended to be a practical summary guide to the end-of-session deadlines. It is not intended as an interpretation of the rules of the House or Senate.

A red box indicates the last day for a chamber to take certain actions.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
118th day 7	119th day 8 Last day for House committees to report HBs/HJR (See Note 1)	120th day 9 By 10 p.m.—last House Daily Calendar with HBs/HJR must be distributed (36-hour layout) (See Note 2)	121st day 10 By 9 a.m.—last House Local & Consent Calendar with consent HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout) (See Note 2)	122nd day 11 Last day for House to consider 2nd reading HBs/HJR on Daily or Supplemental Calendar	123rd day 12 Last day for House to consider consent HBs on 2nd & 3rd reading and ALL 3rd reading HBs/HJR on Supplemental Calendar	124th day 13
125th day 14	126th day 15	127th day 16	128th day 17 By 9 a.m.—last House Local & Consent Calendar with local HBs must be distributed (48-hour layout) (See Note 2)	129th day 18	130th day 19 Last day for House to consider local HBs on 2nd & 3rd reading First day Senate can consider bills and resolutions the first day they are posted on the Notice of Intent	131st day 20 Last day for House committees to report SBs/SJR (See Note 1)
132nd day 21 By 10 p.m.—last House Daily Calendar with SBs/SJR must be distributed (36-hour layout) (See Note 2)	133rd day 22 By 9 a.m.—last House Local & Consent Calendar with SBs must be distributed (48-hour layout) (See Note 2)	134th day 23 Last day for House to consider 2nd reading SBs/SJR on Daily or Supplemental Calendar	135th day 24 Last day for House to consider local and consent SBs on 2nd & 3rd reading and ALL 3rd reading SBs/SJR on Supplemental Calendar Last day for Senate to consider ALL bills & JR on 2nd or 3rd reading (See Note 3)	136th day 25 Before midnight—Senate amendments must be distributed in the House (24-hour layout)	137th day 26 Last day for House to act on Senate amendments Before midnight—Senate copies of conference committee reports (CCRs) on tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (48-hour layout) (See Note 4)	138th day 27 Before midnight—House copies of ALL CCRs must be distributed (24-hour layout) Before midnight—Senate copies of CCRs on bills other than tax, general appropriations, and reapportionment bills must be printed and distributed (24-hour layout)
139th day 28 Last day for House to adopt CCRs or discharge House conferees and concur in Senate amendments Last day for Senate to concur in House amendments or adopt CCRs	140th day 29 Corrections only in House and Senate Last day of session (Sine die)	<p>In reviewing this calendar, all members should consider, in addition to the stated deadline, the time needed for the preparation of any ancillary documents related to the bill, any printing time, and any applicable layout rule.</p> <p>Note 1: The House rules do not contain an express deadline for committees to report measures, but, technically, this is the last day for a House committee to report a measure in order for the measure to have any chance of being placed on a House calendar. However, this deadline does not take into consideration the time required to: (1) prepare the bill analysis; (2) obtain an updated fiscal note or impact statement; (3) prepare any other paperwork required for a committee report; or (4) prepare the committee report for distribution to the members of the House as required by the rules. Realistically, it normally takes a full day or more for a bill to reach the Calendars Committee after the bill has been reported from committee.</p> <p>Note 2: The House rules do not have an express deadline for distributing calendars on the 120th, 121st, 128th, 132nd, and 133rd days.</p> <p>Note 3: The Senate deadline for passing all bills and joint resolutions does not take into consideration the House deadline for passing Senate bills and joint resolutions. Realistically, to be eligible for consideration by the House under its end-of-session deadlines, Senate bills and joint resolutions must be passed by the Senate and received by the House before the 130th day.</p> <p>Note 4: Both Senate and House rules require a 48-hour layout for a resolution suspending limitations on a conference committee considering the general appropriations bill, if such a resolution is necessary. Neither rule has an express deadline for considering that resolution, which should occur before consideration of the general appropriations bill.</p>				



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How can I get involved?

- ❑ Participate In a Railroad Trade Association or Other Advocacy Organization (Local, State, Federal) and Contribute Your Time, Energy and Efforts to Those Organizations
- ❑ Contribute to a Political Action Committee or Make Personal Contributions and Support Candidates Who Support Your Principles and Beliefs
- ❑ Engage Decision Makers to Educate and Influence Outcomes



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Resources for Engagement in Texas

❑ TEXAS LEGISLATURE ONLINE

www.capitol.state.tx.us

❑ LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

<http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/>

❑ TEXAS TRIBUNE

www.texastribune.org

❑ TEXAS SHORTLINE AND REGIONAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

www.tslrra.org



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Questions & Answers

“One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.”

-Plato

“Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.”

- Pericles (430 B.C.)



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