

What's Next? Post-Session FAQ and Bill Statistics

Posted At : June 2, 2021 4:15 PM | Posted By : TexasLRL

Related Categories: 87th Session, Legislation, Bill statistics, Legislative process

Bill Statistics:

House Bills (HBs) & Senate Bills (SBs)

Filed	6,927
Sent to the Governor	1,070
Signed by the Governor	182
Filed without the Governor's signature	14
Vetoed by the Governor	1

House Joint Resolutions (HJRs) & Senate Joint Resolutions (SJRs)

Filed	221
Filed with the Secretary of State	8

House Concurrent Resolutions (HCRs) & Senate Concurrent Resolutions (SCRs)

Filed	179
Filed with the Secretary of State	14
Sent to the Governor	86
Signed by the Governor	49
Filed without the Governor's signature	0
Vetoed by the Governor	0

* Statistics as of June 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. See our [bill statistics page](#) to compare these numbers with historical statistics.

Post-Session FAQ:

What happens now?

The 87th Regular Session ended May 31, 2021. Bills that pass both the House and the Senate are sent to the governor to sign, veto, or allow to become law without his signature.

When the Legislature passes a bill, does it become a law right away?

No. Under [Article 4, Section 14](#) of the Texas Constitution, bills passed by the Legislature must be submitted to the governor for approval. The governor can sign a bill, veto it, line-item veto an appropriation, or allow a bill to become law without his signature.

How much time does the governor have to act on a bill?

The deadline for the governor to act on a bill is contingent upon the point in time in which the bill is presented to the governor.

If a bill is sent to the governor during the legislative session, the governor has 10 days (excluding Sundays) to sign the bill or return the bill to the Legislature with objection. If after 10 days the bill is not returned to the Legislature by the governor with objections or he has not yet signed it, the bill becomes law as if the governor had signed it.

If the Legislature has adjourned sine die, or if the bill is presented to the governor less than 10 days (excluding Sundays) prior to final adjournment, the governor has 20 days (including Sundays) after the final day of the session to sign or veto the bill. If neither action is taken, the bill becomes law without the governor's signature ([Texas Const. art. IV, § 14](#)).

Sunday, June 20, is the 20th day following the final adjournment of the 87th Regular Session. It is the last day the governor can sign or veto bills passed during the 87th Regular Session. The LRL's [vetoes database](#) will be updated for the 87th Regular Session as we receive those documents.

If the governor approves a bill, when will it take effect?

The text of a bill may include effective date provisions requiring the bill to take effect immediately, to take effect on a specified day, or there may be no mention of an effective date. Different sections of a bill may have different effective dates.

According to [Article III, Section 39](#) of the Texas Constitution, a bill cannot become effective until at least 90 days after the session ends unless the bill passes both chambers with a favorable vote by two-thirds of the members.

Monday, August 30, 2021 is the 91st day following final adjournment; bills that do not specify an effective date and those that did not have the two-thirds vote necessary to take effect earlier will take effect on Monday, August 30, 2021.

If a bill received the votes necessary to become effective immediately, it will take effect on the date of the last action necessary for it to become law. This could be when the governor signs it, when the governor files it with the Secretary of State without approving or vetoing it, or when the time for the governor to act expires, if the bill has not been approved or vetoed during that time.

What happens to bills that do not pass?

Bills that do not make it completely through the legislative process die with the end of the session and are not automatically refiled during the next session.

What about other types of legislation?

Joint resolutions that pass both chambers of the Legislature are filed with the Secretary of State, and will be on the ballot as a proposed constitutional amendment for the November 2, 2021 election.

Concurrent resolutions generally require action by the governor. Concurrent resolutions used for administrative matters in the House and Senate do not require approval from the governor.

Simple resolutions are passed by only one chamber of the Legislature, and do not require the governor's approval.

Where can I find more information about special sessions?

You can start with the LRL's [FAQ about special sessions](#). The LRL website's section devoted to [special sessions](#) also includes [historical information](#), links to [statutory authority](#) pertaining to special sessions, and more.

Sources:

- [The Legislative Process in Texas](#), Texas Legislative Council, February 2021
- [Dates of Interest | 87th Legislature](#), Texas Legislative Council