

This newsletter is published on a monthly basis to provide relevant information to government purchasing and contracting professionals regarding public procurement and contracting topics. Hope you enjoy!

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## Texas Legislative Watch

The 85th Texas Legislative Session began on January 10th. GPS will be tracking procurement and contract related bills throughout the session and will update and post a weekly [Legislative Watch](#) on the GPS website.



## The Legislative Process

The Texas Legislature meets every two years for 140 days. Although many of us work in government, we don't really understand what goes on during the legislative session. We know that new laws get passed - but how does that process happen? Below is a simplified version of the Texas legislative process:

1. A bill is drafted and filed.
2. House and Senate committees review the introduced bills and advise as to their disposition. Many bills never make it out of committee.
3. When referred to a committee, government entities may be asked to provide a fiscal note or impact statement.
4. The committees may recommend:
  - Passage without amendment
  - Amendment(s) to the bill
  - Substitute a new bill
  - Take no action

## Training Schedule



### 2017 Workshop

Prices:

\$300 (1-day)

\$515 (2-day)

Group Discounts Available



Agile Project Management

**October 6, 2017**  
*Austin*



Communications & Stakeholder Management in Projects & Contracting

**October 5, 2017**  
*Austin*



Contracting in an Agile Project Environment

5. The bill is put on an official calendar and requires floor action where the bill is read.

6. When a bill passes, the bill is engrossed and sent to the opposite chamber for action.

7. After a bill has passed through committee deliberation and three readings in the opposite chamber, the bill is sent back to the originating chamber.

8. If the bill was amended by the opposite chamber, the originating chamber must concur with all of the amendments before the bill can be enrolled. If the originating chamber does not concur with some or all of the opposite chamber's amendments, a conference committee may be necessary to resolve the differences between the house and senate versions of the bill.

9. Once approval of both chambers is reached, the bill is enrolled and sent to the governor for signature.

10. The governor has ten days to:

- Sign the bill
- Veto the bill
- Let the bill become law without the governor's signature.

A full detailed description of the process is available at [Texas Legislature Online](#).

### Question of the Month

**QUESTION:**

What is the difference between enrolled and engrossed? I always get the two confused.

**ANSWER:**

Don't feel bad, I do the same thing. Since the Legislative started this week, I included common legislative terms. It is always a good refresher. The full Legislative Glossary can be found at [Texas Legislature Online](#).

**AMENDMENT:** Any proposed alteration to a bill or resolution as it moves through the legislative process.



*March 3, 2017  
Austin  
April 21, 2017  
Houston  
July 19, 2017  
DFW*

*Essentials of  
Contract  
Management*

*April 12-13, 2017  
DFW  
June 28-29, 2017  
Austin  
Sept. 27-28, 2017  
Houston*



**Effectively Managing  
Multiple  
Projects/Contracts &  
Time Management**

*March 2, 2017  
Austin  
April 20, 2017  
Houston  
July 18, 2017  
DFW*

**Ethics in Contracting**

*February 9, 2017  
Austin  
June 6, 2017  
Houston  
July 13, 2017  
DFW  
Sept. 12, 2017  
Austin*

**Fundamentals of  
Public Purchasing**

*May 30-31, 2017  
Houston  
Sept. 14-15, 2017*

Amendments to a measure may be proposed by members in their assigned committees or by any member of a chamber during that chamber's second or third reading.

**AUTHOR:** The legislator who files a bill and guides it through the legislative process.

**BILL:** A type of legislative measure that requires passage by both chambers of the legislature and action by the governor. A bill is the primary means used to create and change the laws of the state. Bill types include senate and house bills, senate and house joint resolutions, senate and house concurrent resolutions and senate and house resolutions.

**BILL NUMBER:** A unique number assigned to each bill filed with the secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house. A bill's number remains the same throughout the legislative process.

**CALENDAR:** A list of bills or resolutions that is scheduled or eligible to be taken up for consideration on a specified date by the members of a chamber.

**CHAMBER:** The place in which the Senate or House of Representatives meets. Also a generic way to refer to a house of the legislature.

**COMMITTEE:** A group of legislators, appointed by the presiding officer of the House or the Senate, to which proposed legislation is referred or a specific task is assigned.

**COMPANION BILL:** A bill filed in one chamber that is identical or very similar to a bill filed in the opposite chamber. Companion bills are used to expedite passage as they provide a means for committee consideration of a measure to occur in both houses simultaneously. A companion bill that has passed one house can then be substituted for the companion bill in the second house.

**ENGROSSED:** The stage in a bill's legislative progress when it has been passed by the chamber in which it was filed and all amendments to the bill have been incorporated into the text of the bill, which is then forwarded to the second house for consideration.

**ENROLLED:** The stage in a bill's legislative process when it has been passed by both chambers of the legislature in identical forms and is prepared for signature by the

*DFW*  
**Dec. 12-13, 2017**  
*Austin*

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Negotiation Skills

**February 10, 2017**

*Austin*

**June 7, 2017**

*Houston*

**November 14, 2017**

*DFW*

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Procurement  
Management  
Academy

**April 4-5, 2017**

*Austin*

**May 2-3, 2017**

*DFW*

**Sept. 21-22, 2017**

*Austin*

**October 4-5, 2017**

*Houston*

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Purchasing 101 for  
Everyone

**March 7, 2017**

*DFW*

**April 6, 2017**

*Austin*

**November 9, 2017**

*Houston*



Schedule  
Management in  
Projects & Contracts

**June 28, 2017**

*Austin*

**November 17, 2017**

*DFW*

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presiding officers of both houses.

**FILED:** The stage in a bill's legislative progress when it is given a bill number and introduced into the legislative process. Members of the House of Representatives file bills with the chief clerk of the house. Senators file bills with the secretary of the senate.

**FILING DEADLINE:** The last date on which the original version of a bill may be filed, set in legislative rules as the 60th calendar day of a regular session.

**FISCAL NOTE:** An estimate, prepared by the Legislative Budget Board, of the probable costs that will be incurred as an effect of a bill or joint resolution.

**FLOOR ACTION:** Action taken by either house on a bill reported by a committee. Subject to rules adopted by the respective house, its members may propose amendments, enter debate, seek to promote or prevent a bill's passage, and vote on its final passage in that house.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:** The lower house of the Texas Legislature, consisting of 150 members elected from districts of roughly equal population, all of whom are elected every two years for two-year terms.

**INTRODUCED:** Refers to the version of a bill or resolution as it was filed in the House or the Senate.

**LEGISLATURE:** The lawmaking body of the State of Texas. It consists of two chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Texas Legislature convenes in regular session at noon on the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year for no more than 140 days.

**PREFILING:** Filing of bills and other proposed legislation prior to the convening of a session of the legislature.

**READING:** The presentation of a bill before either house by the recital of the caption of the bill. The Texas Constitution requires that every bill be read in each house on three separate days. Until a bill is finally passed, it will be in the process of a first, second, or third reading. The first reading of a bill is when the bill is referred to committee by the appropriate presiding officer. The second reading is the process when the entire membership of a chamber has the opportunity to debate the bill and amend it by majority vote. The third reading is when the entire membership of a chamber may debate a bill and is the final



## Scope Management in Projects & Contracts

June 27, 2017

Austin

November 16, 2017

DFW

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## Specification Writing

March 8, 2017

DFW

September 13, 2017

Austin

November 8, 2017

Houston

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## Using Request for Proposals

Feb. 28-Mar 1, 2017

Houston

Oct. 10-11, 2017

DFW

Nov. 14-15, 2017

Austin

opportunity for members of a chamber to offer amendments to the bill.

**SENATE:** The upper house of the Texas Legislature, consisting of 31 members elected from districts of roughly equal population, one-half of whom are elected every two years for four-year terms.

**SESSION:** The period during which the legislature meets. There are two types of sessions. The regular session convenes every odd-numbered year and may last no more than 140 days. A called session, commonly referred to as a special session, is so designated because it must be called by the governor. A special session may last no more than 30 days.

**VETO:** The rejection of an enrolled bill by the governor.

**Source: Texas Legislative Council**

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