



December 2024

## Government Procurement Services

This newsletter informs government purchasing and contracting professionals about public procurement topics.

### **UPCOMING CLASSES:** **(Last two classes of 2024)**

**[Purchasing 101 for Everyone](#)**  
**(Virtual)**  
**[December 4, 2024](#)**

**[Specification Writing](#)**  
**(Virtual)**  
**[December 19, 2024](#)**



**[More Info](#)**

### **Texas 89th Legislative Session**



The Texas Legislature meets every two years for 140 days.

### **Training Schedule**

Significant dates for the 2025 legislative session are:

- **January 14, 2025 - Session begins**
- **March 14, 2025 - Last day to file bills**
- **June 2, 2025 - Last day of the session**

The legislative process can be pretty complicated, but here is a simplified version of how bills become law (or don't):

- A bill is drafted and filed. Only a legislator may introduce a bill into the legislative process. However, the idea for a bill may originate from a source other than the legislator, such as an interested outside party or the findings of a committee's study of interim charges. The text of a bill may be drafted by the legislator personally, by an interested outside party, or, as is often the case, by the professional staff of the Texas Legislative Council or another appropriate legislative entity.
- A legislator first introduces a bill in the legislator's chamber (House or Senate), which is considered the bill's originating chamber. Upon passage of the bill by that chamber, the bill moves to the opposite chamber for that chamber's approval before proceeding to the governor for the governor's final approval. The steps in a bill's progress are the same in each chamber, with many opportunities for the amendment or defeat of the bill. Many bills never make it out of committee.  
**[During the 88th Legislature (regular session), 11,807 bills were filed, 4,550**



## **Group Discounts Available**

### **CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION**

**February 5, 2025**  
**March 6, 2025**  
**September 25, 2025**  
**October 2, 2025**

**ESSENTIALS OF CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**  
**May 19-20, 2025**  
**November 5-6, 2025**

**ETHICS AND FRAUD IN CONTRACTING**  
**May 6, 2025**  
**September 17, 2025**  
**October 28, 2025**

**FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC PURCHASING**  
**March 26-27, 2025**  
**July 9-10, 2025**  
**December 3-4, 2025**

**NEGOTIATION SKILLS**

**bills passed into law, and 77 were vetoed.\*]**

- Once bills are referred to a committee, government entities are asked to provide a fiscal note or impact statement. The committee may recommend the following:
  - Passage without amendment
  - Amendment(s) to the bill
  - Substitute a new bill
  - Take no action
- The bill is put on an official calendar and requires floor action where the bill is read.
- When a bill passes, the bill is engrossed and sent to the opposite chamber for action.
- After a bill has passed through committee deliberation and three readings in the opposite chamber, the bill is sent back to the originating chamber.
- If the opposite chamber amended the bill, the originating chamber must concur with all of the amendments before the bill can be enrolled. If the originating chamber does not agree 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.
- Once both chambers approve the bill, it is enrolled and sent to the governor for signature. The governor has ten days to either:
  - Sign the bill
  - Veto the bill
  - Let the bill become law without the governor's signature.

**May 22, 2025  
October 8, 2025**

**PROCUREMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
ACADEMY**

**February 26-27, 2025  
April 15, 2025  
July 15-16, 2025  
November 4, 2025**

**PURCHASING 101  
FOR EVERYONE**

**December 4, 2024  
February 11, 2025  
April 9, 2025  
June 10, 2025  
October 15, 2025  
October 23, 2025  
November 13, 2025**

**SPECIFICATION  
WRITING**

**December 19, 2024  
February 13, 2025  
June 4, 2025  
November 18, 2025**

**UNDERSTANDING  
SMALL PURCHASES**

**January 22, 2025  
April 24, 2025  
July 23, 2025  
September 30, 2025  
December 5, 2025**

\*Full report "[The Legislative Process in Texas](#)" Source:  
Texas Legislative Reference Library

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## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

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### Question:

"The legislative bills can be very confusing to read. How can I be sure that they apply to my entity?"



### Answer:

I certainly agree with you - the bills can be very confusing. When reading a bill, carefully review it to see which statutes are affected, as the changes may not apply to your entity.

For example, HB 790 (see next article) increases the competitive bid limits for school districts, cities, counties, and emergency services districts - but not state agencies. **Each section of the bill specifies which statute it is amending.** Many bills propose changes to multiple statutes, so make sure you know which ones apply to your entity.

## USING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

January 30, 2025

May 13, 2025

June 3, 2025

September 11, 2025

## WRITING STATEMENTS OF WORK

March 4, 2025

October 7, 2025

October 21, 2025

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## 89th Texas Legislative Session

Bill filing for the next session has already started. GPS is currently tracking 30+ contracting-related bills.

A couple of bills that you may be interested in:

**Legislative  
Watch**

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- [HB 386](#) - Increases change order limits for construction contracts [Local Government Code, Section 271.060]
- [HB 643](#) - Increases the dollar amount required for payment bonds under public work contracts [Government Code, Section 2253.021]
- [HB 790](#) - Increases the dollar threshold for competitive procurements. This bill includes changes to:
  - Education Code, 44.031
  - Health and Safety Code, Section 775.084
  - Local Government Code, Sections 252.021, 262.003, 262.023, 271.024, and 271.054
  - Transportation Code, Section 252.312

**Merry Christmas!**  
**May your holidays sparkle with joy and laughter.**



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