

## Research Assessment #10

**Date:** 2/2/2021

**Subject:** "The Legislative Process in Texas"

### MLA Citation:

*Tlc. Texas. Gov*, 2021, <https://tlc.texas.gov/docs/legref/legislativeprocess.pdf>. Accessed 29 Jan 2021.

### Assessment:

For this week's assessment, I decided to continue to look at the document from the Texas Legislative Council that I had looked at last week. In my last assessment, I focused on the actual procedures and pathways a bill takes as it is considered, amended, killed, or passed. This week I focused on the finer details and specificities listed in the document like the different types of calendars used by both The Texas House of Representatives and The Senate, the different types of bills, and the three different kinds of legislative resolutions that occur when the two chambers work together.

Firstly the Texas House and Senate each have their own set of different calendars that dictates how and when they perform their legislative duties. The House uses four calendars, the daily house calendar, the supplemental house calendar, the local, consent, and resolutions calendar, and the congratulatory and memorial calendar. The daily house calendar is used to view new bills scheduled to be considered by the chamber floor. The supplemental house calendar includes the same information as the daily calendar but also includes the bills passed to the third reading stage, bills that were missed from the previous session day, postponed businesses, and a notice to call from any bills set aside. This calendar is used as the primary calendar for the house because it has the majority of the necessary information needed. The local, consent and resolution calendar is used to organize bills that require very little time or debate, these bills tend to pass very easily and quickly. The congratulatory and memorial calendar is used for basic resolutions that have to do with congratulating or memorializing certain individuals. All calendars are prepared once a week during the last half of a regular session. The Senate's primary calendar is called the regular order of business and intent calendar. This contains all bills that have been reported from senate committees and are up for floor consideration/ amendment. This doesn't serve as a daily agenda but acts as more of a rough list of all bills to get through. The Senate also uses a local and uncontested calendar which serves the same purpose as the local, consent, and resolution calendar from the House.

The consideration of local and noncontroversial bills is slightly different from regular bills. For a bill to be considered as local and controversial it is sent to the committee on local and consent calendars but for the bill to be placed on that calendar, it must receive a unanimous vote from all committee members in favor of it's passing. While there are many of these kinds of bills and the process of actually passing them

goes by very quickly because all major points of debate were settled in the committee stage so the bill is able to float through the process.

Lastly, the document outlined three different types of legislative resolutions that occur regularly between the two chambers. These include joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions, and simple resolutions. A joint resolution is a resolution that is used to propose an amendment to the Texas constitution. For these resolutions to pass they require a two-thirds majority vote from each chamber. Joint resolutions that receive a two-thirds majority do not proceed to the Governor for signing but instead go to the secretary of state to be filed and these amendments must be voted on by Texas citizens in a general election. A concurrent resolution occurs when both chambers have a particular interest in a certain matter. These usually pertain to procedures of the legislature like joint sessions and sine die (end of the regular session). These are also used to petition the U.S. Congress. These resolutions must be adopted by both chambers and submitted to the Governor for approval in order to be enacted. A simple resolution is a resolution that is only considered in the originating chamber. These usually have to do with issues that hold very little significance like changing the name of a mascot or expressing congratulations.