

How to track bills

Texas Legislature on-line

Source: Guide to Texas Legislative Information
Texas Legislative Council for the 83rd Legislature

1. **Texas Legislature on-line** enables users to track legislation and to search for, view, and print bill text, bill history, bill analyses, fiscal notes, amendments, and summaries of enrolled bills. Users can search for bills by number, subject, author, sponsor, committee, or keyword; create special lists of bills; or view commonly requested lists of bills from the current legislature, including bills signed or vetoed by the governor, bills passed, bills with certain effective dates, bills filed by chamber of origin, and bills by author/sponsor, committee, or subject. Users also can obtain information about senate and house members, committee membership, minutes, witness lists, and schedules, and house and senate calendars. A mobile version of TLO is available at <http://www.txlegis.com>.

Here is the menu bar for things you may want to look up:



2. Customize TLO – create a My TLO account

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/MyTLO/Login/register.aspx>

Your e-mail software must be configured to allow e-mail from the send tlc.state.tx.us otherwise it may get blocked by your e-mail filter. This is what the registration page looks like:

E-mail address:

Please select the security question you want to use from the drop-down list and enter the corresponding answer. You will be required to provide the answer to this question when you choose to reset your password. Only letters and numbers in the answer are counted, e.g., the answer 'Mike's Restaurant' and 'mikes restaurant' are the same.

Question:

Answer:

Password: Must be between 6 and 15

characters.

Re-type Password:

3. If you are interested in the status of a particular bill, you can insert the bill number into the box at the top right hand corner of the menu bar. Example is SB2:



Here is what you see:



If you click on text, you see that there are three different versions:



pdf, text only, word version I find the text only version the easier to read and to print.

4. If you want to be notified when there is movement on a bill, you can add the bill to your MyTLO list. Here are the various MyTLO features:

- Bill List: A custom list of bills created by:
 - Manually entering the bill number
 - Adding the bill number from the bill history page or bill or text search results page
 - Adding all the bills from a bill search result set

Here is an example of a bill list:

HCR 21	Resolution to Amend Constitution	Edit	Run	Delete
HJR 94	call for constitutional convention	Edit	Run	Delete

- Bill Alert: Receive e-mail notification when bills on this custom list have selected significant actions added. Bills are added by:
 - Manually entering the bill number
 - Adding the bill number from the bill history page
 - Adding the bill number from a text or bill search results page

Here is an example of an Alert message:

83(R) HCR 21

Urging the United States Congress to propose and submit to the states for ratification an amendment to the United States Constitution that overturns Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, establishing that the spending of money to influence elections shall not be construed as speech under the First Amendment, and clarifying that only natural persons are protected by constitutional rights.

2/7/2013 H Referred to Federalism & Fiscal Responsibility, Select

Constitutional Amendment to overturn CU

[View all actions](#)

- Bill Subject: Receive alerts when bills are assigned a specific subject.
- Other alerts: Receive e-mail notification when selected calendars, committee hearing notices, committee minutes are posted, or the house/ senate adjourn.
- Access RSS feeds for legislative content through your favorite newsreader software.
- Access legislative content on your wireless mobile device.

- Save your bill, amendment, and text searches to use later.

Usage of the bill list, alert list, and saved search features requires registration. Service is FREE of charge ([privacy policy](#)).

NOTE: Alerts are removed at the beginning of each regular session. All accounts will remain intact without the need to re-register.

Senate and House Websites: you can get to these sites from the TLO on-line menu bar

- **Texas Senate**—Provides information on senate members, committees, and legislation, as well as video/audio archives and live video/audio streams of senate floor debates, committee hearings, and press conferences. The website also includes the senate rules of procedure, daily agenda and journals, and bill analyses and reports produced by the Senate Research Center. The “Senate Kids” area of the website provides information and activities relating to Texas government for children and their teachers and parents. A Spanish-language version of the senate website can be accessed from the home page.
- **Texas House of Representatives**—Provides information on house members, committees, and legislation, as well as video/audio archives and live video/audio streams of house floor debates, committee hearings, and press conferences. The website also includes the house rules of procedure, calendars, daily journals, and bill analyses and reports produced by the House Research Organization. The “Kids’ House” link on the house home page provides children and their teachers and parents with information and activities relating to Texas government.