

# TACC 2006 Summer Conference

## Nuts & Bolts: Bill Process

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**Steven Johnson**



# Legislative Process: Bills Background

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- **79th Legislative Session:**

- **Total Bills Filed: 9347 (House 6260 / Senate 3087)**
- **Total Bills Enacted: 1581 (Governor signed 1555 / vetoed 19)**
- **TACC: Master Track 765, Intermediate Track 321, Priority Track 134, Watch Track 18**
- **Committee of Interest:**
  - **House Higher Education: 242 Referred / 150 Remained in Committee.**
  - **Senate Education: 303 Referred / 150 Remained in Committee.**
  - **House Appropriations: 44 Referred / 38 Remained in Committee**
  - **Senate Finance: 182 Referred / 135 Remained in Committee**



# Legislative Process: Dates

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- **Important Dates in 80th Legislative Session:**
  - **November 7, 2006 - General Election**
  - **November 13, 2006 - Prefiling of Bills (Nearly 600 last Session)**
  - **January 9, 2007 - 1st Day of Session**
  - **March 9, 2007 - 60th Day, deadline for filing bills.**
  - **May 28, 2007 - Last Day of Session**
  - **June 17, 2007 - Last day for Governor to act.**



# Legislative Process: Movement of Bills

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- **Filed, Introduced, Referred to Committee**
- **Hearing in Committee**
  - **Posting of Hearing Notice**
    - Time is set, but because of floor business, meeting times can be changed.
    - Normally, several days notice is given, however, Committee Chairs can ask for permission from respective body to suspend posting rules.
  - **House Public Hearing vs Formal Meeting / Senate Hearings**
  - **Action - Committee Amendments / Committee Substitutes**
    - Often no early release of amendments or substitutes.
  - **Committee Vote (or often left pending)**
  - **Committee Report Printed**
- **Floor Calendars**
  - **House - Calendar's Committee (or Local & Consent)**
  - **General Calendar or Major State**
  - **Senate - Intent Calendar (or Local an Uncontested)**



# Legislative Process: Movement of Bills

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- **Floor Action**

- Second Reading Debate and amendments offered
- Third Reading and Final Passage
- Sent to the other Chamber (Wash & Repeat)
  - Referral to Committee
- Voted out unchanged or amended/substituted
- If Altered - Returned to Original Chamber
  - Motion to Concur
  - Motion to Appoint Conference Committee
  - Passage / Governor's Action or Inaction
  - Sign, Veto, or do nothing and allow bill to become law.



# Resources

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- TACC Staff / TACC News Section of Website / TACC CEO Section of Website
- Texas Legislature Online - [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)
- Texas House - [www.house.state.tx.us](http://www.house.state.tx.us)
- House Research - [www.capitol.state.tx.state.us/hrofr/hrofr.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.state.us/hrofr/hrofr.htm)
- Texas Senate - [www.senate.state.tx.us](http://www.senate.state.tx.us)
- Senate Research - [www.senate.state.tx.us/SRC/Index.htm](http://www.senate.state.tx.us/SRC/Index.htm)
- LBB - [www.lbb.state.tx.us](http://www.lbb.state.tx.us)



# TACC 2006 Summer Conference Nuts & Bolts: The Appropriation Bill

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**Don Hudson**



# The Appropriation Bill:

## LAR Submission - the starting point in the process

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- LAR = Legislative Appropriations Request; due August 11, 2006 (make sure you send a copy to TACC)
- LAR submission is 10% less than the current biennium (last biennium started with a 5% reduction)
- LAR/Budget Hearing Hearing: October 2, 2006, Austin, time: TBA. Conducted by Legislative Budget Board (LBB) staff and staff from the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning and Policy (GOBPP).





# The Appropriation Bill: Steps in Legislative Session

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- The initial appropriation bill (base bill, LBB bill, HB 1, SB 1) is introduced in each chamber.
- Both the House and Senate conduct budget hearings.
  - House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (2/10)
  - Senate Finance Committee (11/9 & 2/8)
- Workgroups/Subcommittees meet to discuss budget issues (e.g., proportionality).
- Mark-up: Full committees receive recommendations from subcommittees and workgroups.
- Each chamber passes a version of the appropriation bill.



# The Appropriation Bill: Steps in Legislative Session, continued

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- A conference committee (5 House members, 5 Senators) hammers out a final appropriation bill during the last month of session.
- The conference committee's version of the bill is sent to each chamber for an up/down vote.
- The Comptroller of Public Accounts must certify that sufficient state funds are available to fund the appropriations bill.
- The bill is sent to Governor for signature and/or veto.



# The Appropriation Bill: Observations about the Legislative Session

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- In a word, the process is *fluid*.
  - Hearings/Mark-up may be set for a particular day/time and the day/time will be changed at the last moment.
  - Unless Public Community/Junior Colleges are listed first on the agenda, there is no way to know when community colleges will be called before the committee.
  - Conference Committee usually delays higher education decisions until the very end; one of the few discretionary items in the budget.
- Much of the actual conference committee work is conducted in private meetings. Decisions are announced in public meetings. Because the process is not open, it is critical to keep in contact with your legislators during the conference committee process.



