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To: Jennifer Bremer
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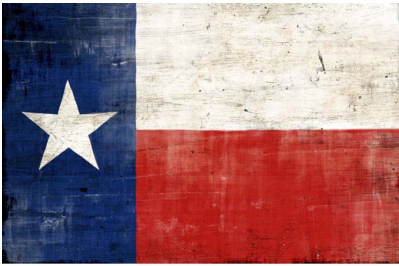
[Texas Legislature Online](#) | [Texas House](#) | [Texas Senate](#)



May 2024 Monthly Update

This month, we saw a significant increase in legislative activity with the release of interim charges in both chambers of the legislature. We will continue to monitor and provide input and updates to our members, as necessary, on all interim charges.

The Statewide Members Meeting is coming together very nicely. Registration is open and we highly encourage you to register early! We are also accepting sponsors and will open spaces to new exhibitors very soon! You can visit our webpage for more information.



Updated Checklist and Lease

The oil and gas leasing checklist and the lease have recently been updated.

The lease is available to members at the \$250 level and above and to members of two consecutive years or more.

If you would like an updated copy of either document, please email info@tlma.org.



Primary and Uniform Election Results

This month had two separate election dates. The first was Saturday, May 4, the uniform election day. The second was May 28, the runoff election day for both Democratic and Republican parties.

The following 8 House Republican incumbents faced runoffs:

- Gary VanDeaver – Won
- Speaker Dade Phelan - Won
- Justin Holland - Defeated
- John Kuempel - Defeated
- DeWayne Burns - Defeated
- Frederick Frazier - Defeated
- Lynn Stucky - Defeated
- Stephanie Klick - Defeated

Brent Hagenbuck defeated Jace Yarbrough in the SD 30 Republican Primary runoff to replace Senator Drew Springer.

Representative Craig Goldman won his runoff race for the Congressional seat.

In the Democratic primary, two members faced runoff elections. They were:

- Jarvis Johnson - Defeated
- Shawn Theiry - Defeated



Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires Hearing Report

On May 1, the Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires released the required committee report.

The report discusses several topics of interest to Texas' land and mineral owners.

Causes

The wildfires were caused by utility power poles and electric lines on oil and gas sites. There have been increases in the number and intensity of wildfires since 2006, some of which is attributed to a regulatory “no-man’s land” as well as irresponsible oil and gas operators.

Impact

The effects of the fire will be long felt by many of the area ranchers and landowners. Texas A&M AgriLife has conducted surveys and concluded that the total economic impact may exceed \$1 billion. The following article is mentioned in the report and provides additional information about the losses:

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2024/05/06/panhandle-wildfire-agricultural-losses/>

Summary Recommendations

The committee recommends more effective monitoring and rule enforcement of irresponsible oil and gas operators and notes that regulatory oversight of stripper well operators is grossly deficient.

The regulatory gap between the meter and well pad– no-man’s land – must be closed.

It is evident that there is a misunderstanding of how the hearings and complaint processes work for our landowners, however the report does briefly mention that the RRC has very few options for enforcement.

The committee recommends increased oversight of oil and gas operators but did not provide any specifics.

Regarding burying power lines versus installing them on poles, there is a concern about existing and availability of easements.

The Committee calls on TDI to study and consider implementation of financial responsibility requirements for oil and gas operators in order to be eligible to obtain insurance for their operations in the state. They also recommend considering options to make insurance for fencing and cattle more widely available.

One of the most significant recommendations the committee makes is that the RRC should revisit the ranking system for plugging orphaned wells.

Additional recommendations and information are available in the [full report](#).

TLMA will continue to monitor and provide input to legislators on these critical issues.



Texas House of Representatives Speaker Releases Interim Charges

Speaker Dade Phelan released the House of Representatives Interim Charges for the 88th Legislature. Of note, there are not any charges for the House Committee on Energy Resources. However, TLMA will be monitoring many other committees that have charges of interest to our members, including: Ag & Livestock; Business & Commerce; Culture, Recreation & Tourism; Environmental Regulation; Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence; Natural Resources; Pension, Investments & Financial Services; State Affairs; and, Ways & Means.

You can find the full listing of charges at the link below.

https://house.texas.gov/_media/pdf/interim-charges-88thLeg.pdf



New House Select Committee on Securing Texas from Hostile Foreign Organizations

On May 6, 2024, Speaker Dade Phelan created the House Select Committee on Securing Texas from Hostile Foreign Organizations. Its purpose follows:

1. Study the threat posed by hostile foreign organizations and related entities on the Texas economy, security, and values;

2. Evaluate the ways in which hostile foreign organizations acquire property, including real property, in Texas as well as the attendant risks. Recommend policy changes to mitigate the risks posed by ownership of Texas assets by hostile foreign organizations; and
3. Examine rate of intellectual property (IP) theft in the state and identify the industries most impacted. Make recommendations to better secure the IP of government and businesses operating in the state and ensure Texas remains competitive in the face of economic aggression by hostile foreign organizations.

Representative Cole Hefner (R-Mount Pleasant) was appointed Chairman of the committee. Representatives Angie Chen Button, Cody Harris, Todd Hunter, Ray Lopez, Armando Martinez, and Terry Wilson were also appointed to the committee.

The committee has not yet set a hearing date.

You can view the proclamation [here](#).

Do you have a topic or issues you want to be included in the monthly newsletter? Please email it to info@tlma.org for review and potential inclusion.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Monday, June 10 – House State Affairs

Wednesday, June 12 – Senate Business & Commerce

Thursday, June 13 – Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development

Tuesday, June 25 – RRC Open Meeting

Additional Articles and Links

[Sage Geosystems Advances Commercial-scale Energy Storage Facility](#)

Do you need to update your contact information? Please email info@tlma.org for assistance.

[Texas House Committee Assignments - BY MEMBER](#)

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