



It was a slow start this week in the Texas Legislature. Both the House and Senate had adjourned until Wednesday due to the MLK Day holiday on Monday and the threat of bad weather on Tuesday. The Senate gavelled in on Wednesday, but then adjourned quickly until next Tuesday. However, upon their return, the House got to work negotiating, and on Thursday, adopting House Rules.

The new House Rules adjusted several committees' jurisdictions, folded a couple of standing committees into others, and created a handful of new standing subcommittees. All standing committees will be chaired by members of the majority party (Republicans) and vice-chaired by members of the minority party (Democrats). This is essentially the federal House of Representatives structure. Actual committee assignments are not expected until early February.

The base budgets, SB 1 and HB 1, were filed this week. Both indicate priorities of property tax relief, public school vouchers, and public education funding. However, the amount of property tax relief is still up for debate with the House coming in about \$6 billion less than the Senate. Next up, the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will both begin the arduous process of working through budget requests from state agencies, K-12 schools and higher education, and just about every member of the Legislature.

TCA Walk on the Capital

Don't forget! TCA's biennial Walk on the Capital will take place in a little over 2 weeks on February 11-12, 2025. Be sure to register on the TCA website – there is NO COST to TCA members to attend the Walk, but you must be a member of the TCA PAC to attend the Roundup Reception with legislators and staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Patrick or me.

TCA Legislative Issues

The TCA staff and lobby team are working on finalizing bill language and getting bills filed in the House and the Senate. We are also reviewing and tracking other legislation impacting the industry.

As always, please feel free to email or call me with any questions.

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