Structural Engineer’s Association of Texas

2012 / 2013
TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PLANNING
Congress Avenue Partners

Eric Wright
Cissy Ellis

Eric Woomer
Katy Cramer
House of Representatives

Key Players

- Speaker Joe Straus
- Chair of Licensing Committee
- Representative Wayne Smith
- Representative Bill Callegari
The Senate

Key Players

Lt. Governor David Dewhurst

Senator John Carona

Senator Jeff Wentworth

12

19

Republicans

Democrats
Political Outlook

House of Representatives
- Likely to gain Democratic seats
- Still will be strongly conservative
- Unknown Chair/Membership of LAP Committee

Senate
- Considerably more conservative
- David Dewhurst remains the Lt. Governor
- Reshuffling Senate chairmanships
Executive Leadership

- Chief of Staff – Jeff Boyd
- Legislative Liaison – Ken Armbrister
- Senior Advisor - Mike Morrissey
- Director of Budget and Policy – Jonathan Hurst

Governor Rick Perry
Texas Legislative Process

1. **Bill is Introduced**
2. **1st Chamber Committee Hearings**
3. **1st Chamber Floor Action**
4. **Passage to 2nd Chamber**
5. **Sent to Governor**
6. **Return to Originating House OR**
7. **2nd Chamber Floor Action**
8. **Passage to 2nd Chamber**
9. **2nd Chamber Committee Hearings**
10. **Vetoed OR**
11. **Signed into Law**
12. **Bill Becomes Effective**
13. **Administrative Rules Adopted**

Bill Becomes Effective
Texas Budget Process

1. Budget Instructions to Agencies
2. Public Hearings
3. LBB / GOBPP Budgets
4. Legislative Hearings
5. Conference Committee
6. Passage by House & Senate
7. Committee Mark-Up
8. Comptroller Certification
9. Governor Signature
10. Agency Implementation
Different Perspectives on Lobbying

**LOBBYIST**

- What my friends think I do.
- What my parents think I do.
- What the other side says I do.
- What society thinks I do.
- What I think I do.
- What I actually do.
Role of a Lobbyist

**Advocacy**
- Having your voice heard and your interests represented in the give and take of the political arena;
- It is an integral part of our Democratic system of government.

**Efficacy**
- Lobbyists understand the legislative process;
- We present your position persuasively, and in the right venue;
- We capitalize on relationships built through trust, time, and attention.

**Ethics**
- Strict laws govern interaction between lobbyists, legislators, and policymakers;
- Ethical lobbyists take care not to jeopardize their relationships with legislators or clients by engaging in unscrupulous conduct.
The process is stacked against you.

**Average Person**
- Real Job
- Family
- Out of Town

**Texas Legislature**
- 181 Legislators
- 140 Days
- 7,500 Bills
- $200B Budget
82nd Legislature

TELCION
- Advanced bill tracking software
- Allows searches for text, code, amendments, other

“Engineer”
- 249 Separate bills
- 536 Different versions

1001, Occ. Code
- 59 Separate Bills
- 5 different substantive committees
- Dozens of hearings and floor debate
# Bill Tracking

## SEAoT
### LEGISLATION STATUS REPORT
07-10-2012 - 14:18:55

**A** - Action in the date range  **B** - Link to Related Information  **()** - Priority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| HB 899 | Gutierrez(D) | Relating to the use of certain professional titles by licensed specialists in school psychology. Related to telecommunication.

**Companions:**
- **SB 709**: Van de Putte
  - (Identical)
  - 5-10-11 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Track Name(s):**
- SEAoT

**Bill History:**
- 01-26-11 H Filed
- 02-24-11 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| HB 1092 | Christian(R) | Relating to the exemption from certain construction requirements for volunteer fire departments in certain counties.

**Companions:**
- **HB 1231**: Hopson
  - (Identical)
  - 3-1-11 H Introduced and referred to committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures

**Track Name(s):**
- SEAoT

**Bill History:**
- 02-02-11 H Filed
- 02-28-11 H Introduced and referred to committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures
- 04-12-11 H Meeting set for 8:00 A.M., E2.012 Licensing and Administrative Procedures
- 04-14-11 H Committee action pending Licensing and Administrative Procedures
- 04-14-11 H Voted favorably from committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures
- 04-26-11 H Reported favorably from committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures
Legislative Communications

- Informal Communication with Offices
- Entertaining
- Political Giving
Strategies

Determine Legislative Objectives / Challenges

Engage Experts / Opposition

Identify Champions

Develop Support
Legislative Objectives

Type of Regulation
- License vs. Certificate vs. Roster?
- Limitation on Practice?

Grandfather Clause
- In Perpetuity?
- For XX number of years?

Significant Structures
- Defined in Statute? By Board?
- Designated by Code?
Challenges

What’s the Problem?

|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|

Pragmatics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Divides up the Engineering “Pie”</th>
<th>Too Few S.E.s?</th>
<th>Project “Boundaries” Difficult to Determine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Legislature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status Quo is Preferred</th>
<th>Inter-Industry Fights Avoided</th>
<th>Additional Legislative Priorities/Uncertainties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Engage Experts: Proponents / Opposition

**Proponents**
- SEAoT Legislative Committee
- Texas Board of Professional Engineers
- 82\textsuperscript{nd} Legislative Sponsors
- Structural Engineering Institute
- National Council of Structural Engineers Association

**Opponents**
- American Council of Engineering Companies - Texas
- Texas Society of Professional Engineers
- National Society of Professional Engineers
- Architects?
- Contractors?
- Legislative Opposition
Timelines

82nd Interim (July/August)
- Initial Plan ✓
- Legislative Research ✓
- Proponent Discussions ✓
- Opponent Discussions ✓
- TBPE Outreach ✓

82nd Interim (Sept-Nov)
- Final Plan
- Draft legislation
- Determine Champions
- Develop Message
- Work with all interested parties
- Political Giving
- Grass Roots Outreach

83rd Legislature (Dec-June)
- File Legislation
- Look for opportunities to amend language
- Pass final language
- Resolve Budget Concerns

83rd Interim (June 2013 & beyond)
- Governor’s Signature
- Cleanup if needed
- Work with TBPE and Legislature on implementation
Communications

**Pre-Session**
- Meetings with S.E. Licensing Committee
- State Corporation Board
- Present to General Membership

**Scheduled**
- Weekly Reports
- Bi-Weekly Calls

**Ad Hoc**
- Travel to SEAoT district events
- Meetings with policymakers
- Legislative hearings
Questions?