



The 88th Legislature:
What Happened and How It Affects Your Practice

Hon. Jeff Leach, Allen
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Chair, House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence

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A cartoon illustration of a white bill character with a face, arms, and legs. The character is wearing a red and blue sash with the word "Lege" written on it. The character is standing on a small base and has a thought bubble above its head. Inside the thought bubble, the character is shown in a thinking pose, with one hand on its chin. The background of the cartoon is white.

88th Lege - Bill Statistics (Regular Session)

Filed: 8,153 bills/joint resolutions (New record)

- 81st Legislature (2009): 7,324
- 86th Legislature (2019): 7,281

Passed: 1,246 (bills)/13 (joint resolutions)

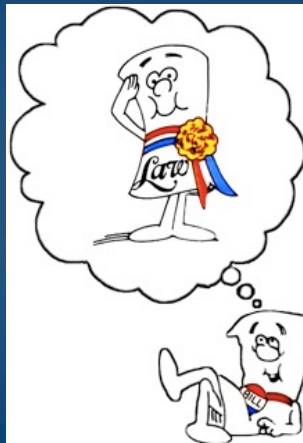
88th Lege Demographics

- 181 seats
 - House – 150 (86 R / 64 D)
 - Senate – 31 (19 R / 12 D)
- 65 licensed attorneys
 - 53 – House
 - 12 – Senate

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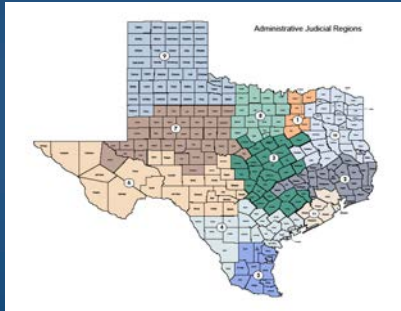
Bills that Passed



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Civil Justice System – Trial and Intermediate Appellate Courts



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HB 19 – Specialty Trial Court (Business Court)

- Creates a statewide specialized civil trial to hear certain business-related litigation cases, such as actions against businesses, accusations of wrongdoing by businesses or their members, disputes between businesses, violations of the BOC, Finance Code, and Business & Commerce Code.
 - Tier One - \$10 million in controversy (commercial disputes)
 - Tier Two - \$5 million in controversy (business governance)
 - Supplemental jurisdiction
- The business trial court will be composed of up to 16 appointed judges (in 11 different administrative judicial regions) serving 2-year terms.

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