



Austin Landline Report May 2019

As of midnight Thursday, all purely House bills that did not pass that Chamber are dead. Most bills in both Chambers are already effectively dead and the ones of those we are watching have been or will be removed from our bill track reports. The House and Senate continue to focus their attention on state spending and revenue bills and their respective differences on each. Simultaneously, the clock on the session rapidly ticks toward the end.

There is an interesting bi-partisan bill, HB 4306, that is making its way through the process that has a chance of passing. It calls for a pilot study of effective river management as a key component of border security. STPRA member Charles Maley, whose son also happens to be a Border Patrol agent in the Rio Grande Valley sector, is putting a great deal of effort into improving the bill and moving it along.

Meanwhile, drama and speculation continue to swirl around our remaining bills of interest, particularly water-related bills and the main one on eminent domain reform. Stakeholder eminent domain negotiations seem to be proceeding in fits and starts, with no clear sign that real progress is being made. The deck is stacked against landowners in the House, since that committee chair is closely tied to the oil and gas industry. It will be a surprise if he agrees to bill language that is acceptable to landowner groups.

[Bill Track Report](#)