



The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities
Accessibility and Disability Policy Webinar Series

How to Make a GCPD Policy Recommendation

March 2025

A group of people are seated around a white conference table in a bright, modern office setting. They are engaged in a meeting, with some looking at documents and others looking towards the center of the table. The background shows office shelves with books and papers.

Policy Recommendations

Policy recommendations are a way to make suggested changes to Texas laws, state policy, and state agency rules. Policy recommendations offer solutions to systemic issues faced by Texans with disabilities.

The GCPD's policy recommendations come from the 12 governor-appointed committee members, 7 of whom must be Texans with a disability. Policy recommendations also come from the public when they reach out to our committee.

Starting the Process and Staying Informed

If you have identified a systemic issue affecting Texans with disabilities, you can reach out to GCPD staff to develop a policy recommendation. GCPD Staff can help with completing the form.


Our [Policy Recommendation Form](#) can be found on the GCPD webpage under [GCPD Reports](#). You can always submit a completed form to GCPD.

To stay up-to-date with what the GCPD is working on, be sure to subscribe to our [GovDeliveries](#). We use our GovDelivery platform to share information about our upcoming meetings, disability events, and other important information.



Policy Form Overview

- ▶ State the proposal
- ▶ Describe the issue
- ▶ Explain the history
- ▶ Specify the feasibility
- ▶ Share the potential costs
- ▶ List state agencies affected
- ▶ Provide your contact info

	Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) Policy Development Proposal
Describe the proposed policy or legislative solution: What are you proposing? Is there a need for a new program or changes to an existing one?	
Issue Description: Why are you proposing this? What problem does this proposal solve?	
Explain how this is a common/frequent issue: Is it a one-off problem or something systemic? If known, provide evidence.	
Legislative History: Were similar bills filed in the past- either in Texas or in other states? What prevented its success? Link to that legislation if possible.	
Explain the feasibility of this recommendation: The most successful policy proposals are practical, specific, and able to be supported by many different stakeholders. What successes and difficulties do you anticipate encountering?	
List any known cost factors (fiscal note). Show calculations. While this is not required, providing cost information can be helpful.	
Link to additional information: If you are aware of research, state law, rules, news articles or any other relevant background information insert those links.	
State agency(ies) affected by proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Click or tap here to enter text.• Click or tap here to enter text.• Click or tap here to enter text.	



Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD)

Policy Development Proposal

Describe the proposed policy or legislative solution:

What are you proposing? Is there a need for a new program or changes to an existing one?

Issue Description:

Why are you proposing this? What problem does this proposal solve?

Explain how this is a common/frequent issue:

Is it a one-off problem or something systemic? If known, provide evidence.

Legislative History:

Were similar bills filed in the past- either in Texas or in other states? What prevented its success? Link to that legislation if possible.

Explain the feasibility of this recommendation:

The most successful policy proposals are practical, specific, and able to be supported by many different stakeholders. What successes and difficulties do you anticipate encountering?

List any known cost factors (fiscal note). Show calculations.

While this is not required, providing cost information can be helpful.

Link to additional information:

If you are aware of research, state law, rules, news articles or any other relevant background information insert those links.

State agency(ies) affected by proposal:

- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.

Stakeholder groups likely to support this proposal:

- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.

Stakeholder groups likely to oppose this proposal:

- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.
- Click or tap here to enter text.

Describe how affected groups will be impacted by proposed solution(s) (i.e., cities, counties, businesses, employers, etc.):

Click or tap here to enter text.

The policy proposal will require a change in:

Administrative Policy ☐ Agency Rule ☐ State Law ☐
New Law ☐ Other (e.g. public awareness campaign, etc.) ☐

Link: If it requires a change in agency rule or state law, link to the rule or law.

Identify GCPD Issue Area(s) affected:

Access ☐ Communications ☐ Criminal Justice ☐ Education ☐ Emergency
Management ☐ Employment ☐ Health ☐ Housing ☐ Transportation ☐
Veterans ☐

Contact:

Please include your name and the name of your organization.

If GCPD adopts this policy, do you commit to directly supporting this proposal through the legislative session? Choose an item.

Recommended for GCPD policy recommendations: Yes ☐ No ☐

MOTION: GCPD staff use only

Most Important Parts of the Form



Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD)

Policy Development Proposal

Describe the proposed policy or legislative solution:

What are you proposing? Is there a need for a new program or changes to an existing one?

Proposed Solution

The proposed solution is the first and most important part of the form. This is where you describe the recommended changes or additions to state law, policy, and rules.

What are you proposing? Is there a need for a new program or changes to an existing one?

Issue Description:

Why are you proposing this? What problem is it solving?

Explain how this is a common/frequent issue:

Is it a one-off problem or something systemic?

Issue Description

The issue description is where you state the barriers or issues that led to the need for your recommendation. It is important to explain how this issue is a system-wide issue.

Legislative History:

Were similar bills filed in the past- either in Texas or another state? Link to that legislation if possible.

Explain the feasibility of this recommendation:

The most successful policy proposals are practiced by many different stakeholders. What success stories are you encountering?

Legislative History/Feasibility

The Legislative History and Feasibility sections are where you can provide important information about your recommendation, including whether a bill has been filed on this before or if other states have addressed it.

What Happens Next

After you develop a policy recommendation, you may be invited to a quarterly meeting to present on your policy recommendation. The committee will listen to your proposal and ask questions. They may vote on whether to accept the recommendation as is or with edits. They may vote to not accept your proposal. If the proposal is accepted by the committee and after it is vetted by the Governor's Office, the policy recommendation may be published in a GCPD report.

Step 1

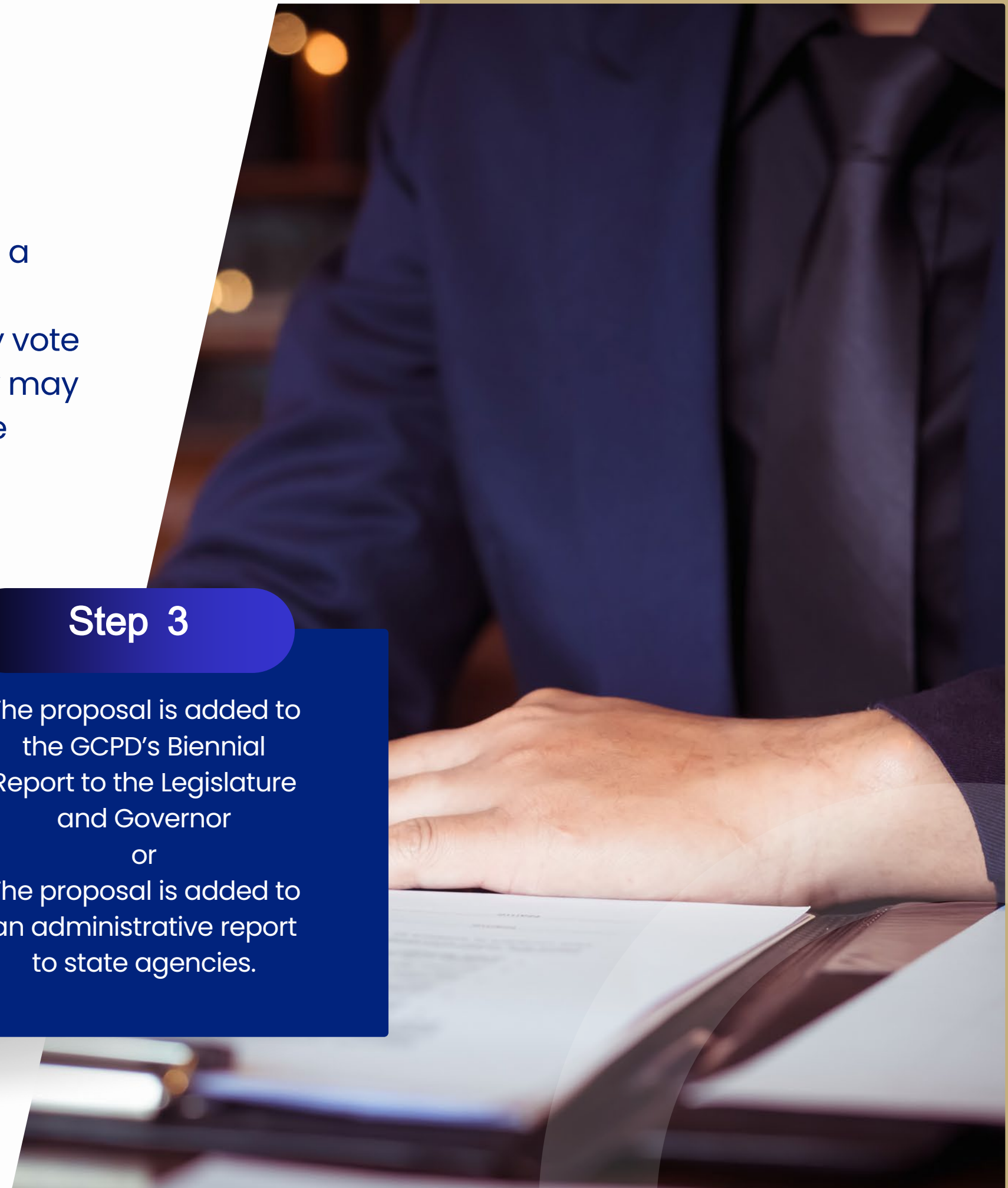
Present proposal to the committee during a quarterly meeting. If the committee votes to approve the proposal, it moves on to step 2. If not, the proposal may be edited and resubmitted for consideration.

Step 2

The proposal is vetted by the Office of the Governor's Budget and Policy team and Office of the Governor's leadership to make sure the policy aligns with the Governor's vision for Texas.

Step 3

The proposal is added to the GCPD's Biennial Report to the Legislature and Governor
or
The proposal is added to an administrative report to state agencies.



NOW WHAT?

Now that your policy recommendation has made it into a report, what should you do next?

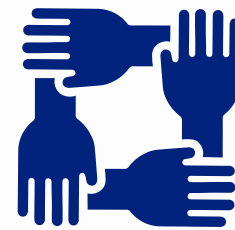
Your Role

As a member of the public, you can contact members of the state legislature about the policy recommendation you developed. You can grow support for your recommendation by speaking with other advocate groups to get their support for your recommendation.



Objective 01

Find a legislator to sponsor your recommendation and turn it into a bill. It helps to get a sponsor for your recommendation from both the House and the Senate.



Objective 02

Meet with advocates from other organizations who align with your priorities to get their support for your recommendation/bill.

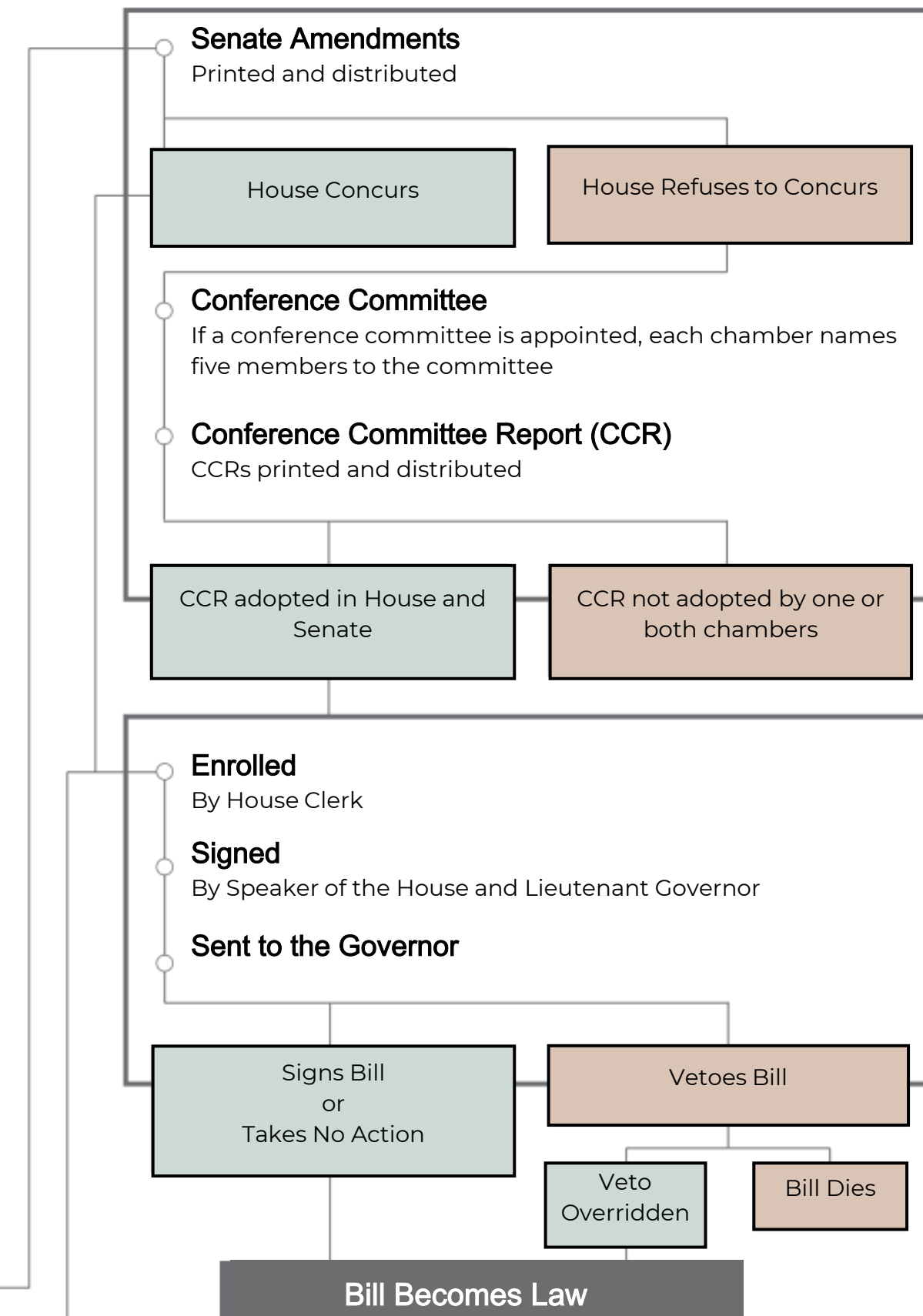
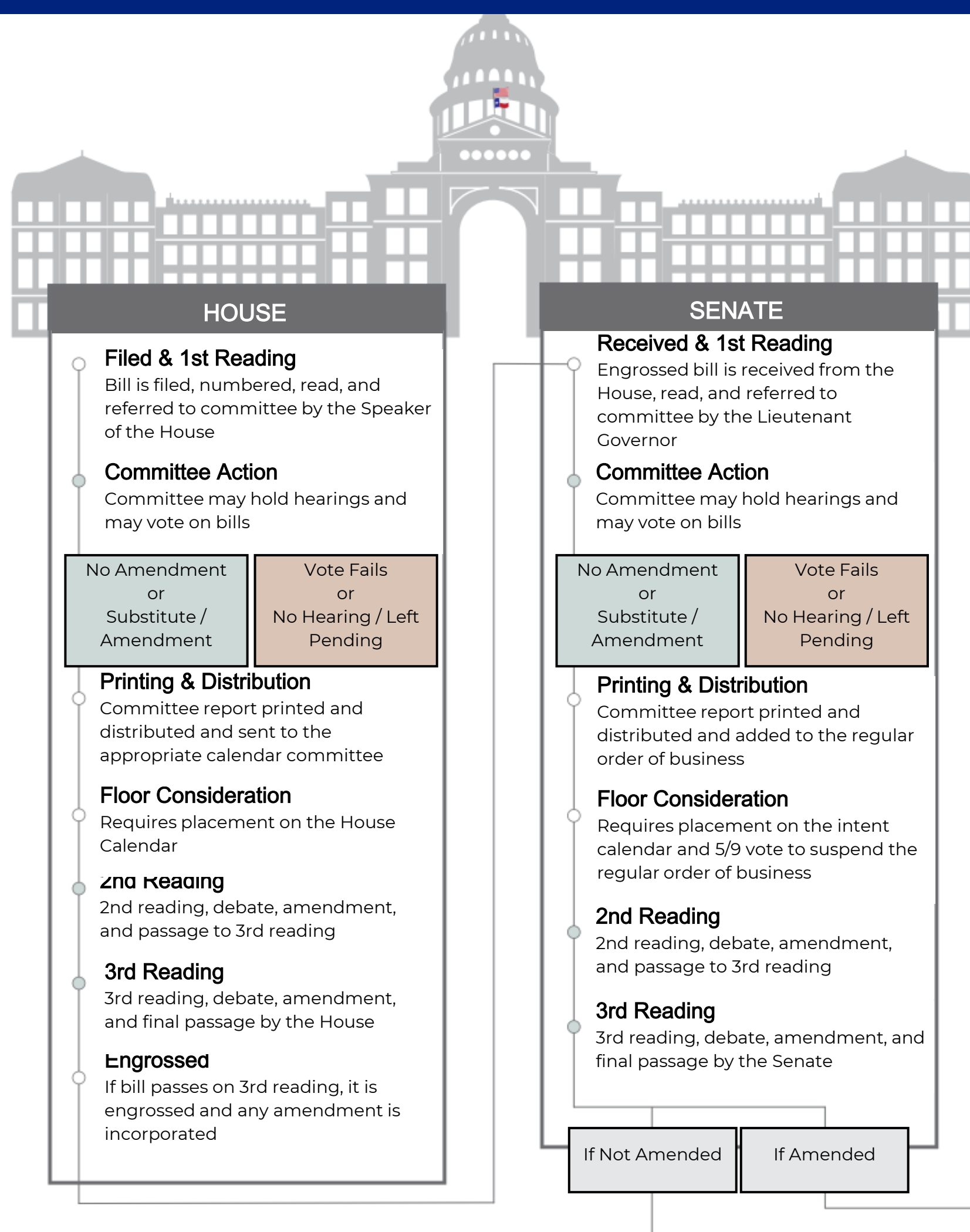


Objective 03

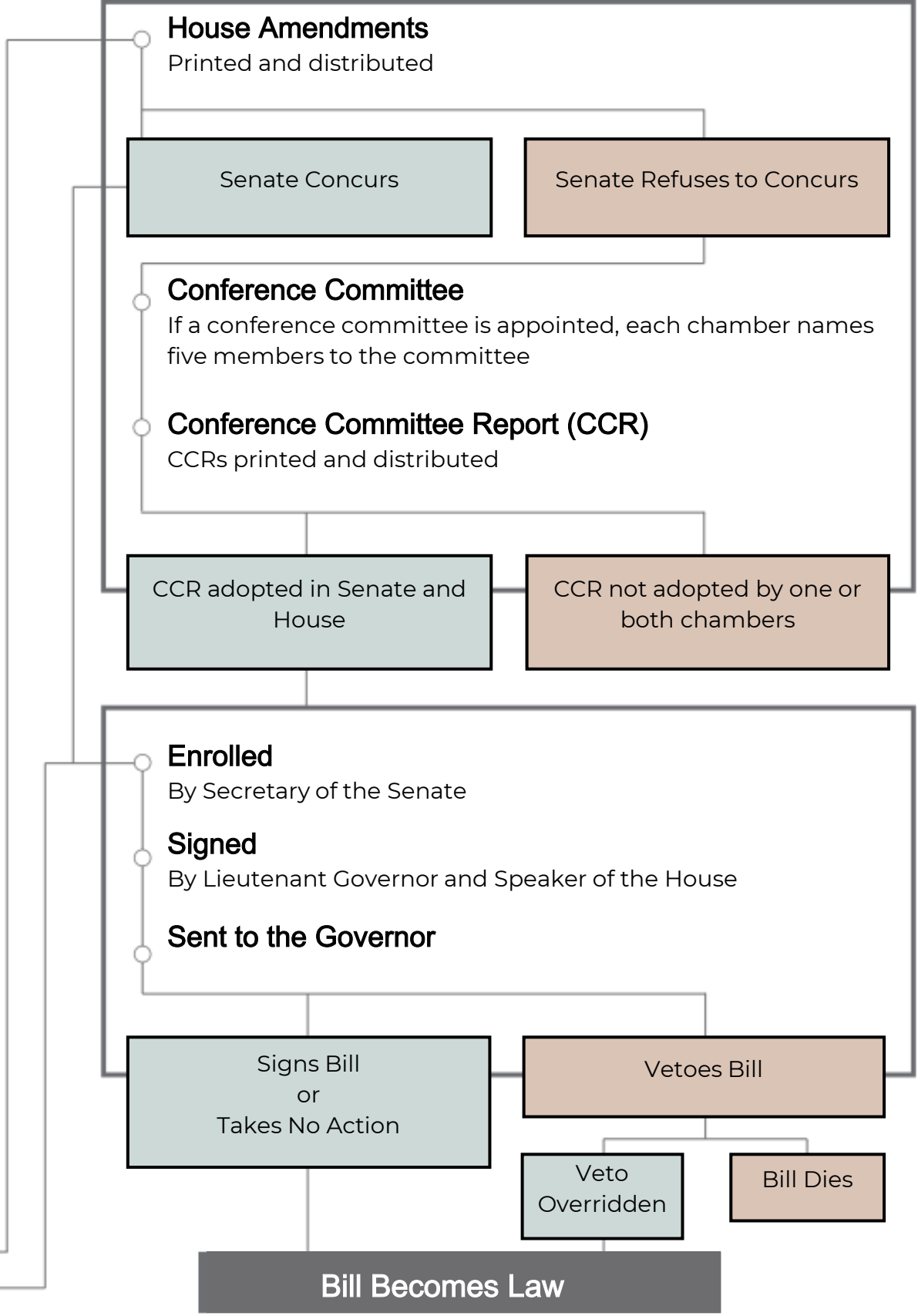
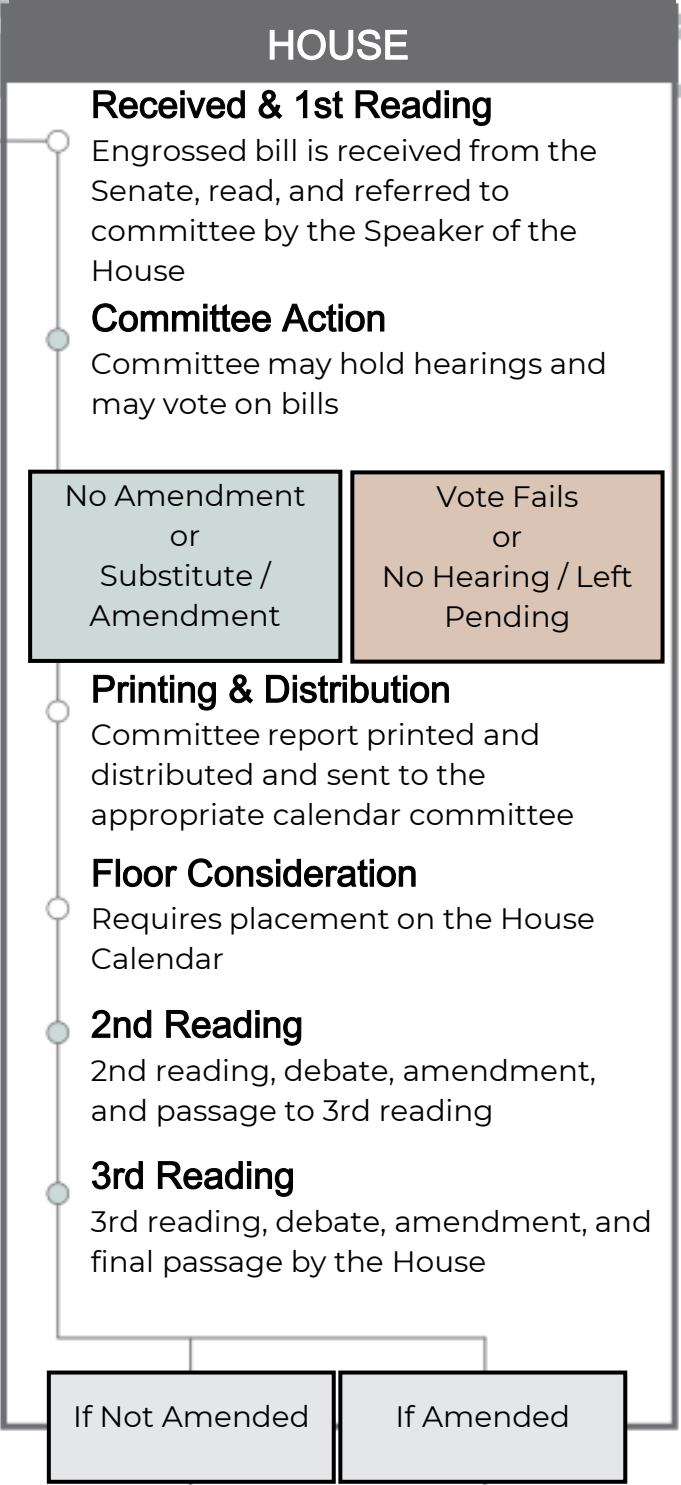
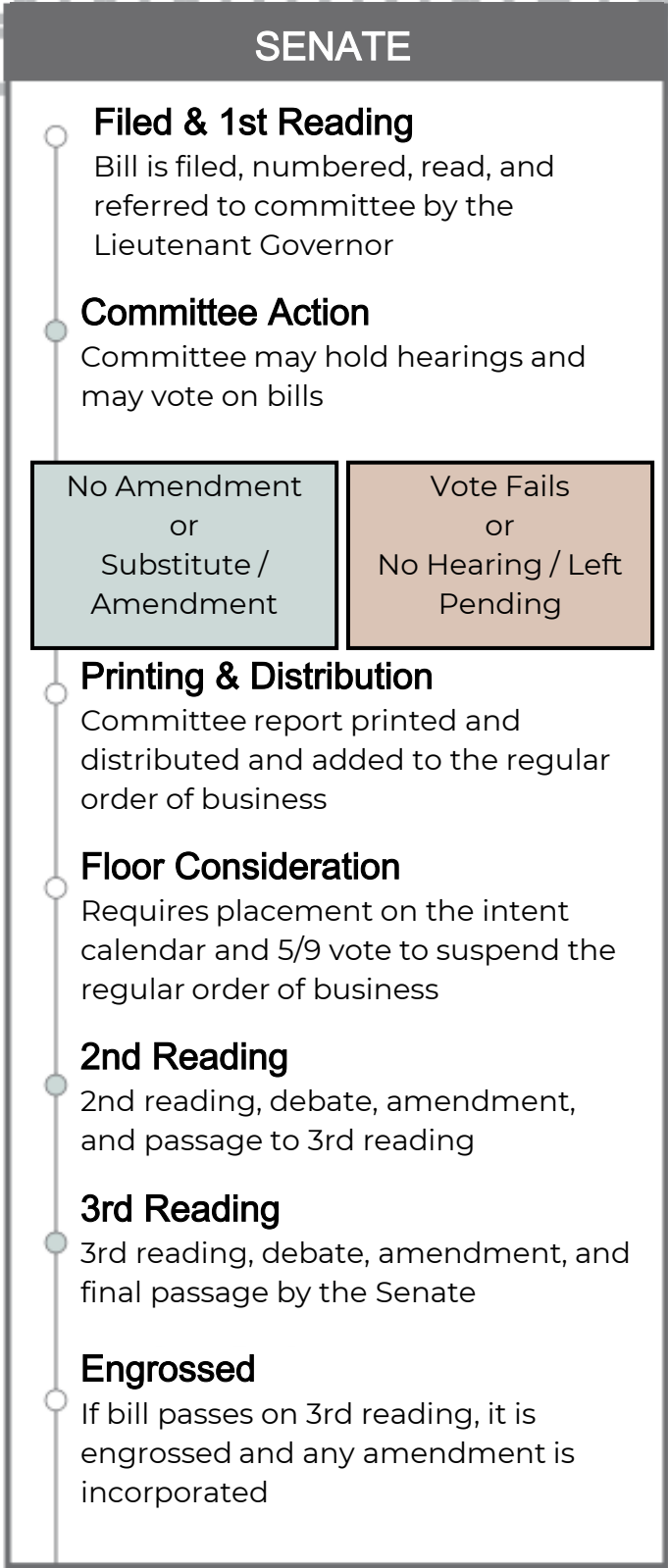
Attend committee hearings on the recommendation/bill and provide written or in-person testimony in support of it.



Process for House Bills



Process for Senate Bills



Access at the Texas Capitol

For a deeper dive on accessibility at the Capitol, please view the [GCPD Effective Advocacy of Disability Topics with the Texas Legislature Webinar](#) on our webpage or YouTube channel.

The State Preservation Board also provides a [Capitol Accessibility Guide](#) with more information on accessibility at the Capitol.

Contact Information

For information on accommodations for people with disabilities, please contact:

Senate ADA Coordinator

Name: Delicia Sams

Email: delicia.sams@senate.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-0400

House ADA Coordinator

Name: Ruben Aguillon

Email: ruben.aguillon@house.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-0865

The Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities is just one of many advisory groups in Texas that make recommendations to the Texas Legislature through policy proposals. Check out what some of the other boards, commissions, committees, and councils are working on in Texas!

Continuing Advisory Committee (CAC)	Rehabilitation Council of Texas	Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities	IDD Advisory Committee	HHSC Advisory Committees
The Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education is the state advisory panel required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to advise TEA of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities.	The Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT) advises the Texas Workforce Commission on the policy, scope and effectiveness of the Vocational Rehabilitation program on behalf of all Vocational Rehabilitation stakeholders.	TCDD helps people with developmental disabilities achieve their potential for independence, productivity, and integration into their communities through the development of a comprehensive system of services and supports.	The IDD Advisory Committee gathers and reviews data about the confinement in county jails of persons with IDD and provides recommendations and guidelines to sheriffs and counties regarding the confinement of persons with IDD.	There are over 25 health and human services advisory committees. Examples of advisory committees include the Early Childhood Intervention Advisory Committee and the Board for Evaluation for Interpreter Committee.
CAC Texas Education Agency	RCT Texas Workforce Commission	TCDD	IDDAC Texas Commission on Jail Standards	HHSC



The Governor's Committee
on People with Disabilities

THANK YOU!



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