

House, Senate Interim Study Charges Released

Between each Legislative Session, the Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House appoint "Interim Committees" to study key issues and research information that will help guide the legislature's decisions in the future. These committees hold hearings and obtain public input that affect the legislature's actions and outcomes during the next session.

House Speaker Joe Straus announced interim study charges for the House of Representatives committees in November, as listed at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/charges/81interim/interim-charges-81st.pdf>. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst announced a few Senate interim charges in mid-December and the rest in mid-January. More details are on his Web site at <http://www.ltgov.state.tx.us>, with a full list of Senate interim charges at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/assets/pdf/SenateInterimCharges81.pdf>.

A number of House and initial Senate charges that are of interest to people with disabilities and advocates are listed on TCDD's [Interim Charges](#) Web page. Some of the key issues include the state budget, Medicaid, education, criminal justice and competency, housing, employment and transportation.

Individuals who wish to provide input on any of the interim issues can submit written comments directly to the committee involved or attend committee hearings. Schedules for House committee meetings are at <http://www.house.state.tx.us/committees/cmteschd.php>. Schedules for **Senate Committee meetings** are at <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/75r/senate/events.htm>. The Texas Legislature convenes again Jan. 11, 2011.

