

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORT

Weekly Highlights At-A-Glance

FEDERAL – Legislative

H.Res. 614 – Oil and Gas Leasing; OPEC+ Oil Imports; Russian Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. On August 31, Rep. Bob Latta (R-OH) introduced House Resolution 614 ([H.Res. 614](#)). The purpose is for “Condemning the Biden administration’s Executive actions imposing a moratorium on oil and gas leases on Federal lands and waters, given the administration has also called for increased importation of crude oil from OPEC+ countries and refused to implement congressionally mandated sanctions on the builders of the Russian Nord Stream 2 pipeline.” Joining Rep. Latta are 20 Republican cosponsors who support the measure. “Since the President assumed office, he has continued to attack American energy while requesting that undemocratic countries like Russia, Iran, and Venezuela increase production,” said Rep. Latta. “American oil and natural gas are more heavily regulated in the United States than anywhere in the world. They produce cleaner and safer energy that power our homes, businesses, and vehicles.” The measure is unlikely to advance in the Democrat-controlled House. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Regulatory

BLM and BOEM Lease Sales. As an update to our prior reporting, on August 24, [the Interior Department announced that it will resume onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing](#) in the wake of the June federal court decision that mandated those sales resume after a judge found the pause to be unlawful. (See the [Preliminary Injunction Order](#)) According to the Interior Department announcement, “the United States appealed the preliminary injunction entered by the district court in [Louisiana v. Biden](#), which enjoined the Department

of the Interior from implementing the pause in new federal oil and gas leasing as set forth in [Section 208 of Executive Order 14008](#). The federal onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program will continue as required by the district court while the government’s appeal is pending. Today, as required by the court, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a brief advising the district court of the steps taken by the Interior Department to comply with the preliminary injunction, including next steps in the offshore and onshore oil and gas leasing processes.” In a not-yet-publicly available affidavit filing dated August 24 in the Interior Department’s appeal, Assistant Secretary for Land and Mineral Management, Laura Daniel-Davis, stated the agency plans to consider drilling’s effect on the climate when making oil and gas leasing decisions saying the department wants to ensure it is fully complying with the National Environmental Policy Act “by appropriately analyzing greenhouse gas emissions from proposed sales.” Those processes are announced as follows: (1) “The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will submit the Record of Decision for Lease Sale 257 in the Gulf of Mexico to the Federal Register by the end of August. The sale notice for Lease Sale 257 is expected to be published in September. By law, the lease sale may not take place sooner than 30 days after publication of the sale notice. This fall, BOEM also will issue and take comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement analyzing Lease Sale 258 in Cook Inlet;” and (2) “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) state offices will post for scoping parcels included in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 2021 leasing deferrals by the end of August. Following a 30-day scoping period and taking into account comments received, the BLM will undertake environmental reviews of parcels for potential leasing. Following this review, state offices will identify any eligible parcels and applicable

stipulations in lease sale notices posted later this year.” [Read more.](#) **UPDATE:** On August 31, the BOEM announced its Record of Decision to proceed with Lease Sale 257. [Read more.](#)

BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sales. Related to the above item, on August 31, the BLM began steps to facilitate those court-mandated oil and gas lease sales by issuing a series of official announcements that solicit public feedback “on proposals for upcoming competitive oil and gas lease sales.” According to those announcements, the BLM “is asking for public feedback on parcels that were previously under consideration for competitive auction at the deferred 2021 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 lease sales. To the extent parcels had already been deferred from those sales through analysis completed by the prior administration, those parcels will not be reevaluated. Following a 30-day scoping period and taking into account comments received, the BLM will undertake environmental reviews of parcels for potential leasing and provide an opportunity for public comment in accordance with [Instruction Memorandum 2021-027](#). Following this review, available parcels will be identified, along with applicable stipulations, for public comment.” Separate BLM announcements were simultaneously published for [Colorado](#), [Eastern States](#), [Montana-Dakotas](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [Utah](#), and [Wyoming](#), noting the scoping period will end on October 1, 2021, and the BLM “anticipates publishing notices of competitive lease sales later this year.” The BLM scoping documents show lease sales first resuming in 2022 and according to Bloomberg Government, not before February and March 2022. Formal notice of which parcels will pass the Interior Department’s environmental review – which will include greenhouse gas emissions impacts – are expected to be issued by the agency in December 2021. [Read more.](#)

BLM Renewable Energy Rights-Of-Way Rulemaking. On August 31, the BLM announced it “is initiating a process to revise its regulations related to renewable energy permitting and linear rights-of-way on public lands. As part of this process, the BLM is soliciting

preliminary input from the public on this proposed rulemaking. On August 18, 2021, the BLM sent letters to potentially affected Tribes, and intends to hold separate virtual government-to-government consultation meetings with interested parties regarding the proposed rule.” The BLM is inviting interested stakeholders to submit input and/or partake in one of their upcoming listening sessions, beginning September 1, 2021, which will detail the proposed regulations. [Read more.](#)

BLM Resource Advisory Council Application.

On August 30, the BLM published a notice of information collection, “Agency Information Collection Activities; Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council Application” ([86 Fed. Reg. 48438](#)) requesting public comment “on the Resource Advisory Council Application (Form No. 1120-19) to determine education, training, and experience related to possible service on advisory committees.” According to the BLM, “This information is necessary to ensure that each advisory council is structured to provide fair membership balance, both geographic and interest-specific, in terms of the functions to be performed and points of view to be represented, as prescribed by its charter.” The public comment period is open through September 29, 2021. [Read more.](#)

FEDERAL – Judicial

BOEM Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale Related to the above item regarding the [BOEM Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 257](#), on August 31, environmental groups filed a complaint against the Biden administration challenging the sale and seeking an injunction to stop it. In [Friends of the Earth v. Haaland](#) (Case No. 1:21-cv-02317), the litigants claim the sale is unlawful and say the decision “to hold Offshore Oil and Gas Lease Sale 257 in the Gulf of Mexico in reliance on arbitrary environmental analyses, [is] in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (‘NEPA’) and the Administrative Procedure Act (‘APA’).” According to one of the plaintiffs, the Center for Biological Diversity, “The environmental analysis of the proposed sale relies on improper modeling to

conclude that *not* having the lease sale will result in *more* greenhouse gases.” [The group says](#) “The analysis is not only flawed but also out of date. The Interior Department last looked at the environmental impacts of a lease sale in 2017. Since Interior completed its environmental analysis, significant new information has emerged that demonstrates, among other things, the dire state of the climate crisis and the potential for increased harm to endangered species, including the Rice’s whale, one of the most endangered whales on the planet, that is only found in the Gulf of Mexico.” The Interior Department has not yet responded to the lawsuit. [Read more.](#)

Federal Climate Change Policies – Missouri. (*Update to 5/17/21 Weekly Report*) On August 31, a lawsuit brought by Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt (R) and 12 other Republican-led states against the Biden administration was dismissed by a federal judge who held that the case is “not ripe.” The complaint in [Missouri v. Biden](#) (Case No. 4:21-cv-00287-AGF) charged the Biden administration with exceeding its executive authority by establishing an interim climate metric used to calculate the social cost of greenhouse gases. In dismissing the case, the court held the plaintiffs’ claims are not ripe for judicial review because any impact of President Biden’s executive order and interim estimates cannot “be said to be felt immediately” by the plaintiffs if at all “in conducting their day-to-day affairs,” and because “no irretrievably adverse consequences flow from requiring a later challenge.” For background, the states sued the Biden administration and [sought a preliminary injunction](#) to bar federal agencies from using the newly strengthened “social cost of greenhouse gases” as “binding values in any agency action.” Federal agencies use the “social cost of greenhouse gases” to assess the cost of emitting carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases. The Trump administration lowered that value, but the Biden administration restored Obama-era methodology and adopted higher values. According to the lawsuit, “In theory, these numbers would justify imposing hundreds of billions or trillions of

dollars in regulatory costs on the U.S. economy in upcoming years to offset these supposed ‘social costs.’” And “In practice,” they wrote, “these numbers will inevitably be used to justify increased regulation and expansion of federal regulatory authority in numerous areas.” The states said they will appeal the August 31 ruling. [Read more.](#)

Environmental Policy – Virginia. On June 21, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia ruled against environmental activists who challenged The White House’s Council on Environmental Quality’s adoption of revised regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) following an allegedly defective notice-and-comment rulemaking process. In *Wild Virginia v. Council on Environmental Quality* (Case No. 3:20-CV-00045), the plaintiffs claimed that NEPA implementing regulations, finalized in 2020, did not take many of their concerns into account, primarily those related to environmental reviews in the case that included the American Petroleum Institute and the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America among the case defendants. The court rejected the plaintiffs’ claims that they would be harmed by the NEPA regulations and agreed with the defendants “that the plaintiffs’ claims regarding the 2020 Rule are not appropriate for judicial resolution at this time. Delaying judicial review of the 2020 Rule until it can be considered in an as-applied challenge will not create a significant hardship for the plaintiffs.” The Court explained that “While the plaintiffs have pointed to certain proposed projects that they predict will be reviewed less rigorously as a result of the 2020 Rule, at this time, one cannot say with anything close to certainty exactly how each agency will interpret the 2020 Rule and apply it to future project proposals.” As such, the Court held that “the plaintiffs’ claims are not justiciable and the court is thus without jurisdiction,” and dismissed the action. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Legislative

Oil and Gas Production Tax – Alaska. On August 30, Rep. Geran Tarr (D) introduced HB 3005, which

would amend oil and gas production tax law to provide for oil produced on and after January 1, 2022, and before January 1, 2024. [Read more.](#)

Oil and Gas Production Tax Credits – Alaska. On August 30, the House Ways & Means Committee introduced HB 3007, which would amend oil and gas production law regarding nonrefundable tax credits to adjust the amount of tax credit for a barrel of taxable oil to a lower dollar amount. [Read more.](#)

Real Property Records – Illinois. On August 20, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) signed SB 1845 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Mattie Hunter (D), the Act amends the Property Tax Code to provide that the owner of a certificate of purchase must file with the county clerk the names and addresses of the owners of the property and those persons entitled to service of notice at their last known addresses. The Act also provides that the clerk shall mail notice within 30 days from the date of the filing of addresses with the clerk. The Act is effective January 1, 2022. [Read more.](#)

Remote Notarial Acts – North Carolina. On August 31, HB 776 was referred for a Senate committee hearing following House passage. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Robert Reives (D), would amend existing notary law to provide for remote, online, and electronic notarial acts. [Read more.](#)

Oil and Gas Taxation – Ohio. On September 2, Sen. Tim Schaffer (R) filed SR 176, which resolves that the Ohio General Assembly does “respectfully oppose federal policies that will increase the costs and taxes on the larger business community” and “urge[s] the Congress of the United States to fight any attempt to target the natural gas and oil industry by disproportionately increasing the tax burden, or by other punitive measures on the companies that are leading our post-pandemic recovery” and “That these attempts are negatively impacting the constituents of the districts we represent.” [Read more.](#)

High-Level Radioactive Waste – Texas. As of September 2, HB 7, sponsored by Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R), passed the House and Senate in the Second Special Session. The bill, if signed, would amend the Health and Safety Code to prohibit the issuance of certain permits by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for the construction or operation of a facility that is licensed to store high-level radioactive waste by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The bill would also prohibit the transport of high-level radioactive waste on the state's highways or railways and prohibit the disposal or storage of high-level radioactive waste in the state other than storage at certain current or formerly operating nuclear reactors or test reactors. [Read more.](#)

High-Level Radioactive Waste – Texas. On August 25, Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R) introduced HB 200 for the Second Special Session. The bill has passed committee but now has been marked postponed until September 26, 2021. The bill relates to “the prohibition on the transportation, storage, and disposal of high-level radioactive waste in certain areas.” Specifically, the bill states that “A person may not import into, dispose of, or store high-level radioactive waste in an area of this state designated as a critical energy infrastructure zone.” This would apply to designated oil and activities as well as renewable energy. On the same day, Rep. Landgraf also filed [HB 236](#) which contains identical language. [Read more.](#)

Flaring – Texas. On August 25, Rep. Jon Rosenthal (D) filed HB 231, which relates “to the establishment by the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) of a policy to eliminate the routine flaring of natural gas from wells or other facilities regulated by the commission.” Specifically, the bill provides for the elimination of routine flaring and would order the RRC to “establish a policy to eliminate before December 31, 2025, the routine flaring of gas from wells or other facilities regulated by the commission.” [Read more.](#)

STATE – Regulatory

Climate Executive Order – New Mexico. On August 25, New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) signed [Executive Order 2021-052, *Protecting New Mexico's Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage*](#), which creates a “30 by 30” committee “to evaluate conservation and environmental efforts of all New Mexico lands.” According to the Governor, “the committee will work to conserving 30% of all land in New Mexico by 2030.” Specifically, the order, which includes efforts to meet the state’s “climate change objectives” directs “seven different state departments to ‘support and implement programs’ aimed at conservation, protecting, and enhancing New Mexico’s ‘lands and natural environments.’” As part of the order, the state’s Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Environment Department, Office of the State Engineer, Department of Agriculture, Indian Affairs, Game and Fish and Outdoor Recreation Division will meet quarterly to assess the state’s program toward the 30 by 30 goal.” [Read more.](#)

Oil and Gas Ozone Regulations – New Mexico. To follow up prior reporting, the [New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board has announced](#) it will hold a public hearing beginning September 20, 2021, to consider the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) “proposed regulations targeting emissions of ozone precursor pollutants from the oil and natural gas sector.” The New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) draft rulemaking for [20.2.50 NMAC Oil and Gas Sector-Ozone Precursor Pollutants Rulemaking \(EIB No. 21-27 \(R\)\) may be accessed here](#). The public meeting will be held virtually and [can be accessed here](#). For specific questions, the public may contact the Environmental Improvement Board at (505) 660-4305 or email pamela.jones@state.nm.us. [Read more.](#)

Production Reporting; Railroad Commission – Texas. (*Update to 5/17/21 Weekly Report*) On August 30, the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) [announced the availability of adopted revisions](#) which include two changes to the Form PR

Instructions that apply to all new and corrected Form PR filings for production cycle months of September 2021 and later. For background, the RRC adopted revisions to the instructions to Form PR, Monthly Production Report, on February 23, 2021. On May 5, the RRC published a notice alerting oil and gas operators of [electronic filing requirements for Form PR, Monthly Production Report](#). Per the RRC notice, “The revisions support the RRC’s regulation of flaring and venting of produced natural gas. The proposed revisions are to the Form PR Instructions and how operators need to complete the form, not to the structure of the form itself.” According to the RRC, “The revisions support the RRC’s regulation of flaring and venting of produced natural gas.” The revisions “are to the Form PR Instructions, instructions on how operators need to complete the Form PR, not to the structure of the form itself.” Those adopted revisions are: “Disposition Code 4”, which was used to report the volume of gas that was vented or flared, has been discontinued. “Disposition Code 4” will continue to be used for all new and corrected production reports for reporting cycle months of August 2021 and earlier. Two new disposition codes have been implemented to allow operators to allocate gas. For gas that was flared, use “Disposition Code 10”. For gas that was vented, use “Disposition Code 11”. As of September 1, 2021, “Disposition Code 4 will no longer be accepted. Gas that is flared must be allocated to Disposition Code 10 and gas that is vented must be allocated to Disposition Code 11. On January 1, 2022, operators must report the applicable 2-letter authorization codes in the ‘REMARKS’ field on the form.” [Read more.](#)

RRC Form Revisions – Texas. On August 26, the [Railroad Commission of Texas \(RRC\) announced it is accepting public comment on proposed revisions](#) to the Form P-5 LC (Irrevocable Documentary Letter of Credit) and the proposed consolidation of the Form P-5 PB1 (Individual Performance Bond) and Form P-5 PB2 (Blanket Performance Bond) into the new Form P-5 PB (Performance Bond). According to the RRC, “Proposed revisions [to] the Form P-5 LC will remove references to terms/items no longer in use by the RRC; update the estimated plugging costs;

and correct the final time of day that drafts may be presented at the bank (from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.). The proposed consolidation of the Forms P-5 PB1 and P-5 PB2 into the new Form P-5 PB is due to the similarity and redundancy of information requested between both forms. A new consolidated form will provide an operator the ability to select either 'individual' or 'blanket' performance bond via a check box at the top of the form and then only fill out the information required for the selected option." The public comment period is open through September 27, 2021. [Read more.](#)

RRC Commissioners Conference – Texas. On August 31, the RRC announced it will be holding an open meeting Commissioners Conference on September 14, 2021. The agenda has not yet been posted by the RRC. Please check the RRC website for the agenda once they have made it publicly available. Meeting webcasts can be viewed live and are also archived for up to 6 months. [Read more.](#)

STATE – Judicial

Leasing; Production – Ohio. On June 30, in *Browne v. Artex Oil Co.* (Case No. 2021-Ohio-2239), the Ohio Court of Appeals, Fifth District, addressed a case that went up to the Ohio Supreme Court on the question of "which statute of limitations applied to appellants' claim that the lease terminated by its terms and by operation of law" and was remanded back to the trial court which ruled in favor of the lessee by declaring "the oil and gas lease to be a valid and subsisting oil and gas lease fully enforceable in accordance with its original terms with respect to the entire property described in the lease from the surface to the center of the earth." The trial court also concluded that the lessees "presented significant evidence that the Mercer No. 1. Well has been producing from at least 1993-1999 pursuant to the affidavits, depositions, and production records," and that "Plaintiffs have not presented any evidence to satisfy their burden." On this appeal, the lessors claimed, "the lease expired under its terms and by operation of law because the well failed to produce oil for commercial sale for over a period of two

consecutive years from 1993 through 1999." Here, the appellate court reiterated that "we find it is law of the case that production records and affidavits can be used to prove oil and gas production." Further, it is not the lessee's "burden to prove that the well was profitable between 1993 and 1999. Rather, it is appellants' [lessor's] burden to show the well was not producing in paying quantities for a two-year or greater period between 1993 and 1999." Since the court found the "absence of any genuine issue of material fact with regards to production in paying quantities from 1993 to 1999" they ruled against the mineral owners in favor of the lessees.

[Read more.](#)

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **OPEC+ to increase oil production, though in defiance of President Biden.** On September 1, OPEC+ nations agree to "move ahead with a previously planned increase in its output despite a call from the Biden administration to increase it further." In a statement, OPEC+ said it would "reconfirm" a "plan approved in July to add 400,000 barrels per day to its monthly overall production until pandemic-related cuts are phased out." The group did not agree to increase production at levels requested by the Biden administration. [Read more.](#)

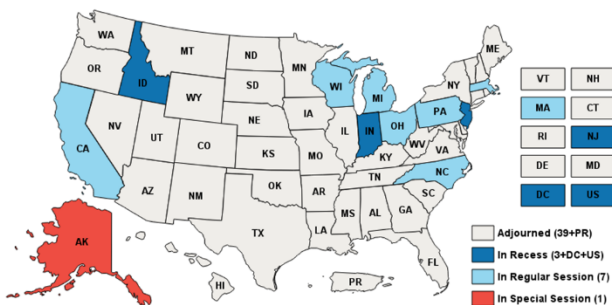
► **Permian oil production forecast to increase in September.** As reported on August 26 by the Permian Basin Petroleum Association magazine, "U.S. oil production from seven major shale formations is forecast to grow by 49,000 barrels per day in September" according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That growth is led by the Permian Basin, which is expected to increase by 49,000 b/d from 4.756 million b/d in August to 4.805 million b/d in September to offset declines in other regions. [Read more.](#)

► **Texas upstream employment increases.** As reported by Rigzone on August 25, "Texas upstream employment for July increased by 1,500 jobs

from June, the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association (TIPRO) highlighted, citing the latest figures from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.” TIPRO also “noted that Texas upstream employment in July represented an increase of 15,800 positions compared to July 2020. The organization outlined that the figure reflects a rise of 17,000 jobs in the services sector and decrease of 1,200 jobs in oil and natural gas extraction.” [Read more.](#)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes: California, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are in regular session.

The following legislatures are in recess until the dates provided: U.S. Senate (September 13), U.S. House (September 20), Indiana and New Jersey (TBD) and Idaho House (call of the speaker).

Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy called the legislature into a third special session on August 16 to fix the yearlong fiscal conflict over the Permanent Fund dividend, reports the [Associated Press](#). The special session is scheduled to last 30 days. On September 2, Governor Dunleavy [expanded](#) the special session to include two pieces of legislation that will aid the state’s response to the recent COVID surge. The legislation includes the expansion of telehealth and telemedicine and the adoptions of a Multistate Licensure Compact.

Kentucky Republican Gov. Andy Beshear is expected to call the legislature into a special session on September 7 to deal with the legislative response to the COVID-19 pandemic, according to [The Lane Report](#).

Nebraska Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation to call the legislature into a special session on September 13, reports [KMTV](#). The purpose of the special session will be redistricting the boundaries of Supreme Court judicial districts, Public Service Commission districts, Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska districts, state Board of Education districts, legislative districts, and congressional districts.

Illinois lawmakers adjourned from a one day special session on August 31, after passing a new set of legislative maps based on official 2020 Census data, reports [WGLT](#). Two ongoing federal lawsuits were filed challenging the original redistricting maps approved by democrats in May. The original maps were based on census estimates, not final Census data because it was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Illinois has a June 30 deadline for redistricting. Republicans who filed the lawsuits intend to file amended complaints against the new maps since they were approved after the June 30 deadline in the hopes of getting a bipartisan commission to draw the new boundaries.

New York Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul called the legislature into a one-day special session on September 1, reports [Bloomberg](#). Lawmakers voted to extend the eviction moratorium in New York through January 15, 2022, after the federal eviction moratorium expired on August 31. Included in the eviction legislation was a suspension of the Open Meetings Law that allows a government entity to ban protesters, lobbyists, the press, and all other members of the public from physically attending meetings if they are broadcasted online.

Texas adjourned a second special session on September 2, after the Republican led legislature passed nearly all of Governor Abbott’s agenda items,

including new provisions on the state's voting process, critical race theory and legislation restoring funding to the legislature itself. Sens. Roland Gutierrez, D-San Antonio, and Sarah Eckhardt, D-Austin, filed a [federal lawsuit](#) on September 1 arguing that state lawmakers cannot legally redraw the state's legislative maps this fall. Committee hearings are set for next week as lawmakers begin their work on the state's new boundaries and Governor Abbott is expected to call a third special session to sign off on the redrawn maps, reports [The Texas Tribune](#).

Signing Deadlines (by date): **Alaska** Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy has 20 days after delivery, Sundays excepted, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Illinois** Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker has 60 days from presentment to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Kansas** Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly has 10 calendar days from presentment, not including the day it was presented, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Maine** Democratic Gov. Janet Mills must act on legislation presented within 10 days of adjournment or it becomes law unless returned within three days after the next meeting of the same legislature. **Nebraska** Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts has five days from presentment to sign or veto legislation, Sundays excepted, or it becomes law without signature. **New Hampshire** Republican Gov. Chris Sununu has five days from presentment, Sundays excepted, to sign or veto legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **New Jersey** Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy has 45 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **New York** Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul has 10 days from presentment, Sundays excluded, to sign or veto legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **South Carolina** Republican Gov. Henry McMaster has five days from presentment, excluding Sundays, to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Tennessee** Republican Gov. Bill Lee has 10 days starting the day after presentment, Sundays excluded, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Vermont** Republican Gov. Phil Scott has five days from presentment,

excluding Sundays, to act on legislation or it will become law without signature.

The following states are currently holding 2022 interim committee hearings: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Delaware](#), [Georgia](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Indiana](#), [Iowa](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Mississippi](#) [House](#) and [Senate](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#) [House](#) and [Senate](#), [New Mexico](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oregon](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Carolina](#) [House](#) and [Senate](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Vermont](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), [West Virginia](#) and [Wyoming](#).

The following states are currently posting 2022 bill drafts, pre-files, and interim studies: [Alabama](#), [Florida](#), [Kentucky](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Tennessee](#) and [Utah](#). ■

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