Tracking bills with Texas Legislature Online

Texas Legislature Online (http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.asp) is an excellent website to use to follow the Texas Legislative session. It allows you to track bills from Texas Legislative Sessions – either by setting up alerts or by manually looking up bills.

If you want to set up alerts, use the link for Receive Bill and Meeting Alerts. Keep in mind that you will likely get a great deal of e-mail traffic as your bill moves through the legislative process.

To track a bill manually, you’ll need to find the bill number. You can find the bill number by searching for it by a keyword that describes what the bill is about or by browsing through a list of bills that have been filed.

Make sure to write the bill number down. It will begin either with HB or SB and a number.

Let’s say that we want to find out about a bill that will work to exempt books that universities or students purchase from sales tax for a limited time.

We search for: Tax AND Students AND book in the search box then click Go.

We find out that it is HB 455

Now that we know the number, click on the link for Bill Lookup.
Next, you'll get this screen.

**Enter the bill number** into the search box.

Then click **Submit**.

Next, the screen to the left will appear.

It has basic information about the bill.

The blue and grey tabs across the top will give you specific information about different aspects of the bill.

Next, you will see the screen to the right if you click on **Bill Stages** tab—the tab the furthest to the right.

It gives a bare-bones idea the bill’s place in the legislative process.

The helpful links area will give you detailed information about the legislative process and highly detailed diagrams of a bill’s path through the House or the Senate.

Need help? Ask a librarian: 942-2141 or reference@angelo.edu