

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORT

Weekly Highlights At-A-Glance

FEDERAL - Legislative

Congressional Recess. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to be in summer recess from June 28 through July 9. Read more. The U.S. House of Representatives will be in recess from July 2 through July 12. Read more.

H.R. 2415 – Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act of 2021. On June 16, official bill text was made available for H.R. 2415, known as the Orphaned Well Cleanup and Jobs Act of 2021 and which has passed the House Natural Resources Committee. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM), would "amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to permanently plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells and the surrounding lands and to provide funds to States and Tribal Governments to permanently plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned wells and the surrounding lands." According to Rep. Leger Fernandez, the "legislation would authorize \$7.25 billion to clean up abandoned oil and gas wells that leak methane and pollutants into communities and create jobs in rural communities." Read more.

H.R. 2644 – Green New Deals for Cities Act of 2021. On June 14, official bill text was made available for H.R. 2644, known as the *Green New Deals for Cities Act of 2021*. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO), would provide direct funding to local, Tribal, and territorial governments to establish Green New Deal programs and initiatives, and also provides an ABC test for independent contractors related to those programs and initiatives. According to Rep. Bush, the legislation "would federally fund city, state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to respond to the climate crisis, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process." Read more.

H.R. 1187 – ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021. On June 16, H.R. 1187, known as the ESG Disclosure Simplification Act of 2021, passed the House on a slim party-line vote over objections by Republican lawmakers. Sponsored by Rep. Juan Vargas (D-CA), the bill would require publicly traded companies to disclose financial risks related to climate change. Annual disclosures would be required of information related to the physical risks of flooding, extreme weather, and rising temperatures to fixed assets, as well as "transition risks" created by efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resilience to climate change. According to Bloomberg Government, "The measure is unlikely to muster the Republican support needed to pass the narrowly divided Senate, but it comes as the Securities and Exchange Commission is preparing its own set of new corporate disclosure requirements for climate change risks, board diversity, and companies' workforces by October." Read more.

S. 1076 - Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells Act of 2021. On June 15, official bill text was made available for S. 1076, known as the Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells Act of 2021 or REGROW Act of 2021. This bipartisan bill would "amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land, [and] to provide funds to State and Tribal governments to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land." Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Nada Culver said the agency "strongly supports" the bill which would address the more than "56,000 documented abandoned oil and gas wells with no

responsible party for cleanup." Co-sponsor Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) noted that "While thousands of the nation's oilfield workers are out of a job, our country has over fifty thousand abandoned oil and gas wells with no one responsible for their cleanup. As a top energy and agricultural producer, North Dakota excels at prioritizing the reclamation of these orphaned wells, which keeps people employed, reduces environmental hazards and public health risks, and makes previously unusable land productive again. The REGROW Act would follow our state's lead by providing states, tribes, and federal agencies the resources they need to properly plug orphaned wells. It's a win for workers, landowners, and the environment." Read more.

S. 1750 – Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act of **2021.** On June 15, official bill text was made available for S. 1750, known as the Wyoming Public Lands *Initiative Act of 2021.* The bill, sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), would resolve the management status of thousands of acres of federal public lands in seven counties in Wyoming. According to Sen. Barrasso, the "bill is the direct result of a collaborative process started under the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (WPLI). The WPLI was created by the Wyoming County Commissioners Association in 2015 to seek locally driven solutions on the future of federal public lands that have been in management limbo for more than 30 years." The legislation includes 5 wilderness designations totaling 20,381 acres; 3 designations of a "Special Management Area" totaling 27,711 acres; 10 release and manage as multiple-use totaling 99,750 acres; and related policy directives. Read more.

FEDERAL - Regulatory

Interior Secretary Says No Plan for Permanent
Oil and Gas Leasing Ban. On June 22, Interior
Secretary Deb Haaland told Congressional
lawmakers that "there is not currently a plan to
permanently ban new drilling leases on public lands
and waters.' During a House Natural Resources
Committee budget hearing, Haaland "also reiterated
that the administration's assessment of oil and gas

drilling on public lands and oceans would be released in 'early summer.'" However, Haaland was evasive in answering questions about the recent Louisiana federal court order lifting the pause. The complete committee hearing archive <u>may be accessed here</u>. Read more.

Interior Department Deputy Secretary Confirmed.

On June 17, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Biden's nominee for Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. With bipartisan support, senators voted 88-9 to confirm Tommy Beaudreau as Deputy Interior Secretary, with eight Republicans and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) opposing the nomination. Beaudreau is an attorney and former Obama administration official who previously held several roles at the Interior Department as well as serving as the first director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as Interior Department Chief of Staff and acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. "His performance at his nomination hearing demonstrated that he has both a firm grasp of the issues and the ability to listen, learn and work with all sides and to find common sense solutions to difficult problems," said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV). Read more.

BLM Information Collection. On June 24, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a notice of information collection, *Agency Information Collection Activities; Onshore Oil and Gas Operations and Production* (86 Fed. Reg. 33347), which seeks public input on certain BLM information collection related to onshore oil and gas activities. The public comment period is open through August 23, 2021. Read more.

BLM Resource Advisory Council - New Mexico.

On June 22, the BLM announced the Southern New Mexico Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will hold its next meeting on August 5. The meeting will be open to the public and held via the Zoom Webinar Platform. According to the BLM notice, "The 12-member Southern New Mexico RAC provides recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and

management issues associated with public land management in the RAC's area of jurisdiction." Read more.

FEDERAL – Judicial

Climate Change – U.S. Supreme Court. (Update to 6/8/2020 Weekly Report) On June 14, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a petition from Chevron and other oil and gas company defendants seeking the high court's review of climate change lawsuits filed by Oakland and San Francisco on jurisdictional venue grounds. Chevron said it was "confident" the Supreme Court will resolve jurisdictional guestions in climate litigation eventually. "Claims like these should be resolved in federal court, because they have sweeping implications for national energy policy, national security, foreign policy, and other uniquely federal interests," wrote Chevron spokesman Braden Reddall in an email to Bloomberg Government. For background, on May 26, 2020, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, on appeal from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, ruled that climate change lawsuits against major oil and gas companies could proceed in state court rather than a federal venue thought to be more favorable to the energy industry. In the consolidated case opinion, City of Oakland v. BP PLC (Case Nos. 3:17-cv-06011-WHA; 3:17-cv-06012-WHA), litigants sought to reimburse taxpayers for costs associated with adapting to impacts such as rising sea levels—from building multibillion-dollar sea walls and repairing damage from powerful storms to—perhaps soon—moving whole communities inland. Lawyers for the cities and counties have long argued that such local infrastructure damage raises classic local-level concerns that belong in state court. Industry lawyers, supported by the Trump administration, had countered that climate change is a global issue, pushing the litigation to a federal jurisdiction. Lawyers for cities and counties bringing the lawsuits said in a joint comment, "We are grateful that the Court of Appeals agreed with Judge Chhabria's order to remand our cases back to the state courts where they were originally filed." Read more.

Federal Oil and Gas Leasing – Louisiana. (Update to 4/5/21 Weekly Report) In a victory for the oil and gas industry and landman profession, on June 15, a federal judge issued a Preliminary Injunction Order lifting President Biden's "pause" on new federal oil and gas leasing, which the administration has halted since January. While Interior Secretary Debra Haaland initially said her agency will comply with the judge's order, the administration is expected to appeal the injunction order, so the status of the oil and gas leasing program may be in limbo if an appeal is filed. Read more. For background, on March 24, Louisiana led 12 other states in suing the Biden administration "to end a suspension of new oil and gas leases on federal land and water and to reschedule canceled sales of leases in the Gulf of Mexico. Alaska waters and western states." In Louisiana v. Biden (Case No. 2:21-cv-00778), the litigants claim the Biden administration's "stated policy of banning new drilling permits contravenes congressional commands" and is a violation of various federal statutes. "By executive fiat, Joe Biden and his administration have single-handedly driven the price of energy up — costing the American people where it hurts most, in their pocketbooks," said Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry (R). Louisiana and 12 other states followed up this lawsuit with another filing on March 31 demanding that the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana order the Biden administration to immediately lift the federal oil and gas leasing pause by way of preliminary injunction. Read more.

STATE – Legislative

Income Taxes – Colorado. On June 23, Gov. Jared Polis (D) signed HB 1311 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Emily Sirota (D), the Act makes numerous changes to the state income tax code (See full analysis here). The tax revisions affect both individuals and businesses. The Act has multiple effective dates. Read more.

Severance Taxes – Colorado. On June 23, Gov. Jared Polis (D) signed HB 1312 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Emily Sirota (D), the Act makes numerous

changes regarding personal and property taxes, and also provides that for the severance tax on oil and gas, it requires the net-back deductions used to determine gross income be direct costs actually paid by the taxpayer; and phases out tax credits and exemptions for the severance tax on coal (See full analysis here). The Act has multiple effective dates. Read more.

Severance Tax Trust Fund – Colorado. On June 18, Gov. Jared Polis (D) signed SB 281 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Chris Hansen (D), the Act requires new metropolitan districts to pay the state for the property tax credits on oil and gas severance taxes. The Act also eliminates automatic severance tax funding for eight existing grant programs and establishes alternative financing for six of these programs. Lastly, it directs several state agencies to recommend changes to the state's severance tax structure. The Act has multiple effective dates. Read more.

Severance Taxes; Orphan Wells - Louisiana.

(Update to 4/19/21 Weekly Report) On June 16, Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) signed SB 171 into law. Sponsored by Sen. R. L. Bret Allain, II (R), the Act provides for severance tax exemptions and site-specific trust funds for certain orphan wells. The Act is effective June 16, 2021. Read more.

Independent Contractors – Louisiana. (*Update to 5/17/21 Weekly Report*) On June 14, Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) signed SB 244 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Jay Luneau (D), the Act amends and reenacts specific parts of the law pertaining to the misclassification of employees as independent contractors, and provides for certain administrative penalties for misclassification, although the Act supports independent contractor designations by providing clarity on the difference between employees and independent contractors. The Act is effective January 1, 2022. <u>Read more</u>.

ANWR Oil and Gas Leases – Michigan. On June 17, Senate Resolution 67 was introduced by Sen. Jon Bumstead (R). The resolution opposes "the

suspension of all oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." Read more.

Eminent Domain; Pipelines – Texas. (*Update to 4/5/21 Weekly Report*) On June 18, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 4107 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Dustin Burrows (R), the Act amends existing law regarding the exercise of the power of eminent domain by a common carrier pipeline. Specifically, the changes affect notice, indemnification, and property entry. The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Well Subcontractors – Texas. (Update to 5/17/21 Weekly Report) On June 16, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 3416 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Drew Darby (R), the Act relates to indemnity agreements between contractors and subcontractors for services pertaining to certain wells or mines. Specifically, the Act "seeks to provide transparency in these triparty relationship agreements and protect subcontractors by requiring a contractor, before entering into or renewing such an agreement with a subcontractor or third party, to provide written notice to the subcontractor regarding the subcontractor's indemnification obligations to the contractor and third party and written notice to the third party stating whether the subcontractor possesses liability insurance coverage or qualified self-insurance for the obligations and the dollar limits of the insurance." The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Oil and Gas Regulation and Cleanup Fund – Texas. (Update to 4/5/21 Weekly Report) On June 18, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 3973 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Armando Walle (D), the Act amends existing law regarding the composition and use of money in the oil and gas regulation and cleanup fund. The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

State Emissions Reduction Plan – Texas. On June 18, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 4472 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Brooks Landgraf (R), the Act amends the Health and Safety Code to broaden use of Texas Emissions Reduction Program funds within

the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Fund (TERP Fund) by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for air monitoring equipment operations, fee-based contracts, the energy efficiency loan guarantee program, and for remitting to the State Highway Fund (SHF) for use by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects in nonattainment areas. The bill would require TCEQ to remit to TxDOT for such projects at least 35 percent of the amount deposited to the credit of the TERP Fund. The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Produced Water Consortium – Texas. On June 18, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed SB 601 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Charles Perry (R), the Act creates the Texas Produced Water Consortium, which would be administratively housed at Texas Tech University who will oversee the consortium, partner with other Texas universities, and work with stakeholders to reach specific goals. Within the first year of creation, the consortium will be required to create a report which details the economic and technological feasibility of a facility for oil and gas waste recycling. The Act takes immediate effect. Read more.

Property Tax Sales – Texas. (Update to 3/22/21 Weekly Report) On June 16, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed SB 1764 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Paul Bettencourt (R), the Act relates to the payment of delinquent ad valorem taxes on property subject to a tax sale. According to the bill sponsor, the legislation is "necessary due to the exhaustive steps a taxing entity must take to get a delinquent property tax dispute to a tax sale after the defendant property owner has not paid their property taxes by June 30." The Act takes immediate effect. Read more.

Pit Locations – Texas. (Update to 3/8/21 Weekly Report) On June 15, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 2201 into law. Sponsored by Rep. Trent Ashby (R), the Act relates to the location of pits used in the production of oil and gas, and requires the Texas Railroad Commission to establish rules for their

location. The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Energy Company Boycotts – Texas. (Update to 3/22/21 Weekly Report) On June 14, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed SB 13 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Brian Birdwell (R), regarding state contracts, the Act prohibits "state agencies from contracting with or investing in financial companies that boycott fossil fuel-based energy firms." The legislation requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts "to prepare and maintain a list of all companies that refuse to deal with, or otherwise penalize another company because the company invests in or assists in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy," said Sen. Birdwell's office. "This list is then provided to the state agencies that invest funds, who in turn send a letter to the listed companies informing them that they are subject to divestment if they do not stop boycotting energy companies within 90 days." The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Probate and Estates Court Proceedings – Texas. On June 14, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed SB 615 into law. Sponsored by Sen. Judith Zaffirini (D), the Act makes certain changes to probate court proceedings, including those related to administration of wills and other testamentary instrument procedures. The Act is effective September 1, 2021. Read more.

Regulatory Enforcement – Texas. (*Update to 2/8/21 Weekly Report*) On June 9, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) signed HB 1284 into law. The Act, sponsored by Rep. Chris Paddie (R), relates to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) over the injection and geologic storage of carbon dioxide and amends existing law regarding enforcement, penalties, and operator applications for a certification from the RRC. HB 1284 moved forward over companion Senate bill, <u>SB 450</u>, which was introduced by Sen. Kelly Hancock (R). HB 1284 takes immediate effect. Read more.

STATE – Regulatory

Ozone Regulations - New Mexico. (Update to 5/17/21 Weekly Report) On June 23, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) announced that the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board will hold a public hearing beginning at 9:00 a.m. on September 20, 2021, to consider the matter of EIB 21-27 (R), proposed new regulations at 20.2.50 NMAC – Oil and Gas Sector – Ozone Precursor Pollutants ("Part 50"). For background, on May 6, the NMED announced the release of a proposed rule "that will improve air quality for all New Mexicans by establishing innovative and actionable regulations to curb the formation of ground-level ozone in the state's most affected regions. The rule will also result in reduced emissions of dangerous greenhouse gases." (See proposed rule fact sheet) According to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), "This rule will not only hold industry accountable, but will also spur innovation and greener practices in the oil and gas fields. The effect will be equivalent to taking eight million cars off the road every year." The announcement states that "Once finalized, the new rule will reduce emissions of ozone precursor pollutants - volatile organic compounds and oxides of nitrogen - by nearly 260 million pounds annually and reduce methane emissions by over 851 million pounds annually. The rule will apply in New Mexico counties with high ozone levels. Currently, this includes Chaves, Doña Ana, Eddy, Lea, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, San Juan, and Valencia counties." Regarding the proposed rule, NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney said, "We undertook a two-year planning process, engaging with thousands of New Mexicans across the state, scientists and researchers inside and outside of our agencies, oil and gas operators, and environmental organizations. We listened closely during the public comment process, we invested significant staffing resources, and we delivered a nationally leading oil and gas rule as a result." Read more. The September hearing will be held via video conference on a virtual platform, via telephone, and comments will be received by the Board via email at pamela.jones@state.nm.us through the conclusion of the hearing. The hearing

will last as long as required to hear all testimony, evidence, and public comment, and is expected to last approximately two weeks. Information and instructions regarding how to join the virtual hearing will be available on the Board's webpage at the following link no later than September 6, 2021: https://www.env.nm.gov/environmental-improvement/main-2/. If you have difficulties joining the meeting, please contact Pamela Jones at (505) 660-4305 or Madai Corral at (505)-490-5803. Read more.

STATE - Judicial

Pipelines - Minnesota. On June 14, the Minnesota Court of Appeals dealt a blow to environmental activists and tribal groups when it sided with the state Public Utilities Commission, which had given Canadian company Enbridge Energy approval on their oil pipeline's Minnesota segment. The activists argued that Enbridge had not properly demonstrated sufficient demand for oil to build that part of the pipeline. In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy (Case File Nos. PL-9/CN-14-916, PL-9/PPL-15-137), the Court ruled in a 2-1 opinion that "When balancing harms and predicting future demand, the commission is due deference. It is the agency tasked with these difficult decisions," wrote the court. "With this deference in mind we affirm the commission's adequacy ... and its decisions to issue a certificate of need and routing permit for the Line 3 replacement." According to The Hill, "The Line 3 pipeline, part of a \$9 billion expansion approved by the Army Corps of Engineers during the Trump administration, would carry nearly 800,000 barrels a day of tar-sands oil from Northern Minnesota into Wisconsin." Read more.

Purchase and Sale Agreements; Working Interests; Leasing – Texas. On June 10, in *Apollo Exploration*. *LLC v. Apache Corp*. (Case No. 11-19-00183-CV), the Court of Appeals of Texas, Eleventh District (Eastland), addressed a dispute over provisions of purchase and sale agreements (PSAs) governing working interests in oil and gas leases. The arguments turned on the interpretation of the term

"affected Leases" as well as the seller's back-in option, among other related claims. According to law firm, McGuire Woods, "The Court reiterated its commitment to the terms memorialized in the PSAs with respect to the revenues and costs to be included in the calculation of the 'back-in trigger.' Finally, the Court determined that despite the parties' differing interpretations as to the language in the agreements, they did not dispute the material and essential terms and thus the agreements were not too indefinite to be enforced." Read more.

INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

▶ Conditions ripe for an oil price boom. On June 15, Rigzone reported that "conditions are ripe for an oil price boom during the next two years." This comes as Boston Consulting Group released a new report which outlined that the company sees high potential for vaccination programs to "unleash huge pent-up demand for oil in key areas of the global economy." The company also said this surging demand will coincide with a supply shortfall created by producers that cut capital expenditures when oil prices fell sharply last year. Read more.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

States in Session



Session Notes (by date): Arizona, California, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio,

Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin are in regular session.

The following legislatures are in recess until the dates provided: **Arkansas** and **Indiana** (TBD) and **Idaho** House (call of the speaker).

Minnesota Democratic Gov. Tim Waltz called the legislature into a special session on June 14 to finalize the state's two-year \$52 billion budget, reports <u>Kare 11</u>. The budget must be passed before July 1 in order to avoid a government shutdown.

Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy called the legislature into a second special session on June 23 to enact an effective operating budget. If a budget does not take effect by July 1, a government shutdown will begin and state workers who are not engaged in providing critical public health and safety services will be laid off and many services to the public will be suspended, as stated in Governor Dunleavy's proclamation. Governor Dunleavy is also scheduled to call the legislature into a third special session on August 2 to fix the yearlong fiscal conflict over the Permanent Fund dividend, reports the Anchorage Daily News.

Missouri Republican Gov. Mike Parsons called the legislature into a special session on June 23 to extend provider taxes crucial to the state's Medicaid program, reports Missouri Independent. The call came in response to anti-abortion lawmakers who want to limit access to contraceptives and ban Planned Parenthood as a Medicaid provider through the tax bill. Governor Parsons laid out \$722 million in budget cuts he will make if provider taxes are not renewed.

West Virginia adjourned a second special session on June 24. The purpose of the special session was to allocate excess tax dollars. Lawmakers in the House and Senate approved 24 appropriations bills to spend \$250 million in surplus tax-revenue on economic development, tourism and corrections projects, reports WDTV.

Texas Republican Gov. Gregg Abbott is scheduled to call the legislature into a special session on July 8, reports The Texas Tribune. Although the legislative priorities for the session have not yet been specified, Governor Abbott has said he will ask lawmakers to work on two controversial elections and bail bonds bills that died in the final hours of the regular session after House Democrats walked out of the chamber.

The following states adjourned their 2021 legislative sessions on the dates provided (by date): **Oregon** (June 28), **Delaware**, **New Hampshire**, and **Rhode Island** (June 30) and **North Carolina** (July 2).

Signing Deadlines (by date): **Iowa** Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds had until June 18 to sign or veto legislation or it was pocket vetoed. Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott had until June 21 to sign or veto legislation or it became law without signature. Missouri Republican Gov. Mike Parson has until June 28 to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. Hawaii Democratic Gov. David Ige has until July 1 to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. Colorado Democratic Gov. Jared Polis has until July 8 to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. New York Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has until July 10 to sign or veto legislation or it is pocket vetoed. Alaska Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy has 20 days after delivery, Sundays excepted, to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. Connecticut Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont has 15 calendar days, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, from presentment to sign or veto legislation or it becomes law without signature. Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has 15 days from presentment 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. Louisiana Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards has 20 days from presentment 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 Jersey** Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy has 45 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. 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: <u>Colorado</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>, <u>Georgia</u>, <u>Kentucky</u>, <u>Louisiana</u>, <u>Maryland</u>, <u>Nebraska</u>, <u>New Mexico</u>, <u>North Dakota</u>, <u>South Carolina House</u> and <u>Senate</u>, <u>Tennessee</u>, <u>Utah</u>, <u>Vermont</u>, <u>Virginia</u>, <u>Washington</u>, <u>West Virginia</u> and <u>Wyoming</u>.

The following states are currently posting 2022 bill drafts, pre-files, and interim studies: <u>Alabama</u>, <u>Kentucky</u>, <u>Oklahoma</u> and <u>Utah</u>. ■

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