

# GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS WEEKLY REPORT

## Weekly Highlights At-A-Glance

### FEDERAL – Legislative

**H.R. 1957 – Great American Outdoors Act.** On August 4, President Trump signed into law a major piece of conservation legislation, [H.R. 1957](#), known as the *Great American Outdoors Act*. The bipartisan bill provides \$900 million annually in collected federal oil and gas revenues for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which helps secure land for trails and parks. The legislation would also provide billions of dollars over five years to address a maintenance backlog at national parks. “The National Park Service accounts for 84 million acres of land at 400 different sites, but as of 2019, they were due for \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance and repairs. The bill will direct up to \$6.65 billion to priority fixes and up to \$3 billion for agencies” such as the [Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service](#). Additionally, the new law makes LWCF funding permanent and allows Congress to provide for alternate allocations using specified procedures. “President Trump has just enacted the most consequential dedicated funding for national parks, wildlife refuges, public recreation facilities and American Indian school infrastructure in U.S. history,” said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt in a statement. “I’ve designated August 4th as Great American Outdoors Day and waived entrance fees to celebrate the passage of this historic conservation law.” The Act is effective as of the 2021 federal fiscal year. [Read more.](#)

**S. 4288 – Badger-Two Medicine Protection Act.** On July 22, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced [S. 4288](#), known as the *Badger-Two Medicine Protection Act*. The bill would permanently protect 130,000 acres of the Badger-Two Medicine region as a “cultural heritage area.” This comes following the Interior Department’s 2017 cancellation of all oil

and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area. However, one lease remained in litigation and on June 16, [the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit canceled that final lease](#), which opened “a window for the Blackfeet Nation to focus on permanently protecting all that remains of the ceded strip.” [According to a statement by Sen. Tester](#), “A few weeks ago, the Blackfeet Tribe and the people of Montana won a huge victory for our public lands when the last oil and gas lease in the Badger-Two Medicine was remanded to a lower court,” said Tester. “Now it’s time we build on this momentum and continue the fight to safeguard this sacred area, which is why I am introducing legislation that honors the will of the Blackfeet Tribe and of public lands owners across our state by permanently protecting the Badger-Two Medicine for future generations.” [Read more.](#)

**Coronavirus Stimulus Legislation.** Congressional lawmakers continue negotiations on the next coronavirus stimulus package and are expected to return to Washington, DC this week to work towards a consensus agreement even though lawmakers were originally scheduled to be on August recess and still remain far apart on any agreement. Congress failed to pass a bill before the federal \$600 weekly unemployment supplemental benefit expired on July 31. [According to a CNBC report](#), “A subset of workers — such as part-timers, low-wage workers, and some freelancers and [independent] contractors — will feel that cut more acutely than others.” The Trump administration and congressional leaders have yet to reach an agreement on this provision either. “Democrats and Republicans are still negotiating what to do, including whether to extend or replace the \$600-a-week supplement.” However, [in late-breaking news on Saturday afternoon](#), President Trump announced he

was signing four executive orders amidst the legislative stalemate. According to a report by *Politico*, "Trump laid out four actions that he said would cut taxes for workers through the end of the year, extend boosted unemployment benefits but at a reduced rate, renew a moratorium on evictions during the pandemic, and defer student loan payments and interest until further notice."

[According to Fox News](#), one order provides \$400 in weekly unemployment supplemental benefits, rather than the \$600 weekly federal benefit which expired on July 31. In signing the orders, Trump blamed Democrats for the coronavirus deal stalemate in Congress and said he was taking matters into his own hands. "Democrats are obstructing all of it," said President Trump. "Therefore, I'm taking executive action...and we're going to save American jobs and provide relief to the American workers."

[Read more.](#)

## **FEDERAL – Regulatory**

**LNG Exports; Pipelines – Washington, DC.** On July 29, President Trump announced that export authorizations for liquefied natural gas (LNG) will now run through 2050 and he also signed four permits for pipeline and rail transport of fossil fuels. The administration had already proposed extending LNG export terms through 2050 but this move finalizes that policy. The LNG export terms previously lasted only 20 years. "The United States is now the No. 1 producer of oil and natural gas on the face of the earth," said President Trump during a speech in Midland, Texas. As for pipelines and rail transport, The Hill reports "the permits allow for the construction and maintenance of pipeline facilities between the U.S. and Mexico and also for the construction of railway facilities at the U.S.-Mexico border. His action also allows for the maintenance of an existing pipeline at the U.S.-Canada border." [Read more.](#)

**BLM Rulemaking – Washington, DC.** On July 29, the [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\) announced proposed rulemaking](#) that would streamline requirements for measuring and reporting oil and

gas produced from federal lands. The proposed rule, [Revisions to the Oil and Gas Site Security, Oil Measurement, and Gas Measurement Regulations](#), is designed to reduce burdensome bureaucracy, redundant recordkeeping and measurement requirements, while ensuring that taxpayers receive accurate royalties from oil and gas produced on Federal and Tribal lands, according to the BLM. "These proposed enhancements streamline regulations to ensure that our oversight of energy production on America's public lands is consistent and fair," said Deputy Secretary of the Interior Kate MacGregor. "Administration officials and industry representatives said the latest changes are meant to reduce the bureaucratic workload faced by smaller oil and gas producers. Many smaller companies have struggled to stay in business amid a drop in demand due to the coronavirus and a recent international dispute that drove down oil prices. The 438-page proposal will be subject to public comment after being published in the Federal Register." A publication date has not yet been set, said BLM spokesman Chris Tollefson. "As prices come back up and we start ramping up production, anything that can streamline and modernize the way we do things would definitely be helpful," said Petroleum Association of Wyoming spokesman Ryan McConnaughey. [Read more.](#)

**BLM Oil and Gas Lease Sale – Montana; North Dakota.** On August 3, the BLM released the September 2020 Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale List, which includes 38 parcels totaling about 17,302.43 acres. The sale is scheduled to occur online starting on September 22. The proposed parcels are located in Dawson, Sheridan and Richland counties in Montana, and Burke, McKenzie, Williams, Billings and Slope counties in North Dakota. [Read more.](#)

**Resource Management Plan – North Dakota.** On July 28, the BLM published a *Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan and Associated Environmental Impact Statement for the North Dakota Field Office, North Dakota* ([85 Fed. Reg. 45438](#)) which begins a public comment period that

runs through August 27. According to the notice, "The North Dakota planning area comprises approximately 58,900 acres of BLM-managed surface lands and approximately 4.6 million acres of BLM-administered Federal minerals. The bulk of the Federal mineral estate is coal. Additional acres are Federal oil and gas reserves only. The remaining acres are comprised of all minerals, coal and oil and gas only, and other reservations. The focus of the North Dakota Field Office has been mineral management on split estate lands (private surface and Federal minerals)." [Read more.](#)

**Oil and Gas Project – Wyoming.** On July 30, the [BLM Casper Field Office published a final Environmental Impact Statement \(EIS\) and proposed Resource Management Plan \(RMP\)](#) amendment for an oil and gas project in Converse County. The Converse County EIS evaluates a proposal submitted by five exploration and production companies to develop oil and gas resources in the county. According to the BLM, "the operator group proposes to drill approximately 5,000 oil and natural gas wells in Converse County in an area encompassing approximately 1.5 million acres over a 10-year period. The BLM's proposed resource management plan amendment would modify the Casper RMP to allow for timing limitation relief in the project area in a manner that balances regulatory certainty for year-round drilling with the conservation of non-eagle raptor species." The publication of the BLM notice in the Federal Register ([85 Fed. Reg. 46171](#)) began a 30-day protest period that ends August 31, 2020. [Read more.](#)

**ONRR Valuation Rule Extensions.** As a reminder, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) has extended the reporting and payment deadline for lessees to comply with the federal oil and gas provisions of the Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule (2016 Valuation Rule) from July 1, 2020, to October 1, 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. ([You may read more about the rule published at 81 Fed. Reg. 43337 here](#)) According to the ONRR announcement, "Lessees are

responsible for submitting amended reports and additional payments, if applicable, under the 2016 Valuation Rule for production and sales of federal oil and gas occurring on and after January 1, 2017. Payors will remain liable for late payment interest for any underpayment from the month the royalty payment was due until paid. The Department of the Interior has received feedback from industry stating that because this reinstatement requires system changes and re-reporting for the period January 1, 2017, through the present, additional time is necessary for industry to comply with the requirements of the 2016 Valuation Rule. Since ONRR set the July 1, 2020, deadline, the global crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting National Emergency has impacted many sectors of the economy, including the energy sector." To review the applicable ONRR letter detailing the extension, [read more here.](#)

**Lending Discrimination Against the Oil and Gas Industry.** (*Update to 6/22/20 Weekly Report*) On July 24, [Brian P. Brooks, Acting Comptroller of the Currency for the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency \(OCC\) responded](#) to U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) regarding a growing number of banks refusing to lend capital for Arctic drilling projects. For background, federal lawmakers, led by Sullivan, had been pushing Trump administration officials to punish banks for limiting fossil fuel lending. [On June 16, the Alaska delegation sent a letter](#) to Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Vice Chair Randy Quarles, Acting U.S. Comptroller of the Currency Brian P. Brooks, and Chairwoman Jelena McWilliams of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, urging these officials to consider regulatory action and oversight of large American financial institutions that are "openly discriminating against some of the most economically disadvantaged regions of America" by refusing financing of domestic energy projects, particularly in Alaska and the Arctic. The Alaska delegation argued that the banks are harming a foundation of the U.S. economy at a time when businesses, workers, and families are already reeling from the economic fall-out of the COVID-19



pandemic. "It is clear that these policies are overtly political and actually meant to appease extreme activists' calls for fossil fuel divestment and to discriminate against certain sectors of the energy industry and projects in specific geographical areas," said the legislators. Since November 2019, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo have announced policies to stop lending to new oil and gas projects in the Arctic, including the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The letter writers question whether these policies violate multiple federal laws. In his response, Brooks wrote, "Oil is the most actively traded commodity in the world. Given the industry's importance and ubiquity in our daily lives, I am skeptical of claims that the sector poses a 'reputational risk' to the banks that serve it." Brooks said the OCC would analyze whether certain decisions on oil and gas lending "violate any duty or obligation under federal laws." He specifically cited the Dodd-Frank Act mandate that the OCC ensure "fair access to financial services," adding that "the OCC will examine the possibility of issuing regulations defining fair access to provide clarity to banks and customers alike."

[Read more.](#)

#### **U.S. Department of Energy Appointment –**

**Washington, DC.** On August 4, the U.S. Senate finally confirmed President Trump's pick for Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, Mark Menezes. Originally nominated in March, Menezes has served as Undersecretary of Energy and "has advised the department on policy and technology since 2017. Before joining the Trump administration, he lobbied for Berkshire Hathaway Energy, which, through subsidiaries, produces energy from sources including coal, natural gas, wind, solar, nuclear and geothermal. Other former clients include Marathon Oil, ConocoPhillips, Koch Mineral Services and utility company Duke Energy." [Read more.](#)

#### **FEDERAL – Judicial**

**Dakota Access Pipeline – Washington, DC.** (Update to 7/27/20 Weekly Report) On August 5, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia gave a

reprieve to the court-ordered shutdown of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL). The appeals court reversed a lower court's determination that the DAPL should be temporarily shut down. In July, U.S. District Court Judge James Boasberg ordered the pipeline be shut down by August 5 while the Army Corps of Engineers prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a rule relaxation that allowed it to cross the Missouri River. The three-judge appellate panel, however, ruled that the lower court did not have the "findings necessary" for such a move. [As reported by The Hill](#), "It's now up to the Army Corps of Engineers to decide whether to shut down the pipeline and if it doesn't do so, the matter will return to the lower court." For background, on July 6, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a ruling ordering the DAPL to be shut down and emptied by August 5. In [Standing Rock Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) (Case No. 16-1534), the Court held that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when it granted the easement to construct the pipeline under Lake Oahe (which is a large reservoir lying behind a dam on the Missouri River and stretching between North and South Dakota). The Court held that NEPA required the Army Corps of Engineers to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the easement application, rather than only the Environmental Assessment that was completed. Judge James Boasberg ruled that the pipeline, which has been in operation since 2017, should be turned off until the Corps completes an EIS. This process is expected to take 13 months. In sum, the Court held that "given the seriousness of the Corps' NEPA error, the impossibility of a simple fix, the fact that Dakota Access did assume much of its economic risk knowingly, and the potential harm each day the pipeline operates, the Court is forced to conclude that the flow of oil must cease. Not wishing to micromanage the shutdown, it will not prescribe the method by which DAPL must achieve this. The Court will nonetheless require the oil to stop flowing and the pipeline to be emptied within 30 days from the date of this Opinion and accompanying Order." Industry players and analysts also weighed in on

the July decision. “This court ruling will create major obstacles for producers in North Dakota, who’ve been struggling to rebound,” said Sandy Fielden, director of research for Morningstar, Inc. The buyers of Bakken crude, he said, will simply turn elsewhere for supplies once the pipeline dries up. Phillips 66, which owns a stake in the pipeline, said it was disappointed in the court ruling. “The negative impacts resulting from this court’s decision to markets, customers, and jobs up and down the energy value chain will inflict more damage on an already struggling economy and jeopardize our national security,” said spokesman Dennis Nuss. [Read more.](#)

### **National Environmental Policy Act – California.**

On July 29, environmental activists filed a federal lawsuit against the Trump administration in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. In [\*Alaska Community Action on Toxics v. Council on Environmental Quality\*](#) (Case No. not yet docketed) the plaintiffs challenge the Trump administration’s recently finalized changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which the plaintiffs say “gut a law designed to weigh environmental and community effects before roads, pipelines, oil and gas drilling and other major construction projects are permitted.” (See [NEPA Final Rule; 85 Fed. Reg. 43304](#)) The update to NEPA removes requirements to consider climate change before proceeding on a project. The NEPA changes also allow for more industry involvement in reviewing the environmental effects of their projects. The Trump administration has argued the NEPA changes were necessary to “modernize” a law that can delay projects with environmental reviews that can last as long as four years. The White House Council on Environmental Quality has yet to comment on the litigation. [Read more.](#)

## **STATE – Legislative**

**Well Setbacks – California.** (*Update to 7/27/20 Weekly Report*) In a victory for the oil and gas industry, on August 5, [AB 345](#) died in committee. The Democratic bill – which AAPL has been actively

monitoring for members since its introduction – would have amended existing law to direct the California Natural Resources Agency to create an environmental justice program, identify gaps in public safety, and establish minimum setback requirements, including considering a 2,500-foot buffer around sensitive areas around such places as schools, childcare facilities, playgrounds, residences, hospitals, and health clinics. Labor and industry groups said the bill would have been a job killer. “This is going to shed jobs at the worst time possible,” said Sen. Andreas Borgeas (R). Currently, the state has a patchwork of local/state requirements for setbacks ranging from 300 to 1,500 feet depending on use location. According to Bloomberg News, bill sponsor, Asm. Al Muratsuchi (D), “said it was unclear if the bill would be brought up again and declined further comment. Other oil and gas states like Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming have statewide buffer zones, but California has no such regulation.” [Read more.](#)

**Uniform Wills Recognition Act – Nebraska.** (*Update to 1/20/20 Weekly Report*) On July 27, LB 966 advanced out of committee. The bill was set to die in the session ending in May but due to COVID-19 the session was extended to August 13 and this bill is active again. The measure, sponsored by Sen. Wendy DeBoer, would adopt the Uniform Wills Recognition Act (1977). The Act implements an international convention calling for all countries and states to adopt a uniform formality for executing wills. The Act also allows probate courts of the enacting state to recognize any will meeting the Act’s requirements. As of this report, [19 states](#) have already adopted the Act. [Read more.](#)

**Legislative Interim Charges – Texas.** On July 29, the Texas House of Representatives published a Notice of Formal Request from the Ways & Means Committee which “requests written submissions from interested parties and the public in regards to the assigned Interim Charges below.” During off-year periods (the next Texas legislative session resumes in 2021), the Speaker of the House and the Lt. Governor issue Interim Charges, which are

“assignments for members of their respective chambers to hear public and invited testimony, conduct research and submit reports on issues deemed important by the leader of each chamber. These reports are then considered by lawmakers as they start to draft and consider legislation.” ([Read more](#)) Among the current Charges covering matters not related to AAPL, the Committee seeks input on “Charge 4: Evaluate the status of water recycling and reuse efforts in the oil and gas industry in Texas and elsewhere. Evaluate options for tax credits, deductions, or discounts to encourage recycling, treatment, or reuse of produced water from oil and gas production activities. Make recommendations on statutory or regulatory changes needed to promote recycling and reuse strategies for produced water. (Joint charge with the House Committee on Energy Resources).” Please click “Read more” below for instructions on submitting comments due by September 14, 2020. [Read more](#).

## **STATE – Regulatory**

**Well Setbacks; Regulatory Update – Colorado; Pennsylvania.** On July 29, the Institute for Energy Research (IER) presented their latest podcast episode featuring Kathryn Klaber, founder and former CEO of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, who joined the show to discuss the regulatory landscape in Pennsylvania and steps that energy producers have proactively taken to ensure the safety of their communities and how these realities differ from the story presented in a recent report by the state’s attorney general. ([Listen to the podcast here](#)) IER also provided analysis of ballot initiatives in Colorado that once again seek to impose well setbacks in the state. [Read more](#).

**Ban on New Oil and Gas Connections Invalidated – Massachusetts.** On July 21, the Massachusetts Attorney General ruled invalid a new general bylaw adopted by Brookline township “that would have broadly prohibited building permits for new construction and significant renovations to existing buildings if they included new natural gas or oil

connections. When Brookline passed this bylaw in November 2019, it became the first town in Massachusetts to seek through town regulation to reduce carbon emissions by requiring homeowners and developers to install electric heat, hot water and appliances. The city of Berkeley, CA, was the first in the United States to ban natural gas hookups in new buildings last July.” Although the Democratic Attorney General Maura Healy said she supported Brookline’s policy goals she was nevertheless compelled under state law to invalidate the bylaw. [Read more](#).

**RRC Flaring/Venting Rule – Texas.** On August 4, the Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) announced it is accepting public comment on proposed revisions to the Statewide Rule 32 Exception Data Sheet, *Application for Exception to Statewide Rule 32*. The Statewide Rule 32 Exception Data Sheet is filed when an operator requests authority to flare or vent gas. The proposal “will improve the effectiveness of the RRC’s Rule 32 exception program by: requiring operators to more thoroughly document the circumstances surrounding the need to flare gas; providing the RRC accurate information to assess compliance with the flare/vent authority; and encouraging transparency in understanding the broader needs and reasons for flaring and/or venting during oil and gas production operations in Texas.” Public comments will be accepted through September 4, 2020. To view the proposed revisions and submit a comment, visit the RRC website at <https://rrc.texas.gov/about-us/resource-center/forms/proposed-form-changes/>. For further information and details on Statewide Rule 32, [read more here](#).

**State Trust Lands – Wyoming.** On July 30, the Wyoming Office of State Lands and Investments announced that they are seeking proposals for development on state trust lands in Teton County. State Lands and Investments say they are seeking proposals which “would maximize the value of the parcel to the greatest extent possible.” During their recent spring legislative session, the Wyoming Legislature enacted [HB 162](#), which requires the

Office of State Lands and Investments to seek development proposals for school and state trust lands in Teton County. ([Read more about HB 162 here](#)) The new law, which is effective as of August 1, 2020 for the solicitation of proposals, allows a number of development proposal types which includes both commercial and agricultural uses, among other uses. [Read more.](#)

## STATE – Judicial

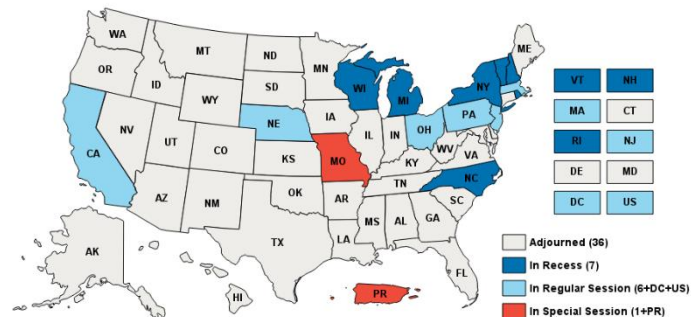
**Leasing; Surface Agreements; Location Damages – Texas.** On May 29, in *Evans Resources, L.P. v. Diamondback E&P, LLC* (Case No. 11-18-00128-CV.), the Texas Court of Appeals, Eleventh District (Eastland), addressed a dispute over a surface agreement and its various amendments and whether the terms of those contracts required certain location damages to be paid. Here, the Court held in construing the agreements that the trial court did not err when it determined that Diamondback was not required to pay location damages for an Approved Horizontal Well Pad (AHWP) until it utilized the land for the purpose of the construction of the AHWP. The Court addressed this among other issues raised on appeal including the timing required for location damages payments and whether surveying was construed as “utilization” of the lands. [Read more.](#)

## INDUSTRY NEWS FLASH

► **BP pledges to cut oil and gas production by 40%.** Last week, BP unveiled details of its strategy to slash carbon emissions and cut oil and gas production by 40 percent while ramping up low-carbon investments 10-fold by 2030 to reduce global emissions. The company also “plans to partner with up to 15 cities and three ‘core industries’ to help with their transition to net-zero emissions.” [Read more.](#)

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

### States in Session



**Session Notes (by date):** California, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are in regular session. The District of Columbia Council is in regular session and the U.S. Congress was scheduled to be on August recess but remains available for return to Washington, DC for possible action on any coronavirus stimulus legislation.

The Nevada legislature adjourned their special session shortly after midnight on August 6 after passing COVID-19 liability bills, reports [8 News Now](#).

Oregon Democratic Gov. Kate Brown called for a [special session](#) to begin August 10 to deal with balancing the budget.

Tennessee Republican Gov. Bill Lee called for a special session to convene on August 10 to address COVID-19 liability, reports [News 4 Nashville](#).

Virginia Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam called for a special session to begin August 18 to address police reform, reports the [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#).

Idaho Republican Gov. Brad Little called for a [special session](#) to begin the week of August 24. Topics for the session have not been decided at this time, but they could include the November general election and liability reform during emergencies.



**South Carolina** is expected to meet for a two-week special session starting September 15, reports [The News & Observer](#).

The following legislatures are postponing their 2020 legislative sessions due to COVID-19 until the dates provided: **Michigan** (cancelled week of August 3 after legislator tested positive for COVID-19; no date provided for reconvening), **North Carolina** (September 2) and **Rhode Island**, and **Wisconsin** (TBD).

**Signing Deadlines** (by date): **Nevada** Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak has until August 17 to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Hawaii** Democratic Gov. David Ige has until September 11 to act on legislation presented on or after June 26 or it becomes law without signature. **New York** Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has until February 5, 2021 to act on legislation or it is pocket vetoed. **Connecticut** Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont has 15 days from presentment to act on legislation or it becomes law without signature. **Delaware** Democratic Gov. John Carney has 30 days after the final adjournment, which typically occurs immediately prior to the beginning of the next session, to act or it is pocket vetoed. **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. **Minnesota** Democratic Gov. Tim Walz has 14 days from presentment to act on bills presented on or after July 19 or they are pocket vetoed. **Mississippi** Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has 15 days from presentment to act on legislation or the bill becomes law. **North Carolina** Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper has 10 days from presentment to sign or veto legislation or it will become law without signature. **South Carolina** Republican Gov. Henry McMaster has until two days after the next meeting of the legislature to act on legislation or it becomes law.

**Nevada** Democratic Gov. Steve Sisolak had a signing deadline on July 30. **Georgia** Republican Gov. Brian Kemp had a signing deadline on August 5. **Oregon**

Democratic Gov. Kate Brown had until August 7 to act on legislation in the regular session or it becomes law without signature.

**Interim Committee Hearings:** The following states are currently holding 2020 interim committee hearings: [Alabama](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Arkansas](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Delaware](#), [Idaho](#), [Indiana](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Minnesota](#), [Missouri House](#) and [Senate](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York Assembly](#) and [Senate](#), [North Dakota](#), [Oregon](#), [South Carolina House](#) and [Senate](#), [South Dakota](#), [Tennessee](#), [Utah](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#) and [Wyoming](#).

**Bill Pre-Files:** [Alabama](#), [Kentucky](#), [Montana](#), [Nevada](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Utah](#) and [Virginia](#) are currently posting 2021 bill drafts, pre-files and interim studies. ■

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